

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

Persistence and  
Success

Established  
1866

Vol. XLIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 5, 1908.

No. 841.

## EDITORIAL

### THE LOGIC OF FACTS.

The editorial article, "Exaggerated Emphasis on Type," which appeared in the Live-stock Department of our issue of September 10th, seems to have been quoted, with concurrence, by The Farmer, a leading agricultural journal published in Minnesota, whereupon Hoard's Dairyman, that implacable champion of extreme dairy type in cows, quotes the concluding paragraph, and offers brief comment under the caption, "Dangerous Advice." The sentence to which its remarks have particular reference is, "Let breeders of dairy cattle, therefore, while keeping their ambition centered on milk and butter-fat, seek to combine with this, so far as convenient, a fairly smooth, hearty and substantial type; while breeders of beef cattle, on the other hand, will do well to encourage a liberal degree of milking quality, and Shorthorn breeders, in particular, to concentrate their efforts on a judicious combination in high degree of beef type with dairy capacity."

In reply to this, our Wisconsin contemporary reflects that, "The great dairy breeds have been built up to their present state of perfection by adhering steadily to the type that performance establishes," and asserts that, "So far as the breeders of dairy cattle are concerned, the above advice means to go back to the days of dual-purpose juggling with fixed principles. No dairy breeder who knows what he is about will follow such advice, for breeding to the 'smooth, hearty type' will in the end land him where the Shorthorn men landed their cattle. It is a false light, having no sound physiological basis to stand on. The only form or type the dairy breeder should follow is the type that the best animals in all the dairy breeds establish for the work they are doing. The more they are studied and compared, the more nearly will they be seen to agree on all essential dairy lines."

Pages of stubborn fact could be cited, and columns of strong argument advanced in reply to the above quotation, but for the most part it would be covering old ground. To cut the matter short, we invite the attention of Hoard's Dairyman to a statement recently made and emphasized in an article, "True Type of the Holstein," contributed to the agricultural press of America by F. L. Houghton, Secretary of the American Holstein-Friesian Association. He says, "The average form of this breed, and that towards which conscientious breeders are directing their efforts to maintain and improve, is the milk-and-beef form," and, elaborating his point, he proceeds: "It may be further emphasized that the milk-and-beef form describes a cow of the wedge form, with shoulders moderately thick, deep and broad, crops well filled, barrel well rounded, loin and hips broad and full, and quarters straight, wide and full. To this form of these cattle is due their extraordinary constitutional vigor or vital force, and it affects all their relations to their food, care and productions."

Now, the Holstein is specifically a dairy breed, and it is as a dairy breed that Mr. Houghton wrote of it. He recognizes that a little flesh and a fair degree of substance is a decided advantage to a dairy breed, even when kept for purely dairy purposes. It results in a heartier, more rugged, better-wearing class of cattle, not to mention the greater beefing value of heifers or old cows discarded from the herd, nor the better vealing quality of the male calves. Mr. Houghton has de-

scribed precisely what we meant by a "fairly smooth, hearty and substantial type," and has backed up his argument with cogent reasons.

As for "the type that performance establishes," had we not mentioned a splendid example in the O. A. C. cow, Boutsje Q. Pietertje de Kol, which, in her four-year-old form had given over ten tons of milk, containing butter-fat equal to over 900 pounds of butter? This is a cow of the milk-and-beef type, and there are many other good ones of the same build, including, if reports may be relied upon, the world's champion cow, Colantha 4th's Johanna. Moreover, we must consider more than the first generation in arriving at "the type that performance establishes." We want cows that will not only be good milkers themselves, but that will also breed good milkers; and when it comes to this, we prefer to stake our guess on the smooth, hearty, substantial type, rather than the emaciated, attenuated, peak-humped, hat-rack conformation that used to be held up as the ideal of dairy type. Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey breeders are not advised to aim at the dual-purpose standard, but the wisest of them are realizing that a little extra substance is no harm, but rather an advantage, to a breed of dairy cattle, so long as the milking habit is developed and firmly fixed.

### SUMMER CULTIVATION AND MOIST SOIL.

A dry fall, such as the present, is not without its lessons. For years it has been urged that fields should be cultivated as soon as possible after the crop is removed. Progressive agriculturists have practiced it: others have said, "It doesn't pay."

If those who considered it not worth the while to cultivate the stubble land that was intended for spring crop in 1909 will consult their neighbors who made good use of disk harrow or spring-tooth cultivator on the stubble fields in August and early September, as to how they are progressing with fall plowing, the replies, in nine cases out of ten, will speak volumes in favor of surface cultivation.

The object of using the disk harrow or the spring-tooth cultivator, or any implement that will loosen the surface soil after the grain crops are harvested, is twofold. The formation of the loose surface mulch helps to avoid excessive evaporation of what moisture remains in the soil, and prepares the surface to absorb readily rains that follow; it also covers weed seeds that have ripened and fallen on the fields, and places them in such condition that, if abnormally dry weather does not set in, they germinate, and later the young plants are killed by the frosts of winter, before they have had time to produce seed; or, if the field is plowed later, the seedlings are effectually disposed of. Summer cultivation is, therefore, a conservator of moisture and a destroyer of weeds. Under average weather conditions, both benefits are derived. Occasionally, the weeks of late summer and fall are so dry that very few weed seeds are placed under such conditions as will cause them to germinate.

For 1908, then, the chief benefit from summer surface cultivation is found in conserving moisture. That good results have followed in this line, is evidenced by the fact that farmers who used disk or spring-tooth cultivator are able to do the usual amount of fall plowing, while many of those who left the land as it was when the crops were removed, found it impossible to keep the plow in the soil or turn over the furrow.

### PASTEURIZE THE WHEY.

Pasteurization of whey at cheese factories, by injecting into it steam from the boiler, utilizing the exhaust steam in this way for the sake of economy, is a practice that has been rather extensively tried throughout Western Ontario this past season, with excellent results, so far as we have learned, in every case. The cost is not great, depending somewhat upon the facilities, especially the size of the boiler, but in a reasonably large, well-equipped factory it need not exceed 50 cents per ton of cheese.

The advantages of pasteurization are that it keeps the whey sweet, and the whey tanks in much more cleanly and sanitary condition. The cans are more easily washed, there being less grease adhering to them, while they are less affected by the smaller percentage of acid in the whey, and consequently last longer. The pasteurization of the whey inhibits the growth and development of the yeasts which cause bitter, yeasty or goosy flavor, preventing them from spreading from one patron to another through the milk cans in which the whey is returned. In this respect, pasteurization of whey has proven a great blessing to not a few factories.

The feeding value of the whey is improved in two ways: by checking the development of acid (souring), it makes the whey more wholesome for young pigs and calves. It is found, also, that while ordinarily the fat in the whey rises and floats on the surface of the tank, so that the ordinary canful pumped up contains very little fat, while the last man gets a dose of putrid grease, when the whey is pasteurized the fat is kept in suspension, fairly uniformly distributed, so that each patron receives a fair share of the fat, and in good condition.

From a fair consideration of the facts of the case, as well as the correspondence from satisfied patrons published in these columns, the conclusion is irresistible that pasteurization of whey is a practice worthy of general adoption.

### HEALTH OF CANADIAN CATTLE.

Our five British exchanges, representing the cream of the agricultural and live-stock press, of England, Scotland and Ireland, have all seen fit to make very approving and complimentary reference to the editorial, "The Embargo is Britain's Affair," published in "The Farmer's Advocate" of August 27th. Most of them quoted it either in full or in part. The particular points that seemed to appeal most, strongly were the insistence that the embargo is a domestic affair, for Britain to settle according to her own interests; the importance of the British pure-bred stock industry, and the prudence of taking no chances that might endanger it; recognition of the fact that, while there is no pleuro-pneumonia in Canada, while our herds are otherwise exceptionally healthy, and while no reasonable precaution is spared to keep them so, still they are not free from disease or the danger of disease; reference to the fact that abrogation of the embargo in Canada's favor would open an agitation for similar treatment to this, that and the other foreign countries, with consequent unsettledness and hazard to the British stockman, and with little if any ultimate advantage to Canada. The British press also commends the logic of our argument that Canadian cattle should be finished on this side of the Atlantic, instead of exporting lean cattle and feed, to the loss of Canadian pocketbooks and the comparative impoverishment of Canadian farms.

Amid all this endorsement, however, we noted that in a recent issue our highly-esteemed contemporary, the Scottish Farmer, rather strains its