

Dairying in Manitoba.

BY JAMES ELDER, VINDEN.

The next question will be: "When should we have our cows come in?"

My own idea is to have most of them come in during September or early in October. Why?

1st. Because by that plan the cows will be dry at the busy season of the haying and harvest. This is important, not only because the milking and care of milk would increase the pressure of work at this season, but because on account of pressure of other work, the feeding (if on the soiling system) is apt to be neglected, or at the best to be irregularly done, and if on the pasture system, is apt to be scant. And the fact that the cows are dry, this irregular or scant feeding will have a less disastrous effect.

2nd. It is generally admitted that the raising of fall pigs is not a complete success in this Province. And so, by having our cows come in at the time stated, the heifer calves can be fed the skim milk during fall and winter, and when they are weaned it can be fed to the young spring pigs.

3rd. The cows calving at the time indicated will just be in time for the wheat pasture mentioned in a preceding article.

4th. The proceeds will come in during the winter, spring and summer, when cash is usually rather scarce.

I said that most of the cows should come in during September. It appears, as a result of experiments, that a larger proportion of butter is obtained when the milk of a recently calved cow is mixed with that of those which calved earlier. Just why this is so, is not clear, but that it is a fact is admitted by those who ought to know. Therefore, it should be arranged to have a new cow come in every two months.

How long should cows milk? First-class authorities say eleven months. I would say, at least ten months. If the calves are to be raised, it is certainly reasonable to expect a better developed calf from a cow which for the last two months devotes all her resources to its support.

The question is often asked: Creamery or cheese factory? I believe that for immediate returns cheesemaking is best, but all things considered, I think the creamery will suit us best, for the following reasons: 1st. Sparse settlement will make transportation to the factory expensive. 2nd. Our cold weather would make it impossible in the winter season. 3rd. Condensation of our products is most important, on account of the excessive freight charges to which we are subject. 4th. The raising of the heifer calves and young pigs is a most important consideration. 5th. The draft upon our soil will be less.

Another question is: Creamery or private dairy? My own opinion is that in a very short time the private dairy will be almost unknown. It would not be safe, even if it were true, to say that no farmer's wife can make butter equal to that made in a well-equipped creamery, but one thing I am safe in saying, viz., that a uniform sample cannot be made of the product of the home dairies, and without uniformity our butter will never command the foreign market.

However, it will take a little time to establish creameries all over the country, and in the meantime we would say to all our farmers' wives: Make good use of the instructions given by the travelling dairies. I know that some good buttermakers scoff at those instructors and think they know more themselves, but I know some other choice buttermakers who value their instructions very highly, and it is just possible that some of those skillful ones may awake some fine morning to find their butter taking second place in competition with that of some of their unsophisticated sisters, who at present are but novices in the art.

The information given by these gentlemen is the result of repeated and careful experiments, made under the direction of reliable men, and may be accepted as sound.

It behooves the farmers to give their wives a chance. Did we but know the unfavorable conditions under which most of our women are expected to make a good article of butter, we would not wonder at the many failures. To many a wife it must be a most discouraging task. It must be very hard for a woman to do everything in her power to make a good article, and upon going to the store to find it graded second-class, or rejected, and then, perhaps, to be growled at by her husband, with whom the fault really lies, on account of his not furnishing her with something like a dairy and the necessary appliances.

In conclusion, I have written these articles with a view to encouraging some of my fellow farmers, who have well-nigh lost heart, to look up and "try again."

I have advanced only moderate ideas: first, because caution is necessary; and second, because our farmers are not prepared for anything extensive at present. I do not expect that my propositions will meet with universal favor; by no means. On the contrary, I hope that they will meet with criticism. The discussion will create interest, and I hope that I, myself, may catch new and important ideas from my critics. I, too, want to learn. I therefore invite the fullest criticism.

[Our columns are wide open for discussion of the many points touched in these papers. Ed.]

Timely Notes for December.

"DAIRYING IN MANITOBA."

Nov. 5th issue—Mr. Elder's article. I wish to take Mr. Elder to task as to his statement that Manitoba pasture is "too scant," and in regard to other statements in the above article. Except in very limited areas, Manitoba, for some four months or so, has an abundance of "grand" pasture for many times her present number of cattle and other stock. Herding is a success if properly done—but without a pony. The pasture field, except in very isolated districts, is a fraud, unless for one or two cows—and even then, it is better and cheaper to tie up the cows all the time, and plough up the pasture field and sow it in a fodder crop. I am afraid Mr. Elder has taken the Virden district as typical of all Manitoba, when happily it is typical of a very small part of it. Virden is certainly a grand grain district, but is hardly a dairying district. But even in such a grain centre, soiling is easier practiced, and would fit the land for a succeeding choice crop of wheat. May I suggest that on a cultivated area of, say, 100 acres, 50 should be devoted to the growing of feed, and 50 for grain, alternately.

I am entirely in accord with Mr. Elder in feeding green oats or sheaf oats to cows, and I hardly think it would pay to chaff them. Feeding them in the sheaf is the cheapest way. I believe in the silo. The expense of the silo is small, but the expense of the cutting machinery and power is too much. Still, corn will pay without being put through a cutter. I find my cattle eat it greedily, even when the stalks are as thick as my wrist, but I cut it a little green, and I am going to grow more of it next year. But the easiest crop to grow is oats. Peas and oats are better, but more bother, and far more expensive for seed. And again, the sheaf oats are so easily fed, and if you have a few hens or turkeys around they pick up all the shelled grain. There is very little grain undigested when so fed, and the resulting butter is firm and fine flavored. Roots are all right, but decidedly risky and too expensive. Growing wheat or oats on summer-fallow I have often advocated, as it is a most profitable catch crop. Rape will not do for milking cows. The chief difficulty in many parts of Manitoba will be the want of water during summer, but the herd boy can surely pump water night and morning. Another nuisance is the dog. Unless he is really good, shoot him. Barbed wire fences are a nuisance, as torn udders and teats are provocative of kicking on the part of both milker and milked. One of the machine-made woven fences are just the thing for dairy farms. The rest of Mr. Elder's article will suit any part of Manitoba.

EMPLOYERS' RIGHTS.

Judge Cumberland has laid the farmers of the Province under obligations to him in laying down the point that a man engaged for a year, or any number of months, may be discharged at any time by his employer giving the employe one month's notice. If instantly or without notice discharged, damages may only be recovered for one month's salary, board, etc. This is a question not generally so understood, and it is actually acknowledged at last that the employer has some rights. We have had so many cases where the hired man has been upheld in his dictatorial ways of leaving his work, etc., that it is quite encouraging to have even one judge state that the employer can "bounce" a man when useless. Again, I saw recently that a store-keeper in the western part of the Province, who was suspected of a desire to leave for parts unknown, was lodged in jail by some of his creditors. Good, again. Couldn't the law go a little further, and make getting heedlessly into debt a penitentiary offense. It would do a number of people good to serve their country in jail for a season, and would weed out a number of "exemption" farmers. A man who has no probable means of paying his present debts, is certainly not justified in going to a fresh store-keeper and opening up a credit account with him.

GENERAL.

Will some one rise and explain why bran is \$11 per ton now, with wheat at 37 to 40 cents, and when wheat was \$1 it was burned or sold at \$6 to \$8 per ton?

Why do butchers who pay 4 cents "all round" for good beef, charge 10 cents for old, tough stuff, and where do they sell the good beef they buy?

Will some one tell us the benefits of growing beef and pork and poultry, when we are told that we can get far better beef from Calgary for 4 cents, pork for 5 cents, and chickens and turkeys from Ontario for 7 cents. Manitoba farmers are often thrown back on wheat and oats, by such rebuffs. In many cases the butchers' statements are untrue—made to discourage the farmer, who has, perhaps, driven in a long way and is cold and weary. I saw an instance of this the other day. A man came up while I was in town, with a nice load of pork. He was promptly offered 4½ cents by a butcher, which he abusively declined. In a quarter of an hour after, he sold the load to another butcher for 5½ cents, the price that day being from 5½ to 6 cents. Comment is needless.

"INVICTA."

The People's Paper.

The readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE thoroughly appreciate quality. This has been clearly proven, to our minds, by the hundreds of letters received telling how much value and confidence is placed in its contents. We give space to a few of these comments, as follows:

BETTER THAN ALL OTHERS COMBINED.

Please find enclosed \$1 for another year's subscription to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I find there is more useful information in connection with farming operations in it, than in all other papers combined. Wishing you every success,
W. E. BALDWIN, Manitou, Man.

SAVED HIM MANY DOLLARS.

Enclosed please find \$1.00, price of ADVOCATE for one year. My subscription was out some time ago, but money was hard to get, and it is only because I think so much of the ADVOCATE that makes me renew just now. I think it has saved me a good many dollars by following its instructions.
JOHN D. GARNETT.

IMPROVES ON ACQUAINTANCE.

I have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of two numbers of the ADVOCATE (that were astray), dated August 5th and September 5th. I am a very old friend of your valuable paper, of which I may say, the more widely known the more appreciated. W. A. MANN, Sunnymede, N. W. T.

WILL NOT BE WITHOUT IT.

I must say that I take the greatest satisfaction out of your paper, and as long as I continue to have any connection with agriculture, shall never be without it. E. COPLEY THOMSON, Wettersfield Branch, Vernon, B. C.

HELPED HIM AND WILL HELP OTHERS.

Accept my best thanks for engraving of the prize-winning Ayrshires. It is very pretty. Also for the peck of oats forwarded me some time ago. I will send in a new name to the ADVOCATE every chance I get. Thanks, I do not want any commission. The paper helped me and will help others. You shall hear from me from time to time. With very best wishes for the growth and success of your paper and all who write for it, believe me,
JOHN A. MUNRO, Springbank, Alta.

ADVERTISING BRINGS BUSINESS.

I could have sold the whole lot (referring to Yorkshire pigs) through advertising in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.
WALTER JAMES, Rosser, Man.

TWO MEN WHO WOULD NOT DO WITHOUT IT.

I like the FARMER'S ADVOCATE very much, and would not like to be without it. WM. H. MCLAREN, Clearwater, Man.

Please find enclosed \$1 for my subscription to the ADVOCATE. I am very much pleased with your paper and would not like to do without it. JOHN KITSON, Drumconnor, Man.

GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME.

I have received the last number of the ADVOCATE. I think it is getting better every time. I am pleased with "Invicta." The farmers need the right kind of an eye-opener.
MRS. A. WATT, Cartwright, Man.

LOOKS FOR IT LIKE HIS MEALS.

I believe your paper to be the most useful and interesting magazine for the farmers. I cannot speak too highly of it. I have looked for it as I have looked for my meals, and hold it as a fiesie companion.
W. E. MATHESON, Portage La Prairie, Man.

HAS NO EQUAL.

Enclosed please find renewal for your paper. I think the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is the best paper in the Province. We all take great interest in reading it. JOHN WILKINSON, Penderis, Man.

COULD NOT DROP THE ADVOCATE.

Please find enclosed \$1 for ADVOCATE. Although the times are so hard, I think it a poor policy to curtail expenses by dropping the ADVOCATE. J. A. WILLIAMSON, Morden, Man.

WORTH ANY TWO OTHER PAPERS.

Kindly forward the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to H. C. Lyle, Edmonton. I enclose \$1 for subscription. It gives me great pleasure to recommend your paper, as I consider it worth any two other papers that I know of. THOS. H. INGRAM, Edmonton, Alta.

Pure-Breds vs. Grades.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

We were surprised at a man of Mr. Elder's standing telling the public that pure-bred cattle were pampered, and that grades would give better returns if they were given extra feed.

That an odd herd of pure-bred cattle is pampered does not prove that all herds are, and we don't think any of the pure-bred herds of Manitoba are pampered. If pure-bred cattle are as bad as Mr. Elder claims, why does he advise a pure-bred male? How can a pure-bred male impart to his offspring qualities that he does not himself possess? Had Mr. Elder told the public to give pure-breds a "wide berth" on account of their costing more than grades, or against investing until they had some experience, we would have found no fault with his advice. But we think it is idle for Mr. Elder or anyone else to advise people into dairying unless they are prepared to give cows (no matter what grade) as much attention as the average herd of pure-bred cattle gets, unless he can furnish them with a cow not made of flesh and blood.
STEEL BROS., Glenboro.

Who Can Beat It?

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have just been making up the total yield of milk from the pure-bred Shorthorn cow, "Prairie Queen" (whose butter record I sent you last winter), for the ten months ending November 7th. It totals up 10,886½ pounds. I would like to know if any reader of the "F. A." has a cow that can beat Prairie Queen.
JOHN PARKINSON, Portage la Prairie.

Alex. Adams, Clearsprings, while in our office one day recently, upon being asked by a western man if any good, fresh milk cows could be bought in his neighborhood, remarked "that the farmers in that settlement had no more profitable work for the winter than attending to their cows, and knew the value of them too well to sell this time of year, but their would be some for sale in the spring."