

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

Published by The Rural Publishing Company, Limited.

FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District Quebec Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

2. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year, strictly in advance.** Great Britain, \$1.20 a year. For ad. rates, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c. for postage. A year's subscription free for a club of two new subscribers.

3. **REMITTANCES** should be made by Post Office or Money Order, or Registered Letter. Postage stamps accepted for amounts less than \$1.00. On all checks add 25 cents for exchange fee required at the bank.

4. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**—When a change of address is ordered, both the old and new address must be given.

5. **ADVERTISING RATES** quoted on application. Copy received up to the Friday preceding the following week's issue.

6. **WE INVITE FARMERS** to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The paid-in-advance subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed \$800. The actual circulation of the paper, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are not slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 5,000 to 6,000 copies. Subscriptions, unless renewed, are discontinued as they expire. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

Sworn detailed statements of the circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by countries and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

OUR PROTECTIVE POLICY

We want the readers of Farm and Dairy to feel that they can deal with our advertisers with our assurance of our advertisers' reliability. We try to admit to our columns only the most reliable advertisers. Should any subscriber have cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment he receives from any of our advertisers, we will investigate the circumstances fully. Should we find reason to believe that any of our advertisers are unreliable, even in the slightest degree, we will discontinue immediately the publication of their advertisements. Should the circumstances warrant, we will expose them through the columns of the paper. Thus we will not only protect our readers, but our advertisers as well. All that is necessary to entitle our subscribers to the benefits of this Protective Policy is that you include in all your letters to advertisers the words, "I saw your ad. in Farm and Dairy." Complaints should be sent to us as soon as possible after reason for dissatisfaction has been found.

FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

TORONTO OFFICE:

Room 306 Manning Chambers, 72 Queen St. West, Toronto.

TAKE CARE OF THE ORCHARD

The orchard bears the brunt of neglect on many farms. Once it is planted, it is left to take care of itself. The weeds and grass are allowed to grow, the soil is never fertilized, the limbs are never pruned, insects and diseases are given full swing and the trees must fight for an existence. The other crops of the farm are given all the attention that they need but the old orchard receives none. Is it any wonder that many farmers say that the orchard doesn't pay?

There is an orchard located within three miles of the office of Farm and Dairy that doesn't pay one-fifth what it should. In it there are over 200 mature trees. Last year they yielded 100 barrels of apples, 75 of them No. 1's and No. 2's, and 25 culls. In its best year it yielded about 200 barrels of which 150 were No. 1's and No. 2's. These apples were sold for \$1.00 a barrel in the orchard. The average per tree, therefore, at their best, was

75 cents. Had these trees been cared for properly and regularly every year, they would have given a return of \$5.00 a tree at least.

Consider another instance. A few years ago the farmers of Norfolk County in the vicinity of Simcoe had orchards similar to this one, and they knew that they were not paying. These men knew that there was a market for good fruit, and they decided to grow good fruit. They got together, largely through the influence of one man, who had been in the apple business for some years, and organized a co-operative association. They cultivated and fertilized their orchards, they grew cover crops, they pruned systematically, sprayed intelligently, and paid attention to all the demands of up-to-date orchard management. Last year they received \$10.00 a tree for their fruit. Does not this prove that it pays to attend to the orchard?

Farmers who have orchards should look after them. Those who have none should plant them. Then form a co-operative association for selling the fruit to the best advantage. It pays to make the most of the orchard.

HAVE A GARDEN

Every farm has a vegetable garden to supply the home table but on how many do we find them? There are hundreds of farms where grain and root crops for stock feeding are grown on large areas, but scarcely a rod of land is devoted to the growing of vegetables for home use. Why should not farmers and their families have vegetables all the year around when the labor and expense incidental to their culture is so small? It is, in most cases, because gardening is considered by the farmers as work for the women folks and the women folks haven't the time. This condition of affairs should not be. A small plot of ground laid out so that it can be worked by horse power, should be set aside for this purpose, and it should be worked by the men. It should be located near the house, where convenient for working at odd times and for gathering the crops as required.

Those farmers who have gardens would not be without them for ten times their cost in time and expense. They know the pleasure and profit that the garden yields. If you have not had a garden, start one this spring. Once the start is made, the plot will grow in usefulness and in favor.

THE NET PROFIT THAT COUNTS

The members of the Dominion Ayrshire Cattle Breeders' Association recently passed a resolution urging Hon. Sydney Fisher to so extend the work of the cow testing associations as to provide for the gathering of information that will show the cost of producing the milk as well as the net profit per cow. It is to be hoped that Hon. Mr. Fisher will adopt the suggestions.

Of late years, altogether too much attention has been given to the making of large milk and butter records without taking into consideration the cost of production. There is grave

danger that the craze for large records may lead us into dangerous extremes. In order that they might make large records some breeders have been allowing their cows to go dry for a year so that they would enter the test in the best possible condition. If they are to hold their own, other breeders will have to do the same. Large records, made under such conditions, are not of as great value as those made under conditions within reach of the average breeder or farmer.

After all, it is not the quantity of milk or butter that a cow produces that is most important. It is the net profit she returns above the cost of feed and care. If too much importance is attached to large records it is apt to divert attention from what is almost equally important, that is, the study of economical methods of feeding.

In the cow testing associations in Scotland and Denmark the cost of production is considered and the net profit per cow is figured out. It should be the case in Canada. We would like to see Hon. Mr. Fisher appoint one or two capable men this year to investigate carefully the conditions governing the production of milk on a few dozen representative dairy farms. The results would add immensely to the interest taken in the work of the associations and to its value.

SOIL FERTILITY IMPORTANT

It is commonly said that, as farmers, we adhere too closely to the ways of our fathers. The statement for the most part is true, yet it must be remembered that we need not so much a revolution of farm practice as we do an improvement of it.

All agriculture depends upon the growth of plants. The profit accruing to us depends primarily upon the value of the crops the farm produces. Continuous cropping the soil results in a loss of fertility. With what rapidity and to what extent, the majority of Ontario farmers experienced many years ago before adopting a rational system of mixed farming and live stock husbandry.

In the older sections of the West, the soil at one time was thought to be inexhaustible. The evils of continuous cropping have there long since become apparent. Many have been obliged to move on to a virgin soil or to change their methods of farming. To build up and maintain a fertile soil is the most important problem that confronts us.

The subject of soil fertility is a complex one. It is one of our foremost economic questions and must be given serious consideration. It is high time that those of us, especially, who grow and sell grain, were investigating beneath the surface. The cause of poor yields lies there. Soil fertility should receive more study at our hands. It should be one of the foremost topics at farmers' institutes and agricultural meetings.

We have been forced to recognize the fact that all soils are exhaustible. Plant food cannot be maintained without crop rotation and the use of manure. Plant food, not unlike min-

erals, cannot reproduce itself. Its supply is limited and that type of agriculture which removes this wealth from our soil and sells it off the farm, and makes no equivalent return, is not permanent. Give thought to the fertility of the soil. It is the basis of all agriculture.

CONVENIENCES IN FARM HOMES

A sign of the good times that farmers in many localities are experiencing is the modern improvements that are being installed in many farm homes. Recently while in Durham Co., an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy was pleased to note the spirit of progressiveness with which the farmers of that locality seemed imbued. This was noticeable in many ways, but particularly in the matter of installing conveniences in the house and thus lightening the burden of those whose domain is therein.

A case particularly worthy of mention was in the house of Mr. Northcott. His son, being handy with tools and desiring to have things as up-to-date as possible upon the farm, had placed in the house a modern system of plumbing, including a hot and cold water system, and bath room. A cess-pool had been constructed in the garden to take care of all waste water from the house. The water was supplied from the well at the barn and forced to the house by means of the windmill. Everything about the system was all that could be desired. It had been installed at a considerable cost, but we were assured it was a paying investment and worth while.

Why should the farmer's wife not have these conveniences? Even the laboring man in the city has his hot water attachment to his stove, and water "on tap." We put the water into our barns for our cattle. Why should we not place it also in the house? The farmer's wife is the money maker of the farm. She feeds them all. Why not give her the consideration that modern conveniences allow and thus lighten her load which is great at all times.

BREED THE BEST

"Horses, except good ones, are rather dull," writes our correspondent from Belwood, Wellington Co., Ont. How often the force of this statement has been brought home to us through the ups and downs of horse breeding business! Good horses are ever in demand. At the best of times, there is but an indifferent market for the other sort.

Now is the time to view the stallion you use next spring. Make sure that he is the best obtainable for your purpose. When the choice of a stallion is left until the travelling season, one is too often victimized by the glib-tongued stallioner. A good horse can be raised on practically the same amount of feed as the indifferent one. The better horse will cost a few dollars more in stallion fees at the outset, but this will be returned many-fold in the extra value at selling time; besides, there is an ever-ready market awaiting it. Which will you raise the coming year?