

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE
AND
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED
1866

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LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 19, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

Fences carelessly riddled in the fall must be repaired in the spring.

Pig breeding always suffers when grain is high in price. Save the brood sows.

Now is a good time to buy a choice steer. It is never a good time to purchase a scrub.

It will be a "lean" winter for some of the live stock on farms where there is no corn.

That door hanging by one hinge would give better service if a few screws were put in the other.

What a man will do to get into parliament, and once there what will he not do to stay there!

The fall drive is on. Hasten the work to completion before Jack Frost closes this season's campaign.

It would be foolish for breeders of all the dairy breeds to promote a claim that they have the real dual-purpose cow.

Fall plowing is a great appetizer. Who can eat with greater relish and sleep a sounder and more refreshing sleep than the plowboy?

No one outside the farming population seems to think that it costs the farmer more to farm to-day than it did twenty years ago.

There is no doubt about the final outcome of the war but more men are needed to take the rest of the "punch" out of the Teutons.

An expert has estimated that a farm housewife in the ordinary course of a day's work lifts one ton of water. Now will you put in a water supply for your wife?

Canada's wool clip is worth considerable money annually. It would bring still more if all were sold under the system or systems outlined in a lengthy article in this issue.

Have you swept the summer cobwebs from the walls and ceiling of the stable? After getting them down give the old stable a coat of whitewash to which is added a little disinfectant.

One of the best features of a county small fair we have seen this year was the special exhibit competition put on by Junior Farmers residing in different townships of the county. Fair Boards would do well to promote this work by offering substantial prizes.

Some of the crudest games of chance, ring and ball fakes, are assembled at the county fairs and yet the fakir gets many hard-earned dimes. Surely there must be a lack of real amusement in rural districts, otherwise the fall fair fakir could not exist as such. Or it may be true that people like to be humbugged.

The greatest empire the world has ever seen has been built up by a policy of allowing the daughter nations to manage their own affairs. The happiest and most contented families are those where the boys and girls, when they reach manhood and womanhood, have something their own which they manage themselves. Too much central control is not the best thing for family or nation.

A Dangerous Dual-Purpose Dream.

A few years ago, when certain breeders of Shorthorn cattle commenced to lay emphasis on milk production in the breed, breeders of the specialized dairy breeds smiled a while and then emphatically proclaimed that there could be no such thing as a dual-purpose cow. Thinking breeders of Shorthorns recognized that it was a difficult task to breed up and establish the dual-purpose type, which if it means anything, should stand for meat and milk, both in fair amount and neither to excess. In Great Britain, considerable success has been attained. In Canada and America, may be found at the present time a considerable number of cows carrying fairly good Shorthorn type and a reasonable amount of mellow fleshing, which at the same time, produce in a single lactation period anywhere from 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of milk. Some go much higher, but the majority of these latter are bordering on the specialized dairy-cow type, and we have always held that the breeder of dual-purpose cattle was getting on dangerous ground when he shoved milk production beyond 10,000 pounds and he is much safer to average around 7,000 pounds. Our contentions are borne out by the appearance of the calves from many of these heavy producers.

But this is not what we started out to discuss. Previous to the time Shorthorn men began to boost milk in their breed, little or nothing was heard of the milking qualities of the Hereford, the Aberdeen-Angus or the Scotch Shorthorn, and no one took very seriously the man who boasted about the beef qualities of the Holstein, the Jersey, the Guernsey or the Ayrshire, although the last-named breed, being a hardy, rustling sort, produced some fairly good, light-weight steers. Everything is changed now. There are Holstein men who call their breed the real dual-purpose breed; there are Ayrshire men who see dual-purpose characteristics in their breed; and no doubt some Guernsey and Jersey breeders could be found to praise their respective breeds for their dual-purpose value. We have heard Hereford men talk about their cows being good milkers and Aberdeen-Angus breeders do likewise. There seems to be no good reason why breeders of the specialized dairy breeds which have been brought to the present high standard of perfection should attempt to lead themselves or others to believe that their breeds are dual-purpose cattle. It would be a mistake to make, or attempt to make, dual-purpose animals out of Holstein herds which will average upwards of 15,000 pounds of milk per animal per year. The same is true to a certain extent of Ayrshire cattle. The Jersey, small, economical and efficient, is essentially a butter cow. The Hereford is a great grazer, a good feeder, a maker of big gains, and essentially a beef animal. True, breeders may require their cows to give a fair amount of milk, but they should not emphasize the dual-purpose nature of the breed. The Aberdeen-Angus, winner of the strongest competition in the big tests, like Smithfield and Chicago International, is essentially and must remain a butcher's beast. The Scotch Shorthorn, a successful competitor on many occasions in the beef ring, must not be ruined by a dangerous infusion of strictly dairy-bred Shorthorn blood. There is a dual-purpose Shorthorn; there is also a danger of there being a dairy-bred Shorthorn, which has no place in view of the excellence of present-day specialized dairy breeds. Why run the risk of spoiling other breeds which are essentially milk breeds or beef breeds? Decade upon decade have passed in the bringing of the breeds to the present-day perfection. This work must not be thrown away. There is room for only one dual-purpose breed, and many believe there is little room for even one. The Shorthorn has the call on this place; other breeders for the good of their respective breeds should let it go at that.

The Man Responsible.

We occasionally hear a man grumble that his land is poor and therefore he cannot make a success of his farming operations. From extensive observation we are inclined to believe that in the majority of cases small crops and poor returns are not the fault of the farm, but of the farmer. We have seen abandoned blow-sand farms so poor that they would scarcely grow twitch grass, mulleins, or milk-weed, converted from barren plains to fertile fields. The man who cropped them to death and was responsible for their disintegration into the blow-sand condition, finally decided that he had a poor farm, so poor in fact that it crowded him off. The other man saw possibilities in the land for when he dug into it, he noticed that it contained moisture even in the driest summer season. He knew also that his predecessor had cropped and cropped, taking away year after year and returning nothing. He started with rye as about the only thing that would grow on the sand and he plowed in the crop; he put what manure he could scrape together on the land, but relied chiefly on green manuring. In a season or two the land responded with a fine catch of red clover, and to-day thriving orchards blossom and bear on the former barren waste, and it is all due to the farmer not the farm.

We have seen a wet farm crowd its owner off and he complained that it was the fault of the farm. Another man came along, saw possibilities in the land which he picked up at a small price, bought it, and spent a few dollars per acre in tile drains. Now the farm is one of the best in the neighborhood. It always was, but it needed a farmer, who understood it and was willing to lay out a little money to make more money. Too often men are short-sighted, saving a dollar to put in the bank at three per cent. which properly invested in something to build up the farm might in a few years make them three dollars to bank instead of one. When you hear a man grumbling that it is the farm's fault because he has not made a success, or when you yourself are inclined to blame things on the land, remember that there are several chances in the farm's favor and that the man is likely most to blame.

The Eight-Hour Day.

Across the border there has been, of late, considerable agitation re an eight-hour day, and railway men have succeeded in getting legislation to that effect so far as they are concerned, and now there is talk of a universal eight-hour day in that country. It is interesting to note that through the past decades the tendency, particularly in cities, has been towards shorter hours. Even the farmer does not work from daylight till dark in harvest time as he once did, although his hours are still long when chores and odds and ends are considered. The ten-hour day is practically universal on the farms in this country at the present time, but it would take considerable persuasive power to make the farmer believe that he would get more work done and greater efficiency from an eight-hour day than from the present ten-hour system. A universal eight-hour day seems a long way off and for the sake of the man on the land we hope that it is. We would like to see him get as short hours as possible, but in the rush of seeding, haying, harvesting, and fall work the eight-hour day, with the available labor supply, would be an impossibility.

Some city writers seem to think that because the necessities of life are rather high in price at the present time farmers have been lacking in leadership. Perhaps they have, but it pays them better, sometimes, to get a fair price for a smaller quantity of produce than to be forced to take a price so small that it leaves only a mere pittance of profit.