

the cattle, and did so immediately without disturbing the cattle. Another time, I was spreading manure on a field in warm weather, and had left my vest with watch, in among some bushes somewhere at the end of the field, I was not sure where. I said to Rover, bring my vest, when I was going to dinner. He went right off and brought vest and watch out carefully from among the bushes. When sowing grass seed, sometimes I would leave an empty bag at the far end of the field when the ground was muddy. When I said, 'Rover bring that bag,' he brought it folded carefully in his mouth, and did not drag it in the mud.

"The late Colin Arthur, who was a butcher here, had a Collie named 'Lassie'. When he would be many miles back in the country buying cattle, and wanted to stay and buy more, he would send what he had bought home with 'Lassie' alone. A number of the old folks, around here can verify this.

"The women folks here, trained my dog 'Rover' to put the geese in a small wooden house at night, and also to open the door and let them out in the morning. I told one of my nephews about it, and he said he would rather see it than believe it. The geese were in and the door was laid up against the hole. I had not asked the dog to bring them out before, but just said without pointing to the house. 'Rover, bring the geese out.' He immediately pulled down the door, jumped to one side and let them come out. Another nephew wanted to see the dog let them out another time. A drain tile was propped firmly against the door. Rover tried to pull the door down, but it did not come. Then he tried to pull out the drain tile, but it was too firm. After that, he jumped on top of the house, and pulled a board off the roof, with his mouth. I regret to say that two fat healthy looking dogs were found dead one morning, probably poisoned, and one of them was 'Rover'."

These stories are all marvellous, and point to considerable reasoning power and intelligence on the part of the dog, and yet none of them surpass some of the thoroughly authenticated stories given by Romanes in his book on the subject. One correspondent, however, sent me a clipping from an English paper, which as they say over there, "is a bit too thick!" Here it is:—

"The writer had a fox terrier, that always when the postman came, fetched the letters and papers from the door-mat. On one occasion, when there were two letters delivered, he brought in one, but absolutely refused to bring in the other, a thing he had never been known to do before. After much coaxing and scolding, he still refused, so I fetched the other myself. It was the notification that the dog tax was due." This is a fact. (C.E.T. Cricklewood, England).

As the man who vouches for that story is an unknown person, living on the other side of the ocean, I have no hesitation in suggesting that the explanation of the mystery is the same as the answer to a famous riddle. After everyone had been baffled by the riddle, the answer was that "The boy lied."

At some later time when important matters are not pressing, I shall deal with some of the other animal stories I have received. In the meantime, I wish to thank my correspondents for the courtesy they have shown in sending these stories.

The Farmer's Favorite Friend.

The United States Department of Agriculture, recently undertook the task of discovering which of the several agencies operating to help the farmer was most effective and most appreciated. An investigation carried on in four sections of the country, proved that the agricultural press is of all the operating agencies, the most appreciated and most effective. In all 3698 farmers were visited and of these, 6.3 per cent. preferred the bulletins issued by the Agricultural Department, 3.6 per cent. favored the Farmer's Institutes, 6 per cent. the agricultural demonstration agents, 4.5 per cent. thought all agencies were of equal value, while 40.3 per cent. pinned their faith to the agricultural papers. It is seen by this that the agricultural press is exerting a wider influence for the good of agriculture than is generally believed.

One surprising feature of the investigation was that 43.7 per cent. of the people visited, stated that experience was the only valuable teacher and that none of the agencies enumerated was of any benefit to them. We wonder just how many of these people take any farm paper, or read any of the bulletins sent to them, or still further make an effort to attend Farmer's Institute meetings.

It is gratifying to know that the agricultural press so dominates American agriculture. Two out of every three of the farmers visited take one or more farm papers, and 44 per cent. of them take two or more agricultural papers. The number receiving farm papers was 51 per cent.

greater than the number who received bulletins, and 119 per cent. greater than the number who attended the Farmer's Institutes.

From the bulletin giving details of the information, we quote the following: "The noteworthy matters are the large numbers who placed the farm papers first, and the still larger number who placed no value whatever upon any of the agencies. As a matter of fact, however, the man who neither receives the bulletins, takes a farm paper, nor attends the Farmer's Institutes is not in a position to judge of the value of such agencies. Many of the 1616 farmers, who denied the worth of these agencies fall within this class. Some, however, attended the Institutes, took farm papers and received the bulletins and still said they were not helped in their farming by any of these agencies. This large percentage, however, shows a marked conservatism towards agricultural extension agencies, and undoubtedly indicates the cause of the reluctance of farmers in some sections, to support in any marked degree the present country-wide movement, looking to the location of trained agriculturists in counties, to advise with farmers in the improvement of their agriculture, a movement strongly supported everywhere by both business and commercial interests.

"In order that there may be a fair comparison as to the merits of the different agencies it is essential that the one making a comparison be in touch with each agency compared. There were 469 farmers who not only received the bulletins but also attended farmers institutes and took farm papers, thus being acquainted with all three agencies. Of this number 21% give the bulletins first choice, in the list of most beneficial agencies, 14% placed the Institute first, while the remainder or 65% give first place to the farm paper. This comparison indicates that with farmers who are competent to judge, those who prefer the newspapers are three times as numer-

tion list; subscribers must be readers and must act upon some of the things they read.

The men not now receiving help from any of the agencies mentioned in this investigation must be in just as great need of bulletins, agricultural papers, Farmers' Institutes, and the help of the District Representative as are some of those acknowledging the benefit of these agencies. These men must be reached, but the paper cannot do them good unless they subscribe and read what it contains. Few there are who, after getting benefit from sources other than practical farm experience, would be so conservative or bigoted as not to give the various acting agencies credit.

In each department of the investigation the popularity of the agricultural press was evident. There is a great field for this agency, and with the co-operation of the farmers generally the work can be made of far greater benefit than it has as yet attained. Readers should make their farm paper a medium through which to obtain and disseminate results of practical experience in the various branches of their diversified calling.

THE DAIRY.

To Improve Western Ontario Creamery Butter.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In two previous articles we have dealt with the need for ice on the farm for cooling cream in order to keep it sweet; and also with the need of extra payment for cream delivered of good quality, suggesting that grade A cream should be paid for at the rate of at least one cent a pound fat extra as compared with second grade cream.

In this article we purpose touching on a few other points necessary in order to improve the quality of Western Ontario creamery butter. Assuming that the creamery is properly built, has good machinery, good drainage, plenty of pure water, and has a competent maker in charge, what more can be done? Our answer is, chiefly pasteurization of cream which is a great need. But a very small proportion of our creameries pasteurize, but those who do are turning out a product of uniformly good quality, and they are obtaining, so we understand, a higher average price for their butter, than do those creameries where pasteurization is not followed.

As we were the first, as far as we know, to adopt this system in Ontario, we have always taken a lively interest in the question. Since 1895 the Dairy Department of the Ontario Agricultural College has persistently taught, and consistently practised the pasteurization of all milk or cream which is manufactured into butter. We started first by heating the cream in shot-gun cans, which were set in a tank of hot water, stirring by hand until a temperature of 168 degrees was reached, then the cans of cream were removed from the hot-water tank, covered, allowed to stand for about fifteen minutes, then set in a tank of cold water, and stirred until cooled to about 70 degrees, when they were emptied into a cream vat, culture or "starter" was added, and the cream ripened. We found a very marked improvement in the quality of our butter at once, as a result of this plan, and we have followed it in some form ever since '95. The only objection to the can system is the extra labor. So far as results are concerned, there is nothing better than the heating and cooling in small cans holding about three gallons each. The quality of butter produced is equal to that obtained with a \$500 pasteurizing outfit, but the can system is not applicable to creamery work where large quantities of cream are handled. Since the can method we have tried nearly every form of pasteurizer placed on the market, from the "Channel Heater" to the continuous or "flash" machine. We now have two types of the "holder" pasteurizer and cream vat, which is the very latest thing for creamery work, and we have no hesitation in recommending these to creamerymen. Owing to the high price of these machines a number of creamery owners are hesi-



In the Canadian West.

The farm driver is not often called upon for tea milk.

ous as those who prefer the bulletins, and practically five times as many as those who placed the Farmers' Institutes first."

The strong points in favor of the farm paper are: That it comes regularly and often, comes directly to the farmer, treats in each issue a variety of agricultural subjects, contains all the essential information forwarded in bulletins or delivered at Institute meetings; treated concisely and written in a language that farmers can understand. It never becomes stale, is always new and is readable and accurate. Agricultural research institutes are, therefore, asked to make more systematic use of the agricultural press in an endeavor to efficiently reach the farmer.

We do not know what an investigation of this kind would show in the various rural districts of Canada, but we do believe that these results would be substantiated. Farmers in Canada are not a great deal different from farmers in the United States, and they prefer to get the information to help them with their agricultural work from a regular visitor like the farm paper which carries the material to them in a readable form which they can understand and apply to their own conditions. The significant point is that such a large number give no credit whatever to anything except practical experience. While it is a source of satisfaction to note that so many appreciate the work being done by the press, these figures serve to bring out the point that large numbers of the farming community do not take or do not read farm papers. In order to accomplish the work which it sets out to do the paper must get a large and wide-spread subscrip-