

I have had to do with the dairy business in about all of its phases, raising the cows that produce the milk, feeding them, milking them, making butter and cheese, and even selling milk to retailers. This latter is as near as I want to come to retailing milk. I have watched the retail business a good deal and see nothing attractive in it. On the face of it a retailer should make money. However, there are many bad debts and much slow money to collect. Whilst a man's credit might be very good, a man's cash is much more acceptable in the milk business, because the milk seller has to pay cash for his product. There is many a man who should know better, and who should pay up better, that keeps the milkman waiting for his money.

I have in mind one city man who is always kicking about the quality of milk. He was a member of the Board of Health, a member of the Town Council, and was forever making restrictive measures in regard to the delivery of milk to insure its purity and cleanliness. This is all very well in its way, but then if that same man would only pay for his milk and pay a decent price for it, he would be more likely to encourage the milkman to produce and handle the milk to better advantage. With more modern methods of delivery and handling milk, the cost is always increased, and there is no milkman but that under-

the nutriment of milk goes into the cheese, whereas butter is mostly fat, the casein and other valuable constituents being left in the skim milk. Fat is not food, casein is. Cheese is worth at least three times as much as meat, pound for pound. Once the habit of eating cheese has been acquired it is just as hard to do without it as it is to do without any other food. I have always of late years been used to cheese and I find that I get "cheese hungry" if I do not have it for a while. I would in fact as lief do without meat as cheese.

### Handling Alfalfa with Hay Loader

Henry Glendinning, Victoria Co., Ont.

The weather during April was extremely hard on the alfalfa fields. It affected plants on the old fields much more than it did the newly seeded ones. However the first crop of alfalfa was a fair one. It was saved in excellent condition. The cut was later than usual and the second cutting will not be ready until about the 10th of August. It is a week ago.

This is the first year that we have saved the first cutting of alfalfa without coiling it. We cut it in the forenoon, tedded it a couple of times and then raked it into windrows the same day. It

most effective. Mr. Stevenson tells us that he derives great benefit from its use. This mixture will not keep the cattle absolutely free from flies, but the nuisance can be greatly abated by spraying regularly with it.

### The Weed Problem

Geo. C. Smyth, Waterloo Co., Ont.

The danger we undergo from having new weeds introduced on our farms and the spread of those that have already made their appearance is not felt to the extent that the situation demands. Weeds are a serious hindrance to successful farming. They occupy space, deplete the land of valuable plant food and draw heavily on the soil moisture. They are despised plants, and because they have always had to struggle for an existence each one is possessed of some strong feature which enables it to thrive and reproduce itself under adverse circumstances.

A great deal can be done at this time of the year to prevent the further spread of many noxious weeds. A few hours spent with the mower and scythe will prevent many weeds from seeding. The early fall cultivation of land is very helpful in destroying many weeds. Cultivating grassy ground and exposing the roots of the grass to the frost is also very beneficial.

In the treatment of the different crops after harvest different methods have to be followed. For clover fields intended for seed, all weeds should be cut either with the scythe or spudded out, for these if allowed to go to seed will reduce the selling value of that seed from 50 cents to a dollar a bushel.

Sod that is grassy should be plowed early and rather lightly and worked well on top and left rather rough for the winter. If on heavy land it is as well to rib it up, thus letting the frost get all the action possible upon it. Stubble that has been seeded down and is somewhat weedy may be prevented from seeding by running the mower over it rather high so as not to injure the clover. Stubble ground may be cultivated up, thus starting many weed seeds germinating. For

stubble ground that is grassy, plow early and cultivate frequently, working the grass roots to the top. After such a practice you will find that you have gotten rid of a lot of grass and also that your ground is in number one shape for a spring crop. We will have to wake up to the importance of the weed question. Weeds are getting such a hold on the farms of this country that we will see the spectacle of men clearing their farms again. It is questionable if the clearing of weeds will be less arduous than the clearing of forests.

It has been estimated that on a 100 acre farm the absolute waste from weeds would amount to the produce of no less than five acres of fertile land. Do we realize this? And cannot the careless man who allows his farm to become a weed nursery for the locality, or the careless seedsmen who stocks a customer's farm with some dangerous weed pest, be made to feel that the injury they are inflicting upon others is in reality tantamount to robbery just as truly as watering or skimming milk or some other forms of wrong doing which are made amendable to law? Railway and municipal authorities all over Canada should wake up to the magnitude of the weed evil. Farmers' Institutes and the Seed Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture should renew and continue their efforts to abate what is to-day probably the most alarming menace confronting agriculture.



Drawing in the first cutting of Alfalfa on Mr. Glendinning's Farm

Ordinarily it is not possible to harvest the first cutting of alfalfa with the aid of the hay loader. The alfalfa being very succulent at this time makes it necessary for the mower, Mr. Glendinning did not coil his first cutting. See adjoining article.

cutting of alfalfa with the aid of the hay loader. The alfalfa being very succulent to be expelled by means of sweating in the coil. This year, but followed a system that enabled him to use his hay loader on it.

stands handling milk in a manner that will insure its cleanliness and purity. The trouble is generally that the retailers are so poorly paid and so hard worked, that they have not the time to do all they would like to do, nor the money to install everything that they could wish for to produce the best article.

#### THE RETAILER'S TROUBLES

Surely a milkman should make some money. He certainly deserves to. He is out in the morning at four or five o'clock rain or shine. The consumer wants his milk, and no matter what the weather is or if the milkman is feeling right or not, he has got to hustle around. Any man who works every day of the week, and so early and so late as the milkmen have to, surely deserves more than an ordinary reward for his work. As it is the milkman's reward is often insufficient; this too when milk is selling at actually one-half to one-third less than its food value as compared with other food. If the papers would give more attention to the food value of milk and its products, and help the milkman to obtain better prices for his milk, they would be accomplishing much more in the way of sanitary methods and purer products than would be possible in any other way.

Cheese furnishes the consumer with the most nutriment for his money. Cheese has a much higher food value than butter. Practically all

was allowed to lay in the windrows all of the next day, but it was tedded twice that day, the tedder being run lengthwise of the row. This tedding prevented the sun drying up the leaves too much and kept the row loose so that the wind can get through it. On the third day we used the hay loader to take it in. This method of handling the alfalfa saved considerable labor in coiling and pitching in the field. The weather was very fine at the time, thus enabling us to follow this plan.

For years past we have put the second and third cuttings into the barn by this method of procedure. But we always put it in the day after cutting. The weather at the time of the second cutting is usually fine and the ground is very dry and warm. Thus it cures rapidly.

### Abating the Fly Nuisance

A considerable enquiry has been made regarding the mixture used by Mr. R. S. Stevenson of Ancaster, Ont. to protect cattle from the flies, as published in a recent article, we have obtained from Mr. Stevenson the formula of this mixture. It is as follows:—One-half pint Cook's disinfectant, one-quarter pint fish oil, mixed in two gallons of rain water.

It is necessary to spray the cattle every day with this mixture. After a time, the cow's hair becomes saturated with it; then it becomes the