

Dairying at Macdonald College

Dairy cattle first receive attention in the Live is only as it should be, if the College would Stock Department of Macdonald College. This cater to the needs of the people of its constituency.

We have been accustomed to think of Ontario as the banner dairy province of Canada, but Quebec is at least the most specialized dairy province of Canada. It is within the memory of many men living in Eastern Townships of Quebec when most farms were devoted to general farming and beef production. Gradually the merits of the dairy cow as a money maker began to be appreciated, and to-day beef herds in Quebec are almost a negligible quantity. It is only natural, therefore, that at the College we should find dairy cattle greatly outnumbering cattle of any other type. The crops in the fields, the cattle in the barns, and the provision made for the manufacture of the products of the farm, are all designed primarily with an eye to the furthering of the dairy industry. An editor of Farm and Dairy, who inspected the College farm last summer, when the farm could be seen to best advantage, under the guidance of Prof. Barton, decided that he, Prof. Barton, had made of the College property one of the most ideal dairy farms we had ever seen.

At the time of our visit the dairy herd consisted of 70 cows, 60 of which were then in milk. As might be expected, Ayrshires were there in largest numbers, there being 40 head of the Scotch milk breed. The rest of the herd was made up as follows: 10 Holsteins, 10 milking Shorthorns, and 10 French-Canadians. We noted about 50 young animals of the different breeds in the paddocks and calf barns, and about 20 head of male animals, including bull calves, aged bulls, and a few steers from the milking Shorthorn.

Prof. Barton, who is largely responsible for the high quality of the dairy herd at Macdonald College, showed a proper pride in the cattle he had gathered together. He is not yet satisfied, however, and within a few years we predict that the average production of the herd will be much higher than it now is. As yet, very little official test work has been done at Macdonald College, but a private record has been kept of the production of every animal. Their large herd of Ayrshires averaged 7,000 lbs. of milk in the year 1911, the last for which figures are available; the Holsteins, 11,065; the Shorthorns, 6,597; and the French-Canadians, 6,022.

"When we go to visit breeders' herds," remarked our editor to Prof. Barton, "we usually find that each herd has a few cows with extra large records in which the breeder takes particular pride. Let us hear something about some of your individual records."

SOME INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

We happened to be driving through the pasture just then and Prof. Barton singled out for us a big Holstein cow of the type that we always recognize as a producer. "There is Doree of Burnbrae Farm," he said. "Last year she produced 18,485 lbs. of milk. She is the greatest producing cow that we have, although we have a few other Holsteins that have done very good work. Princess of Burnbrae Farm, a young cow, has produced 10,295 lbs. of milk; Millbrook Netherland, 12,710 lbs. of milk; and

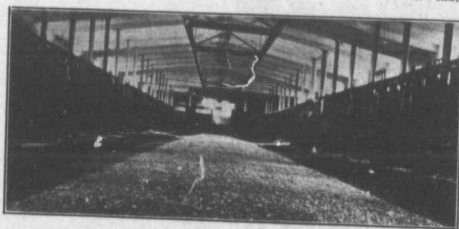
Kitty Marling De Kol, 12,612 lbs. of milk."

A. R. Ness, B.S.A., Prof. Barton's assistant, is an Ayrshire fancier. Naturally, he is a brother of R. R. Ness of Burnside Farm. He was right on hand to tell us of what their Ayrshires could do. "I will mention," said he, "some official records made by Ayrshires. As a four-year-old, Kirsty of Ste. Annes has a record of 9,150.75 lbs. milk, 334.49 lbs. butter fat. As a mature cow, Wexford Blood has a record of 7,719.5 lbs. milk, 402.75 lbs. butter fat. Another three-year-old, Primrose 2nd of Ste. Annes, produced 8,728.5 lbs. milk, 330.35 lbs. butter fat. As a two-year-old, Maud 2nd of Ste. Annes made a record of 7,019.5 lbs. milk, 232.53 lbs. butter fat."



A Pasture Scene on the Farm of One of our Canadian Agricultural Colleges. The Live Stock Department of Macdonald College, Que., is strongly dairy. In this collage live stock but reflects live stock conditions throughout the province, where dairy cattle have practically everything their own way. In their splendid French Canadian, and dairy Shorthorn breeds. The illustration herewith showing Dairy when driving over the farm with Professor Barton, Chief of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Prof. Barton has a lot of faith in the milking qualities of the Shorthorn, and he certainly had some splendid specimens of dairy Shorthorn cows. One of them, Blossom 10th, produced in 1911, 9,537 lbs. of milk. Another, Barrington Duchess 32nd, produced 8,437 lbs. of milk and still another, Furbelow Countess, produced 6,834 lbs. of milk. With these figures to encourage him as to their milk producing qualities, and several fine steers in the stable to show that their offspring may be good beef animals, too, Prof. Barton is going to experiment further with the milking Shorthorn and produce if he can a first-class dual purpose cow.



An Interior View of the Dairy Cattle Stable at Macdonald College.

Prof. Barton pointed out to us some of the finest specimens of the French-Canadian breed that we have ever seen. They were big strong cows with lots of constitution, and they are making good at the pail, too. One of them, Dewdrop, has to her credit 6,973 lbs. of milk. Zamora has done still better with 7,273 lbs. of milk in a year. Fancy has an official record of 7,425.75 lbs. of milk and 318.8 lbs. of butter fat as a mature cow. One of the two-year-old animals with a creditable record is Alert, with 6,618.95 lbs. of milk and 275.88 lbs. of butter fat.

A HEAVY STOCK AND HEAVY CROPS

The farm at Macdonald College is not large, (Concluded on page 13)

Treat the Cow as a Mother

Malcolm H. Gardiner, Delcor, Wis.

Too few breeders and dairy farmers give the needed recognition to the basis on which the dairy industry is founded—the motherhood of the animal furnishing the milk. The Tartars milk mares; other peoples in other parts of the world milk goats, sheep, asses, buffaloes, or deer. But milk and its products form one of the chief sources of food supply for the world; and as compared with the amount obtained from the modern cow, that obtained from all other animals combined is inconsiderable. It is fitting that so gentle and lovable an animal as the cow should occupy so exalted a position. It is

well that we have such a foster mother for human kind. But does her motherhood always receive recognition? Is she not often treated as if she were a mere machine, instead of a highly organized living mechanism for the conversion of feed into milk?

One of the most successful of the early Wisconsin dairymen had for his motto, "Speak to a cow as you would to a lady," and when he was asked if he removed his hat when entering the stable door in the morning, he replied that he certainly would do so if he thought he could get more milk thereby. What owner, especially in testing, has not noticed that some one of his milkers was able to get more milk from the cows than were the other milkers? It is the personal equation, the regard the cow has for her attendant, that gives hand milking an advantage over the machine; and the more nearly the cow has adopted her milker in the place of her calf, the greater will be his success as a milker. There is usually a vast difference in results between the milker who gets a cow into position by pushing the leg of the stool into her flank and then kicks her on the shin to make her step back, and the one who gains the same end with patience and gentleness. Who can blame the cow for wanting to kick the first man?

WIN THEIR AFFECTION

Aside from the knowledge of how to feed in general and the study of the special wants of the individual cows, to attain the greatest success a man must win the affection of the cows. Some will say that this can not be done. But if the calf and growing yearling is treated gently and kindly, and then is stabled and handled before freshening like a cow, there will be no such thing as breaking the heifer to milk; she will take it as the regular thing. There have been those who have in good faith advocated music during milking, declaring that it had a quieting effect; and the idea gains some support at the Dairy Shows. It may be that as the poet says, "Music hath charms to sooth the savage breast."

But the breast of a properly brought up dairy cow is not savage; and if it were a bull that had broken loose, had made up his mind that some one was going to get what was coming to him and was strictly on the job, I should prefer to do the soothing from the roof of the hog house and well out of reach.

If a person desires to install a music box in the stable, it may be that it will work all right; but the less of singing, whistling, and loud talking there is, the better it will be. Indeed, talking of all kinds except the low spoken, soothing words of the milker to the cow should be prohibited. If a cow be bred right and fed right, it (Concluded on page 13)