

An exchange says that an epidemic of cattle rustling is feared in Lillooet and Cariboo districts owing to the scarcity of rabbits, lean rabbit years always showing a big increase in cattle stealing, the offence being most frequently traced to home-stealers of foreign extraction. The item is interesting, but we cannot speak for its authenticity.

Mr. Geo. R. Sharp of Enderby shipped half a carload of hogs to Vancouver during December, the first shipment of the character to leave Enderby in many months.

Feeding Dairy Cows In The Most Economical Way

By S. H. HOPKINS

Alfalfa is the most valuable and nutritious roughage the dairyman can grow. Indeed, when especially well cured and ground up into alfalfa meal, it can be called a concentrate and classed along with grain foods. It is so rich that it should not be fed alone. There is so much protein in it that it is hard on the kidneys, which organs throw off all nitrogenous waste. It is unwise to bring in a cow used to range conditions and begin stuffing her with alfalfa at once, especially if exercise is not given. Any sudden change of this nature tends to upset the cow's digestive and nervous system.

Protein or albumen is the food element essential to milk production, and it is the element dearest to buy in grain foods. The great point about alfalfa is that a supply of good alfalfa hay obviates the necessity of buying much grain. If corn silage or roots can be combined with good alfalfa hay, a satisfactory milk yield can be obtained without any grain being fed. Some well known dairy farmers feed their cows only alfalfa hay and corn silage in winter, except their best cows, which get a little grain. They claim that while they do not get the maximum production, they get it cheapest. A ration of 20 pounds alfalfa hay and 40 pounds corn silage (or 55 pounds roots) will be ample for a cow giving 25 pounds of average milk daily. The silage is rich in carbo-hydrates or starchy matter, and the alfalfa in protein, so that one balances the other.

Timothy Hay Not a Good Roughage.

Timothy hay is not at all a good roughage for the dairy cow, as it is lacking in protein. It is rich in starchy or energy producing elements, so that it gives best results when fed to horses. Timothy hay contains only 3 per cent of digestible protein, compared with 8 per cent in red clover and 10 1-2 per cent in alfalfa hay. These figures give a good comparison of values of these three roughages for milk production.

A good, safe rule for feeding a dairy cow is as follows: Give her all the clover or alfalfa hay she will eat, together with 35 to 55 pounds of corn silage or roots. In addition, give her a pound of grain for each four pounds of milk produced daily. Bran, oats and corn or barley meal, equal parts, is a good grain mixture. A little linseed oil meal is also a fine thing in helping to keep the digestive organs right.

The champion cow of Canada is a British Columbia Holstein, "Pietje Canary," owned by J. M. Steves, of Steveston. She gave in one year over 24,000 pounds of milk con-

The hogs were of exceptional quality, averaging 210 pounds, and being from five to eight months old. Several farmers contributed to the shipment and the shipment brought \$7.75 per 100, and nearly \$1200 cash was paid on delivery. This is a step towards co-operation pointing to bigger things to follow. The profit to the rancher may be judged from figures supplied by one shipper, the four hogs contributed by him standing an outlay for the four months just \$12. In addition to this the pigs had the run of a clover and alfalfa patch. The four animals netted him in the neighborhood of \$65.

taining 938 pounds of butter fat (equal to 1100 pounds butter.) Her daily ration during the latter part of her test was 75 pounds mangels, 10 pounds each of ground oats and linseed meal and five pounds ground barley. This was feeding for maximum production, of course.

Vary the Ration in Summer.

In summer the ration of green alfalfa should be varied a little by feeding in addition, oats, and peas, clover, green corn, kale or grass. Cows like a little variety, and will get tired of being fed alfalfa alone.

There is some danger of bloating on alfalfa, especially when wet or when pastured for the first time. Wet alfalfa readily ferments in the paunch. Cows will not bloat on alfalfa if it is cut and brought to them. Hungry cows should be kept off alfalfa pasture when it is wet, and should be given some hay or green feed other than alfalfa before going on.

There are various effective cures for bloating. Pint doses of linseed oil with a little turpentine added, given with a wine bottle; tying a wooden gag in the mouth like a horse's bit; inserting a piece of rubber hose in the throat and pushing it gently down until the gas rushes up from the paunch, have all proved effective cures. A dose of 300 c.c. of a 4 per cent solution of formalin is also a cheap remedy. If an animal is on the point of suffocation when found, the surest remedy is to stab the paunch to let the gas out quickly. An ordinary knife may be used, but a trocar is better, the hollow sheath remaining in the hole to allow the gases to escape freely. The point to be stabbed is midway between the last rib, the hip bone and the backbone right in the center of the space in front of the hip, which is quite hollow usually. The skin is first slit for about an inch, and the paunch wall is just beneath. A bold stab is made directly through it. The paunch is an immense receptacle, and there is no danger of striking any other organ at that point. A veterinary should have been sent for in the meantime.

The Curing of Alfalfa Hay.

Regarding the curing of alfalfa hay. Over three-fourths the feeding value is in the leaves, so that ordinary methods whereby these are wilted off will not do. Alfalfa should be cut when only beginning to come into bloom, before it gets woody. Cut in the morning and partially wilted, it should be cocked in the afternoon, cured by standing thus three or four days, when it is ready for hauling or baling. Cured like this, the hay is quite green, and is nearly equal to bran in food value, weight

for weight. Alfalfa meal should be quite green also, and show no white, strawy specks, which indicate badly cured and woody hay.

In a wet season alfalfa can be put into a silo mixed with green corn or alone. It must be well tramped down to make good ensilage. A silo is nearly essential for the dairyman on high priced land. It provides the cheapest feed known. One dairyman in the Kootenay district has erected a silo 8x22 on his five-acre holding, and keeps four cows on homegrown roughage the year round, besides a large flock of poultry, by using silage and soiling crops. The silo is filled with oats and peas in early summer and again with corn in the fall. Silage and soiling mean intensive dairy farming. Silage is just as good in summer as in winter, and nearly as necessary. Soiling means cutting crops in the summer and bringing them to the cows, instead of letting them pasture. The only objection is the extra labor, but that is paid for. Winter rye, fall wheat and vetch, alfalfa, clover, peas and oats, corn, kale and silage will provide an abundance of succulent food throughout the summer. Half an acre under this system, if it crops well, will supply a cow with sufficient green food for the summer season. The small holder above mentioned has brought up his farm from a "wilderness of thistles" to producing twice as much as the adjoining holdings, by means of the large amount of manure made on the place.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture will be pleased to send printed information about alfalfa, silos and ensilage on request.

NEW ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURISTS

The British Columbia Agricultural Organization Association is the latest thing in agricultural matters in the province. Mr. J. L. Pridham of Kelowna, is the chairman of the organization committee and has sent Fruit and Farm the following letter:

"We have formed here The British Columbia Agricultural Organization Association. The paramount purpose of this association, which is non-partizan, is to draw into one comprehensive organization all the bona-fide farmers only of the province, both men and women, and to bring about by their mutual study of their mutual problems common action of them all for the solution thereof, and to promote the interest of the farming community in an honorable and legitimate way, and, knowing something of the magnitude of the problem which we are facing, have decided that local organizations of bona-fide farmers only should be established throughout the province at all points where an interest can be created, and then locals should each send delegates to a convention where a central executive representing them all should be elected.

"A campaign to organize local associations throughout the province has been started and local associations are already formed and officers duly elected. As this work has to be undertaken by voluntary workers, and it is impossible to do it throughout the whole province by the individual efforts of the organization committee, we would be glad if every active farmer in his district would appoint someone to represent them to communicate with the organization committee at Kelowna.

"We shall be grateful to you if you will kindly insert this letter in your next issue."

In subsequent correspondence Mr. Prid-