

brought from a German flavor plantation and tried for two years to produce the same quality rum, but to no purpose, a perfect failure. So it was decided that the soil had everything to do with it. I must say that I have had no experience with maple syrup manufacturing, but have spent a number of years on sugar-cane plantations and know for a fact that what I have stated is quite correct; and I should certainly think that the different soils would produce different quality maple syrup.

Durham Co., Ont.

SOUTHERNER.

Likes the Gang Plow.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

To try to produce more than ever before is the duty of every Canadian farmer in 1915, and as farmers have been advised to sow as many acres as possible this year there is a great danger of a large percentage of this spring's crop being sown without proper cultivation. I think it is the duty of every farmer to himself and the Empire to cultivate properly and sow every acre that he can in soil suitable for the special crop he sows, but it will be better for him to leave more of his sod ground for hay or pasture than to break it up and not be able to cultivate it properly and get it sown in proper time. I believe Ontario has the largest acreage of fall ploughing done for this spring crop that has ever been done, which is a good start. If this fall-ploughed ground is free from thistles and other foul weeds or grasses I would go on it as soon as it gets dry enough to work, and fill the dead furrows with the disk harrow. Then take a spring-tooth cultivator and go over it often enough to stir all the surface about three inches deep. Twice over will usually do it with a good cultivator, then go over it once with the wide iron harrows, but if manure has been applied or if it is a clean clover or timothy sod turned down and there are some bunches of manure or sod that is not thoroughly divided I would go over it again with the harrow. After this roll with a good heavy roller and drill the seed and harrow once after the drill. I have tried rolling after the drill instead of before, but much prefer rolling before the drill. When rolling after sowing, especially if the ground is a little damp, the roller makes it too solid for the young plants. It is also better to roll before the drill to help keep the drill from putting the seed too deep. I find that the plants come up quicker and stronger when the seed has been sown shallow than they do when sown deep, and the crop will also stand a drouth better when the seed has not been put in too deep.

When ground that has been fall ploughed for a spring crop is very dirty with thistles or other weeds and grass go up the dead furrows with the disk harrow, then go over the ground once crosswise with the wide iron harrows and then hitch on the gang plow. I prefer one with three wheels and that turns at least three furrows at a time, the three-wheeled ones are not as liable to shove away from tough or hard ground as the two-wheeled ploughs, and by having one which turns several furrows you can get over the ground faster by putting on more horses. I have tried a great many implements, but have not found anything yet to equal the gang plough on dirty ground that has been fall ploughed. I plough as shallow as the plough will work well and cut a thin slice off all the ground. Be sure to keep the shares of the plough sharp, so they will cut everything. This will help to kill some of the thistles or other weeds, and those that it does not kill will be set back, giving the grain crop a chance to get a start and keep them smothered. After the ground is gang ploughed I go over it with the wide iron harrows until the soil is fine and level, and the weeds that have been cut loose have been brought to the surface. I then roll with a heavy roller, and sow with the drill and harrow crosswise of the drills. I want the team to walk up fast when they are on the harrows, as I find that a quick stroke of the harrow does more good than a slow stroke. If the weather is too hot for the team to stand going fast all the time, I want them to make short stops and often rather than long rests. If after seed has been sown on heavy clay soil there should come a heavy rain before the plants get above the ground I go over the fields, if the weather turns dry, once with a sharp-tooth harrow to break the crust which will form. Some farmers I know think my method with the gang plough too slow. If any of them have a faster method and one equally good I wish they would let me know through the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate."

Elgin Co., Ont.

J. A. JACKSON.

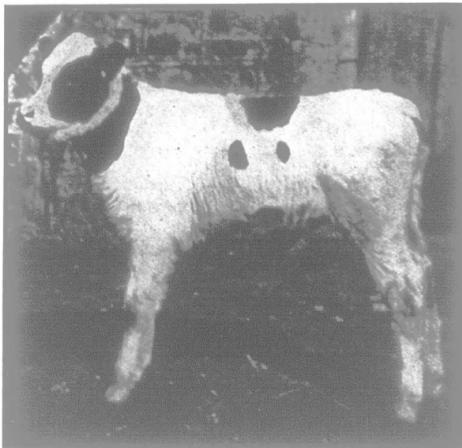
Those farm implements that wintered in the large, airy shed that nature provides free of charge, should be brought from the open fields up near the barn and treated to a liberal application of oil. Their vital parts will have become somewhat rusty through disuse. Perhaps something about them was broken and now is the time to look after the repair work. An easy-running implement will spare a lot of flesh put on the team during the season of leisure.

THE DAIRY.

Is the Present Price of Cheese Too High?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Whenever the price of any farm product reaches a point that there is a reasonable profit in the production of that article, at once, in most cases, begins a campaign to "hammer down the price." Cheese is no exception to the general rule, hence we see that the "hammering" process has already begun.

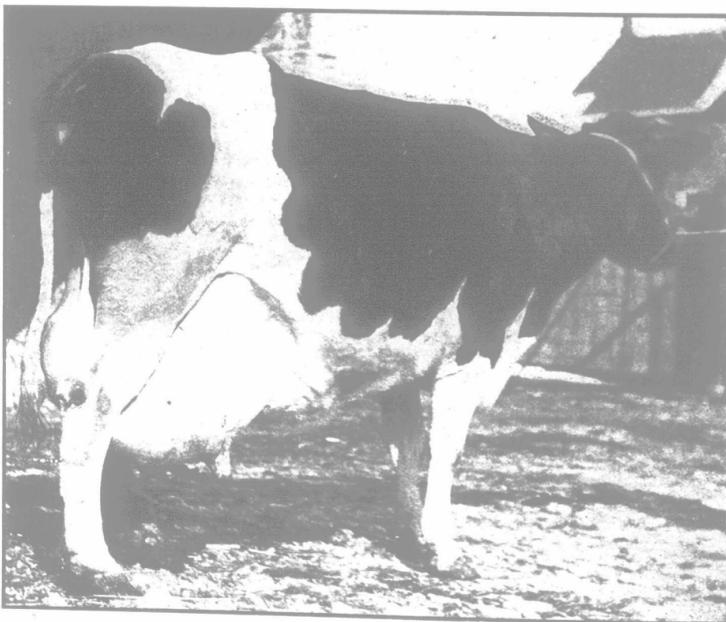


Progeny of Producers.

Both dam and sire's dam of this bull calf have given over 100 lbs. of milk a day (the average of the two being 109 lbs.), and over 30½ lbs. butter in a week. Owned by D. C. Flatt & Son, R. R. 2, Hamilton, Ont.

In a recent issue of a trade paper published in Canada are a couple of letters published in the London, Eng., "Grocer's Gazette," from which we extract the following:

"Are not the New Zealanders or shippers of cheese getting too much for their cheese, which is largely being used for the defenders of the United Kingdom, of which New Zealand is part?" (By the way I noticed that Peter McArthur was singing a similar song to the farmers of Canada, recently in "The Advocate." If Peter is a real farmer, he knows that the farmer never has received anything like what his goods



Ladysmith Calamity.

This cow and her full sister average 195 lbs. milk a day. Owned by D. C. Flatt & Son, R. R. 2, Hamilton, Ont.

are worth, during an average of years. The farmer, may at times, get what looks like big prices for a short time, but this does not make up for the long periods of low prices and unprofitable returns.)

"As cheese at about 90s. per cwt. is about 25s. higher than in normal times, while best Colonial butter at about 134s. per cwt. is very little above the normal price with large supplies, and more than is wanted for present consumption, it

might be advisable to give our troops in training some butter, and less cheese than they are now getting. If the Government demand for cheese were to stop for a short period the price would probably fall 20s. per cwt. It is well known that it takes double the quantity of milk to make one cwt. of butter than is required to make the same quantity (weight) of cheese. Therefore, if butter is 134 s., cheese should be about 67s. per cwt."

We should like to offer the following comments on the foregoing:

1. The farmers of Canada should uphold in every way possible the New Zealand farmers in their present good fortune, on account of receiving fair prices for their cheese. Farmers' interests are world-wide. We in Canada can no longer afford to cavil at, or be jealous of, the prosperity of farmers on the other side of the globe. The world of farmers is now so small, brought about by rapid transportation, that the New Zealander is our next-door neighbor on the markets of Great Britain. The writer has never been in New Zealand, but we are safe in saying that even under present prices of cheese the dairy farmer of New Zealand is not making a fortune. The fairy tales of fortunes in farming need revising, and a few facts from the experience of farmers in general should receive the same publicity that is given a few isolated cases in various parts of the world.

2. The writer of the foregoing letters, one of which was addressed to the "Secretary of State for War" in Great Britain, forgets the large number of times that cheese sells for—not 90 shillings per cwt., but 70, 65, 60, 50, 45, and even down to 40 shillings per cwt., which latter price netted the Colonial farmer about six cents per pound of cheese for the milk required to make the cheese. Where then was the profit? The cheese industry of Canada was on the verge of extinction before the recent rise in price. The dealers in and consumers of Canadian cheese may as well understand at once that if cheese sags back to its former level of prices, the milk producers for Canadian cheese factories will surely quit the business, and the poor and rich people will have cut off one of the cheapest sources of food energy at present available.

3. The value of cheese as a food has not been understood by the consuming classes. They willingly pay 18 to 25 cents per pound for beef and 25 to 30 cents a pound for bacon, but consider cheese at 20 cents per pound too expensive. The author of Bulletin 221, Ontario Department of Agriculture, says: "Cheese is one of our most concentrated foods. More than one-fourth of its weight is protein, about one-third fats, one-third water. It is not only valuable for the amount of protein, or muscle-forming material, and fat it contains, but, also because of the ease with which it can be kept and prepared for the table

and for the variety of ways in which it can be served."

"As a further indication of the high nutritive value of cheese, it may be pointed out that one pound of cheese contains nearly all the protein and fat in one gallon of milk. Or, if we compare it with other protein foods, we find that one pound of cheese has nearly the same value as two pounds of fresh beef, or any other fresh meat food, and it is also equal to two pounds of eggs or three pounds of fish."

According to this estimate of relative food values, when fresh meats are purchased at 18 to 25 cents per pound, cheese is worth 36 to 50 cents per pound.

4. The author of the "letters" is slightly in error when he says that it takes double the quantity or weight of milk to make a pound of butter than it does to make a pound of cheese. With average milk, the weight required to make a pound of butter will make about 2½ to 2¾ lbs. cheese. The figures quoted indicate that the price of butter is altogether too low in comparison with the prices for other foodstuffs. If it were not for the valuable by-products, skim-milk and buttermilk, in the manufacture of butter, it could not be profitably produced at pre-

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