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EDITORIAL.

A re-opening of several milk-powder plants should put new zest into the milk business.

The Christmas Number was mailed last week; did you receive yours? If not, make inquiries at your post office. It was mailed on time.

The open weather of the past few weeks has permitted thousands of farmers to finish their belated fall plowing—and there is still much work to be done.

It has been said that, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." However, a little reading outside of the weekly and daily periodicals will harm no one. A library consisting of well-selected books is a splendid thing in the home.

After five years of reckless buying, people are beginning to "shop"—and it is most time. The cheapest article is not always the best bargain. One always has to pay for quality, and when we demand it, articles with the value in them will be produced.

If we read history aright the party leaders, in former days, grew into the positions and there was no keeping them down. In modern times we have to have a convention and a big pow-wow in order to discover the man and advertise his name throughout the country.

Successful dairying nowadays consists in maintaining a productive herd. It is no use complaining about conditions when, perhaps, a third of the cows are such unprofitable brutes that they do not pay for the feed consumed. The marketing end is important, that is true, but dairying presents more opportunities for improvement and expansion through efficient management than does any other branch of farming.

The representatives of labor are now asking the various governments to adopt measures that will prevent unemployment. One suggestion is that road construction be speeded up, which is sensible, but these government-supplied jobs should not be allowed to take men from agriculture and industries where they will again soon be needed. As the cost of living comes down so will wages, and equilibrium will be again restored. In the readjustment the labor unions should abolish that iniquitous limitation they place on the amount of work a man is allowed to do. That very tenet of union regulations is responsible for inefficiency, under-production and high-priced commodities.

It seems strange indeed, with wool selling very cheaply, or not selling at all, that one is unable to purchase good wool garments from the retail merchants of this country. The line of goods now being offered do not contain as much wool as they should, and in many instances buyers have not been able to purchase wool garments at all. The ridiculous excuse given is that wool is almost impossible to obtain and that merchants cannot obtain the quality of goods they desire. We know that at least twelve months elapse between the time the raw wool is purchased and it appears on merchants' counters, but with that in mind there seems no good reason why counters should be loaded up now with so many wool substitutes. Out of fairness to producers and customers in this country merchants and manufacturers should unload a lot of their present undesirable stocks at what they are worth, and utilize a portion, at least, of the vast stores of wool now in farmers' hands in an effort to give the people what they want. The war is over. People in northern latitudes prefer woolen garments, and there is no reason why they should not have them.

Budding Live Stock Men.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture is to be complimented on the steps taken to train young farmers of this Province in the art of live stock judging, and in showing them what is being done in live stock circles outside of their own communities. The agricultural representatives have been doing good work in coaching teams which compete at the Provincial winter fairs, and this laudable effort has been carried one step further in sending boys to Chicago, where they can observe the greatest array of live stock on the Continent, and inspect the biggest packing plants in the world. Banks, packing companies and others who have generously contributed to this movement, are likewise worthy of commendation. These boys and young men who are earnestly getting into the game cannot fail to leaven the whole mass and be leaders in live stock circles in years to come. We hear it argued occasionally that so-and-so is a good judge of horses or cattle, and yet he never attended an agricultural college, or an agricultural short course. There is ground for this argument for many farmers are real good judges of different classes of live stock, but they have learned it in the hard school of experience, over a period of perhaps twenty-five years. The boys expertly trained, however, are in a position to start in where their fathers left off, and can carry on the business with credit to themselves and benefit to the entire industry. Frequently, the views, likes and dislikes of the farmer, who has learned the art of judging by experience, do not correspond with the demands of the trade. The young men now being trained are taught to appreciate and understand market demands, and their experiences at the bigger shows inspire them to measure up to higher standards and give them a broader vision of the whole live stock industry.

A Reading Course for Stockmen.

Winter is near at hand, and with it come more leisure moments and longer evenings. This suggests the matter of reading, but what form will this reading take? It is true that with agricultural journals and a daily newspaper to be digested, there is not a great deal of time for extra reading; but there are times when the mail cannot be secured, or after it has been sufficiently perused, that the attention can be turned to other reading. Stormy afternoons, when it is impossible to do outside work, or an hour or two in the evening after the last "feeding up" has been done, can well be spent beside a comfortable fire with a good live stock book of some kind.

Breed histories make pleasant and profitable reading. Who could keep pure-breds or even a pure-bred sire without knowing something about the origin, the early history of the breed, its introduction into the various countries, and the various families or blood lines that are the most popular at the present time. There are well-written histories of most of the common breeds of live stock that should be a part of every stockman's library. Then there are breeding problems upon which it is desirable to get some light. A study of some of the principles that underlie animal breeding will explain many of the more or less odd happenings in connection with breeding operations. It serves to make the work more interesting and fascinating when some of the so-called mysteries are understood. While many of these problems are yet unsolved, and while experts differ in their theoretical explanations of certain occurrences, the fact remains that from a good book on animal breeding, the stockman can glean enough ideas and theories to settle, in his own mind, at least, the cause of many peculiar occurrences.

A study of the various feeds that are on hand, and how to properly mix them for best results with the various classes of stock is time well spent. It is true that successful feeding is not a matter that can be

learned from books, and that long practical experience is necessary, but it is equally true that the most successful feeders have found information in such a book as "Feeds and Feeding" that has been of great value to them. As with the other phases of the work that have already been mentioned, a knowledge of the composition of the various feeds and the functions that they fulfil in the animal body makes the work of more absorbing interest and less a matter of the common round.

After all, the greater portion of the pleasure which the stock farmer gets must come from his association with the animals, and the more he understands regarding their history, and the underlying principles regarding the breeding and feeding, the more interest there will be attached to the work, and the more pleasure there will be derived from it. There is no work from which greater pleasure can be derived than breeding good pure-bred live stock, particularly when it is accompanied by a knowledge that can be acquired by spare time reading. Plan this winter to add to your library or book-shelf a few good books on the subjects mentioned above.

The Breeders' Annual Meetings.

We are informed that the annual meetings of the Live Stock Records Associations, that are held in Toronto each year, will take place during the week beginning February 7. Breeders come from one end of Canada to the other to attend these meetings; many Ontario and Quebec farmers spend the week in Toronto, while not a few attend just for a day or two until the business connected with the carrying on of one particular breed has been conducted. We have no desire to discount the importance of these annual meetings, but it does seem opportune now to suggest that these meetings be made the occasion for more business and less holidaying. Western breeders, who come long distances in order to represent the live stock interests in that great Western Country, are sometimes disgusted with the apathetic way in which big questions are dealt with, or, in some cases, ignored. Breeders from the East, likewise, are frequently disappointed with the lack of attention paid to problems in the Maritime Provinces. So far as Ontario is concerned, perhaps the breeders can afford to spend the week in talking over old times and extolling their own breeds among themselves, but the time seems ripe for more progressive action and more constructive thinking on the part of breeders when assembled at these annual meetings, one of the great live stock events of the year. It may be argued that the function of a breed association is to safeguard the sanctity of the records. However, the constitutions pretty well provide for that, and, furthermore, Government officials stand as sentinels watching the conduct and manoeuvres of the Record Office. These annual meetings should not be made an ordeal, but they can be made the occasion for some good constructive work without detracting from the event as a social function.

Canada's Showing at the International.

Canadians have every reason to entertain a sense of pride in their country and its products. We as a people are somewhat inclined to look upon our own property as, "a poor thing—but mine own." When our live stock or farm products come into competition with the best on the Continent, they do not suffer by comparison and the showing recently made by Canadians at the Great International Live Stock Exposition, at Chicago, should inspire the producers of this country and urge them on to even greater things. The International is the highest tribunal on the Continent, and at such a trying-place Canadians won championships and many firsts in unprecedented competition. One