

Abortion in Dairy Cattle

A Summary of the Disease

ABORTIONS among dairy cows are due either to an accident or to a germ. The amount of loss due to the former cause is slight, while abortion due to the germ, that is, infectious abortion, within the last few years, has resulted in one of the most serious losses suffered by the dairymen. It is a great misfortune to the dairyman that while this trouble is prevalent and increasing in all parts of the country where cows are kept, as yet no effective treatment has been developed and the control of the disease is greatly hampered by lack of knowledge of just how the disease is most often spread.

The disease is characterized by the dropping of the calf prematurely, due to an infectious catarrh of the womb, caused by the abortion germ. Abortion may take place any time from the third month to within a few days of completion of the term, most commonly during the fourth and fifth months of pregnancy. Sometimes the fetus is retained in the uterus and becomes mummified. That is, the dead fetus dries up in the membrane surrounding it, and may be carried for months beyond the normal period. Cows which have aborted once develop enough immunity to the disease to carry the calf longer the second year than the first, and the third year they will usually complete the term and give birth to healthy calves and show no ill effects of the disease. Still such cows are not as good as sound animals since they may still carry the germ and can infect other cattle.

Detection of Infected Animals.

Cows infected for the first time often carry the calf but three months and the expelled fetus may easily be removed with the manure and bedding unnoticed. However, when the fetus is carried the greater part of the term a yellowish discharge usually occurs. Also, all the signs of calving will begin to develop prematurely. After the abortion, a yellowish discharge may continue for several weeks. Retention of the after birth usually accompanies an abortion, where the fetus has been carried from seven to nearly nine months. It is considered that the very unhealthy condition which necessarily accompanies retention of the afterbirth often results in sterility. In purchasing animals the best means of getting information as to their infection with the abortion germ is to have the blood of the cow tested. This method of detecting the disease has not become commonly used by dairymen, as no wide campaign for controlling the disease has been started.

It is quite generally accepted that the modes of spread of the disease are by the bull, by the vaginal discharge, and by the milk. The occurrence of abortion in cows having been served by the same bull has repeated itself so often that this mode of transmission has been assumed. That the characteristic yellowish discharge from aborting cows will cause the disease has been definitely proven.

Control of Abortion.

Not enough is known about the spread of abortion at present to satisfactorily control it. There is no cure for the disease known. Many who wish to sell a remedy have taken advantage of the fact that a cow will develop an immunity in from one to three years, and thus cure herself, the remedy often getting credit for the cure, where this fact is not understood. The best re-

commendations for the control of the disease seem to be:

1. Isolate infected cows and bring up their calves on the milk of the cows known to be uninfected.
2. Disinfect the navel of the new born calf from an infected mother.
3. Burn or bury in lime the fetus and after-birth and disinfect stable and all litter after an abortion.
4. Wash thoroughly the hind quarters of an aborting cow and irrigate the vaginal tract with a good antiseptic daily until all signs of discharge have passed.
5. Disinfect the bull before and after every service.
6. Add new animals to a sound herd as calves only.
7. Keep clean animals and clean stalls.

Cooperative Creamery in New Ontario

Government Giving Impetus to Dairying in the Northland

WITH the conviction that the clay belt of Northern Ontario will one day be a great mixed farming district, the Ontario Government is giving a start to dairying by the establishment of a creamery at New Liskeard.

The great crops of hay, and particularly of red and alsike clover, which are the rule in the clay belt of Northern Ontario, running from two to three tons of cured hay to the acre, make their appeal to the dairy farmer. While it has not yet been found feasible to raise corn on any sort of a large scale, tremendous crops of turnips are



A Championable Debating Team.

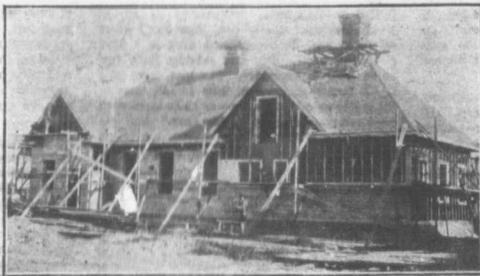
The members of the debating team of the New Dundee Farmers' Club, seen herewith, were the winners in a series of debates in Waterloo Co., Ont., in which five other clubs contended. In the center of the picture is Mr. Herbert Bergey, leader and secretary of the Club, to the left Mr. Gordon Hallman, and to the right Mr. Deaton Hallman. The latter two are nephews of Mr. A. C. Hallman, the well-known Holstein breeder. The trophy shown was donated by Mr. H. C. Hawley, of Galt.

The creamery, although being built by the Government, will be run on a cooperative scheme, all profits being paid to patrons in the form of better prices for their products. The district served by the creamery will include not only the New Liskeard district, but all the farming communities along the railway line from New Liskeard to Cochrane.

The creamery has been assured of the cream from 400 to 500 cows as soon as it opens. Such men as Mr. W. Yates, of New Liskeard, who proposes next year to have 60 dairy cows, will certainly see to it that this effort at producing Northern Ontario butter will be a success. To encourage the keeping of more cows in these districts which are so eminently suited to dairying, the Ontario Government has this year shipped in four carloads of cattle.

The breeds which are being introduced into this country are Ayrshires and dairy Shorthorns. It is felt that in the new country these breeds will be more adapted to foraging for their living and to the rigorous climate which may be expected for a number of years than some of the other breeds.

The creamery itself will contain, besides the making room and cold storage, an office, a washing room in which the most up-to-date methods of washing cans and utensils will be installed, also lavatories and a shower bath for the comfort of the operators. This will be a model in construction and will act as a light-temper after which other creameries, which may be built in the north country, may be fashioned. With such exceptionally good markets at hand and a country so eminently suited to the production of milk, we prophesy for this creamery unbounded success. The New Liskeard district is well suited and agriculture of a permanent type, which includes dairying, is being rapidly established.



An Experiment in Creamery Ownership.

The new creamery which is just being completed at New Liskeard in what is known as New Ontario. It is the first one to be built by the Ontario Government, and has been built with the object of assisting in the farmers of this district an interest in dairying. The creamery is thoroughly up-to-date in its construction. One of its outstanding features is the shower bath which has been installed for the comfort of the operators.

grown on the rich black muck of this district. The place of the corn silage is being taken on the Montclair experiment farm by a silage made from a mixture of oats, peas and vetches. At this farm they have a silo 16 feet high and 11 feet in diameter, and although last season was particularly dry, three acres of this silage mixture filled the silo two-thirds full.

Dairy markets are to be found in all the mining districts and lumbering districts of Northern Ontario. The large pulp and paper mills, which are being built on several of the northern rivers, will assure a good market for a considerable quantity of produce. With this in view a fine up-to-date creamery had been almost completed by the Ontario Government when visited by an editor of Farm and Dairy.



Corn is a crop-rail.