FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

CIRCULATON STATEMENT

The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 7,400. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 8,000 to 12,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

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OUR PROTECTIVE POLICY

We want the readers of Farm and Dairy to feel that they can deal with our advertisers with our assurance of our advertisers' reliability. We try to admit to our columns only the most reliable advertisers. Should any subscriber have cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment he receives from any of our advertisers, we will investigate the circumstances fully. Should we find reason to believe that any of our advertisers are unreliable, even in the slightest degree, we will discontinue immediately the publication of their advertisements. Should the circumstances warrant, we will expose them through the columns of the paper. Thus we will not only protect our readers, but our reputable advertisers as well. All that is necessary to entitle you to the benefits of this Protective Policy is that you include in all your letters to advertisers the words, "I saw your ad. in Farm and Dairy." Complaints should be sent to us as soon as possible after reason for dissatisfaction has been found.

FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

THE NEED OF MEAT INSPECTION

It is evident that a thorough system of meat inspection is coming. The Inspection Service, under the authority of the Meat and Canned Foods Act that has been in operation for some time, is applied only to those establishments that do an interprovincial or export business. Condemnations made by the inspectors in this service demonstrate the necessity for a much further reaching system of meat inspection. During the last fiscal year in the 33 packing establishments doing export or interprovincial trade, 9,308 carcases, 280,591 portions, as well as 353,212 pounds of meat were condemned as unfit for human food.

These establishments secure only the best class of animals. When such condemnations are made among animals of the best class procurable, what must be the percentage of meat unfit for human food that pasess through small private slaughter houses? The local butcher will handle beasts that the larger drover refuses. The unsound state of much of this meat is better only imagined. As Dr. Rutherford points out elsewhere in this issue of Farm and Dairy, it only requires that the Canadian public become seized of the situation when they will insist upon the adoption by the various municipal authorities throughout the country of some thorough system of inspection, and of dealing with butchers in the meat trade generally. No one wants to eat diseased or unwholesome meat, but until all meat is subjected to constant supervision of a skilled professional inspector much meat that is unfit for human food must of necessity be consumed. As stockmen we should take steps to prepare to meet the demands of any inspection that is required. All suspected animals should be disposed of, and ventilation should be more generally applied to stables, and thereby seek to keep cattle in the best of health possibly and ward off diseases such as tuberculosis.

BETTER FEED—MORE MILK

How much more milk and butter fat will the ordinary cow yield if she is better fed? Without worrying just here about the exact computation of rations, let this simple statement from a factory patron be thoughtfully considered: "Some of my cows have *doubled* their production since they got extra feed." That extra feed would not cost twice as much as the former "maintenance" ration, so that the net profit is far more in proportion. Is it not, then, better to handle the smaller number of good cows than the larger herd of merely average possibilities? The best cows can be selected by weighing and sampling through the cow testing associations and their yield further increased by more liberal feeding. That is the simplest method of building up a highly profitable herd.

Far too many of our ordinary cows, cows that barely gave 700 lbs. milk or 20 lbs. of butter fat in July on fairly good feed, are just carried along without any knowledge of each one's capacity, either of profitable consumption of food or economical production of milk, and with no fixed intention of making each one do her level best. Such methods are not flattering to the business acumen of our dairy farmers. The most profitable animal on the farm, the one that brings in the steady income, is the good dairy cow; see that she makes a handsome profit by giving her abundance of suitable feed, as much as she can profitably consume. Keep records of each cow with this object in view.

CONVERT WEEDS INTO MUTTON

It is generally conceded that a small flock of sheep will prove profitable on the average farm. Allowed to act as scavengers, sheep render excellent service in the work of cleaning up pastures, private roads, fence borders and out of the way places. If turned on stubble following a grain crop, many late seeding weed plants will be nipped off and turned into mutton. Some of the weeds most readily eaten are sow thistle, Canada thistle, sweet clover and ox-eye daisy, some of which are the worst weeds with which we have to contend.

A flock of 15 ewes should be the minimum on the average farm of 100 acres. Such a flock will, if given the opportunity, assist materially in solving the weed problem. No better time than now can be had for starting in sheep raising. Lambs or ewes can be purchased now as cheaply as at any time, and one can make the best selection, if choosing ewes, after they have raised lambs as their milking qualities and strength can then be ascertained.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WORK

There are a number of interesting features in connection with the ninth annual report of the Agricultural Societies of Ontario that are deserving of consideration. Superintendent J. Lockie Wilson is to be congratulated upon the attractive manner in which the report is issued and upon its careful editing. The most gratifying feature in connection with the work of the Societies, is the development that has taken place in the field crop competitions, the number of societies competing having increased from 10 to 47. Six hundred and fifty farmers took part in them last year. The farmers who grew the prize grain were able to sell their grain at 100 per cent. above the market price. This indicates the demand that exists for pure seed, and that this line of agricultural effort will stand still further advancement. The success of this feature of their work goes to prove what Farm and Dairy has contended all along that if the grant to the societies is increased it should be along the lines of work such as this, and not by handing out a lump sum of money to be distributed broadcast among the societies.

The government grant to the societies is distributed in proportion to their expenditures for agriculture purposes. Expenditures on grounds and buildings cannot be included by the societies as expenditures for agricultural purposes. This feature of the Act discourages societies from improving their grounds, from putting up good accommodation for their exhibits, and otherwise strengthening their exhibitions along these lines. Any change in the Act that would remedy this is opposed by the small societies that do not own their buildings, and do not expect to. The Department of Agriculture should take this matter in their own hands, and see that this feature of the Act is improved. The time has gone by in Ontario, except in a very few sparsely settled sections, for showing stock and articles without proper protection from the weather.

In his report, Superintendent Wilson points with pride to the fact that in 1907, 178 judges were employed, while in 1908 the number had increased to 222. He claims that this is an evidence of growth in the expert judge system. It may be, and it may not. It all depends upon how many exhibitions each judge attended. It has been commonly charged during the past two years that instead of sending a set of judges to fifteen and twenty exhibitions, as was done in many cases formerly, the circuits have been broken into smaller divisions, thus providing more jobs for would-be judges, and increasing the expense of the system. When we know how many fairs these judges attended as compared with the number of fairs attended by the judges in former years, we will be able to determine what growth in the system there has been.

Superintendent Wilson properly draws attention to the increase in gambling evident at many exhibitions last year. We may presume from this that he will see that energetic measures are taken, by sending out government detectives, as was done several years ago, to suppress these features at our exhibitions this fall.

FARM AND DAIRY AND YOUR FRIENDS

Do you realize, as many farmers have expressed it, that Farm and Dairy is of great assistance? If it is useful and of interest in your home, would it not brighten the lives of, and be of material assistance to, your neighbors? If Farm and Dairy is helping you, it can do the same for your friends. You will confer a favor all round by assisting in extending its circulation.

You will be seeing your friends at the Fair. Why not tell them about Farm and Dairy, and what you think of it? Induce them to subscribe. We will reward you with the premium you select or with a liberal cash commission. Do not put off writing to the circulation department of Farm and Dairy for order blanks, receipt forms and sample copies and be ready when your fair comes round to make the day profitable, and further the cause of agriculture by putting your friends and neighbors next to the good things that are published weekly in Farm and Dairy.

Ontario Farm Labor

(The Toronto World).

Every season the clamor for labor on Ontario farms becomes greater. The rural population is steadily falling away. The census to be taken next spring will, it is expected, show a further decrease on that of 1900. This means that unless otherwise compensated, Ontario will have fewer members in the House of Commons after the next redistribution. This political phase of the question may, perhaps, induce the ruling powers to take it up. But whether they do or not, it is a burning question with the farmers.

It is generally admitted that the farmer who cannot get a profit out of his men does not know how to farm. The labor of any man who is kept intelligently busy will produce a profit for both himself and his employer. If he gets such share of the profit as seems fair he will not be unwilling to work. This is the basis of all labor contracts.

There is a very general feeling that the Ontario farmer does not pay enough for his labor. A dollar a day and his feed is regarded as excellent wages by the farmer for a man who has to work from 5 or 6 in the morning till 8 or 9 at night. The same man can get $2 or $3 a day in the city for eight or ten hours' work. There is no mystery about the lack of labor on Ontario farms.

Let the farm laborer be paid at