

Milking Machines for Dairy Cattle Breeders

(Continued from page 6.)

reports have made us wary of risking a few hundred dollars in a milking machine.

Before the day was over we had spoken to several men, owners of purebred dairy cattle, who were hesitating about solving their labor problem with a milking machine, and all of them because of the adverse experiences of neighbors. Further enquiry, however, usually revealed the fact that in cases where the machines had been thrown out, the care and operation of the machine was usually everybody's business and therefore nobody's business, and in many cases the only trouble had been that condensaries had "kicked" on the quality of the milk.

Official Evidence.

When a question is debated in Canada, our first inclination is to ask for the opinions of the agricultural experts, as we are pleased to call them. There is abundance of such evidence on the milking machine. Last spring one of our editors visited Macdonald College and found them milking their purebred Avyshire and Holstein herds with a mechanical milker and were very well pleased with the results. Several makes of machines have been thoroughly tested at Ottawa and have given uniformly good service. A milking machine, we understand, is now being used with good results at Guelph. To get still further information as to the satisfaction or lack of it that mechanical milkers are giving in purebred herds, Farm and Dairy wrote to a dozen or more breeders whom we knew had installed the machine from one to four years earlier. All replied and without a single exception their testimony was favorable to mechanical milking. We have room here to pub-

lish only a few of the letters received.

A Carleton County Experience.

Mr. S. A. Caldwell, of Carleton Co., Ont., whose speciality is purebred Holstein cattle, writes us as follows: "We have been using our machine since March, and find it does the work perfectly. There is nothing more we could desire and as for its ease of operation, well, that is one of its best points. It is also very easy to clean and keep clean. We installed our machine ourselves and didn't have a representative of the company to see us for over three months, and we didn't need him then, but he was putting in another machine near us and called to see how we were getting along.

"A smart boy 12 years old can run the milking machine. It has had no bad effect on the cows; in fact, they seem to like it better than hand milking, and we have had no milk spilled since we commenced using it. We have had no repairs yet and the only expense has been for gasoline, and it doesn't require much of that, as we use a one and one-half h.p. engine. We have several very good cows, which were hard to milk and had short teats. We intended to get rid of them, but now with the milking machine, they don't give us any trouble. In the busy time, or if some of us are away, one man can milk our 20 cows quite easily, which means quite a saving of help."

From Western Ontario.

Mr. E. A. Turner breeds Avyrahires in Perth Co., Ont. He writes us of his experience as follows:

"You ask for my candid impression of the milking machine for the dairy of the breeder. I can honestly say that the longer we use the machine, the

better we like it. We strip after it. There is a good half of the cows, however, from which we get no more strippings than if we followed hand milkers a few minutes after the cows were milked. The machine is easily operated. I had a student from the city helping me this summer. The second day he took charge of the machine and milked the cows for the four months he was with me. We have had no trouble, except for an occasional renewal of the rubber caps on the test cups.

"You ask how it has solved our milking problem. We have 160 acres of land. Father is 73 and we have been alone, except for the four months of this summer. We keep from 14 to 16 milking cows. Our Saturday evening milk goes to the factory Monday morning and we have never lost a can of milk since we put in the machine."

A. D. Foster's Opinion.

A. D. Foster and Sons, of Bloomfield, Ont., are sufficiently well known to give weight to their opinion on any subject connected with dairy farming. Recently, Mr. Foster wrote Farm and Dairy re his milking machine experience. He says:

"We installed a two-unit milker in November, 1915, and in the spring of 1916 we added another unit, making three units on a row of 17 cows. We have used our machine ever since, as we usually have cows freshening in every month of the year. We are well satisfied with this work. It has had no ill effect in any way on the cows. We find that young cows and helpers require the least stripping. One man can run three units and carry his milk to the milk room. We have had no trouble with the milker in any way. This is our second year and the cost of upkeep will be about six dollars, which is reasonable. One man can milk the 17 cows in an hour when in

the heavy flow of the season. We expect in the near future to install two more units on a row of 17 heifers with their first calf and will add another unit later on. We ship strictly sweet cream to the city of Belleville and have no reports of taint or ill flavors."

If a census could be taken of the opinions of all milking machine users who are also breeders of purebred cattle, we feel confident that the majority vote would be in favor of the milking machine. It is well to remember, however, that the milking operation is one of the most delicate and difficult to which machinery has been applied on the farm, and to expect good results without careful handling, is not logical. The new grain binder is never trusted with a greenhorn, and it is even more important that the best man on the farm will be given charge of the milking machine. The evidence on hand is sufficient to justify every dairy cattle breeder with a considerable number of cows to give machine milking a trial. —F. E. E.

The Limit in Quick Settlement.

Two insurance agents—a Yankee and an Englishman—were bragging about their rival methods. The Britisher was holding forth on the system of prompt payment carried out by his people—no trouble, no fuss, no attempt to wriggle out of settlement.

"If the man died to-night," he continued, "his widow would receive her money by the first post to-morrow morning."

"You don't say?" drawled the Yankee. "See here, now, you talk of prompt payment! Waal, our office is on the third floor of a building forty-nine stories high. One of our clients lived in that forty-ninth story, and he fell out of the window. We handed him his check as he passed."

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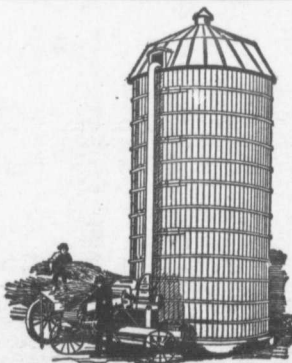
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