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## EDITORIAL.

Alberta cattle are expected at Chicago this year, in the face of a 27½-per-cent. tariff.

Onward the silo continues its irresistible sweep. The day is now not far distant when silos in Western Ontario will be almost as numerous as barns.

An immense crop of oats seems to be maturing the continent over. There is no safer and no better grain feed. Oats, corn and clover make a great combination.

A leading authority in the New England shoe trade is quoted as saying that in a little over four years the growth of the automobile industry had helped to advance the price of leather 72 per cent. This is another bright spot in the horoscope of the cattleman.

Dairying and the production of canning-factory crops like peas and corn have been found a money-making combination in Prince Edward, in Elgin, and in many other counties. Cured pea straw and ensiled sweet-corn stalks from which thirty dollars' worth of ears per acre have been sold, make economical cattle feed.

Present indications point to an abundant harvest, and the stoutness of the straw insures a more comfortable bed for the live stock than that which served them last winter. In a year of plenty the straw is not often valued high enough by the growers. It takes a year like 1911 to convince people of its importance.

Free house, garden, milk, fruit, and, in some cases, fuel, constitute a much-appreciated addition to the hired man's income, an addition which nearly always represents more to him than it costs the employer. The plan has the further merit of improving the home life of both parties, and often secures an extra hand to milk.

The calf slaughter still goes on, and the consumer complains of dear beef. The cattle-feeder is being gradually compelled to operate on a smaller scale because of the scarcity of stockers. Feeding cattle and finished beef must continue to be scarce and high in price, unless something is done to put an end to the unwarranted slaughter of the calves.

Already we read of a scarcity of labor in the West, and the need of thousands of men to harvest a bumper crop. Men of the Eastern Provinces need not go West in search of work. There is plenty to do, at a good wage, at home. A big crop is being taken off here, and labor is scarce. Financially, after deducting expenses, the man who stays in the East will be the best off.

Silos have become all but universal in Oxford and East Elgin Counties. In two days' drive we met only two or three farmers without them. One of those is likely to build before long; the others are operating on a very small scale. Many have two silos, and some three or four. One man, with three hundred acres, had four, 20 x 42 feet, 15 x 42 ft., 16 x 40 ft., and a small one 15 x 30 ft. Fourteen by forty and sixteen by forty are every-day sizes in Oxford.

Sprinkled over Eastern Canada may be found exceptionally good farmers who have made ten, twenty and forty thousand dollars at dairying and hog-raising, fruit-growing or mixed husbandry, and better opportunities than they had are still open. In the West, such examples would be blazoned forth in immigration literature, written up in the papers, and heralded far and wide to indicate the resources of the country. What the East needs is self-discovery through advertising.

The Grand Trunk management announces that more than eight thousand heads of Ontario families, with about five million dollars in cash, have settled along its line in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. It may be good business for the Grand Trunk to subtract from the East in order to build up the West, but where will Ontario get off? We can appreciate the anxiety of the corn-belt States to stem the Northward migration of their people.

It is false economy to do without things which can be made earn a very large interest on the investment in farm operations. Most of the labor-saving devices now employed on up-to-date farms are profitable investments, but in their installation, as well as in the purchase of everything required for the farm, even hired labor, a low price is not always the best guide. Very often, the highest-priced machine, implement or man is the most profitable in the long run.

The hay crops are harvested, and some of the early fields of grain are in the barn. Now is the time to begin after-harvest cultivation. The man who commences to prepare for the next crop as soon as the present crop is harvested is the one most likely to reap the largest yields. There is no better way in which to destroy innumerable weed seeds and to hold moisture during the dry season of late summer and early autumn than to plow lightly, thoroughly disk or cultivate the land as soon as the crop is off the unseeded grain stubble.

One of the most satisfactory observations of a recent trip through Oxford County was the extent to which dairymen have adopted the plan of milking at five o'clock. Five a. m. and five p. m. seems to be the rule. This divides the day evenly for the cows, and winds everything up in time for supper between six and seven p. m. The day has gone by when men would stay ten hours in the field, with four or five hours' chores extra. A business view of dairying regards milking as part of the day's duty, and expects a corresponding reduction in the other work accomplished. And what is good for the servant is also well for the master. A definite quitting hour is best all round.

That public school education in America has been made altogether too bookish, too academic and too little in touch with the practical realities of every-day life, as it must needs be subsequently experienced by the majority of pupils in a community where the masses as well as the classes are schooled, is commencing to dawn upon other persons besides agriculturists, who, as a class, have been the first to perceive it. A slashing arraignment of the American public-school system along these lines appears in a recent issue of the Ladies' Home Journal, the writer, in her impatience, going so far as to call it an absolute failure, complaining that it fails to fit girls for household duties or boys for productive citizenship.

## What Shall I Do, with My Milk?

What shall I do with my milk? This question, recently discussed in "The Farmer's Advocate" by Prof. Dean, is with many dairymen one of the live problems of the hour. Four main lines of dairying are open to various readers of this paper.

1. Home buttermaking.
2. Selling the milk outright to condensary or for retail trade.
3. Patronizing the cheese factory.
4. Sending cream to the creamery or supplying a sweet-cream trade.

With a very few exceptions, home dairying is out of the question in communities where co-operative facilities exist. To spend ten hours a week churning, working and marketing five or ten dollars' worth of butter, which might have been made at the creamery, is not good business, as anyone would find who had to hire the work done at current wages. As a rule, the creamery will pay nearly as much cash as can be obtained for dairy butter, and a great deal of needless trouble is avoided.

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Selling the milk outright has been attractive to many, because of the ample cash returns, these usually running a good deal beyond cheese-factory or creamery checks. For instance, the condensary at Aylmer paid, for the year ending March, 1912, an average price of \$1.23½ per cwt., running from \$1.55 for the four winter months, down to \$1.00 for June and July of this year. The milk-powder factory at Brownsville has paid similar prices, but increased during July to \$1.05 for the first half and \$1.15 for the latter half, with \$1.20 promised for August. The conditions demanded are not very onerous, once the necessary facilities have been provided. In brief, they are quick cooling and cleanliness. Cans are washed at the condensary, but the patrons haul their own milk, many of them co-operating with each other, taking turn about. Where one lacks a cooler and has to use cold water, or even ice, it takes quite a while to lower the temperature to 50 degrees, and the delay cuts into a forenoon's work.

For city trade, much the same conditions obtain. Take London as an example. Wholesale prices here last year were lower than at most other cities, running \$1.20 per cwt. for summer months and \$1.40 for winter. Some purveyors paid more, but these, as a rule, insisted on a pretty regular supply, which is one of the most expensive and troublesome conditions the producer has to meet, frequently entailing the purchase of cows and feed on scant markets, and at other times leaving a surplus of milk to be fed to pigs or churned into a dab of butter.

That sale of milk leaves no by-product for hog-feeding, is accepted by many with complacence, thanks in part to the irregularity of the pork market and a current belief that packers have not given farmers a square deal. One condensary patron declared to us that he would not have whey for the bother of washing the cans. It was no good, anyway. He had tested it once by feeding a bunch of pigs on whey and rape, and the pigs did nothing! No wonder. On the other hand, one of the largest dairymen in Oxford County says his farm shows the effect since the hog-manure supply has been cut off, though he is feeding practically everything he raises and buying some grain besides for his cows.

Chemistry throws light on this subject. One