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Gossip.

THE DUAL-PURPOSE COW.

The opening that has come for breeding dual cows is of the first magnitude. The only regret in regard to it is, that it was not engaged in long ago. Had such been the case, the breeders would now be in a position to reap a grand harvest. But though this work has been long delayed in America, it would seem that the time has surely come for many to engage in a work so meritorious, and that means so much to the country.

The importance of this work is emphasized by the high prices that are now being paid for meat, and that will be paid for the same in the days that are to come. Good reasons may be given for the advance in recent years, prominent among these is the occupancy of the ranges of the West by the homesteader. In virtue of such occupancy, the breeding and growing of cattle and sheep has declined. In the United States, for instance, the cattle kept for producing meat have gone down by nearly 8,000,000 head. The sheep have gone down by more than 9,000,000 head. The population has increased by 20,000,000 during that time. The population in Canada also has been increasing in the interval, while the grazing lands in the West are being curtailed. How could it be otherwise than that the prices of meat should advance? This advance has been so marked as to make it possible to carry stockers up from Mexico to the Canadian West, and then, after a sufficient interval, to ship them from points as far west as Calgary to the Chicago markets, and yet to make good money on them.

In the face of such facts, how is the country to be supplied with meat? Meat it must have. The supply from range areas will grow less for several years to come. It must come largely from the arable farm. If so, it must come mainly from the dual type of cow, for all who have studied this question must be aware of the fact that more money can be made from milk produced by this cow, added to the money made from that portion of her progeny grown into beef, than can be made from the progeny from the straight beef cow that suckles her own calf.

Why have dual cows not been more systematically bred in America? The breeders in dairy lines are largely responsible. They have persistently claimed that there was no rightful place on the farm for the dual cow. They have said that she could not be bred. They have called her a delusion, a snare, and a myth. They have said that to breed her was like hunting chickens with a bull pup, or like going into battle riding on a draft horse. In this they have followed the leading of ex-Governor W. D. Hoard, who is largely responsible for this pernicious teaching, which is now helping to take money out of the pockets of meat consumers because of the high price of meat.

Why should it not be possible to breed the dual cow? The opponents of this view have said that the dual cow can not be bred for the reason that there will be continually a swinging to milk production on the one hand or to beef production on the other. Why should this follow of necessity? The great dominant and governing law in breeding claims that like produces like. Why should there be any more difficulty in securing equilibrium in transmission in the dual cow than in the Plymouth Rock fowl, or in the Shropshire sheep? Does the transmission in the Plymouth Rock continually wobble first to the production of a table fowl and then to the production of an egg-producing fowl? Does the transmission of the Shropshire sheep first run in the direction of producing more and better wool to the detriment of flesh-production, and then wobble again in the direction of flesh-production to the detriment of wool-production? Answer, ye wise men who say the dual type of cow can not be bred.

Is it not a fact, first, that milk-giving is a normal function in the cow, and that to fulfil the ends of her being she must give some milk? Is it not a fact that she can be so bred as to ultimately strengthen the milk-giving so as to produce phenomenal yields, but at the expense of meat-production? Is it not also a fact that she can be so bred as to reduce the milk yield below what will

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