

Correspondence

The Future of the Institute

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

I have read with interest your editorial on "The Future of the Institute," and as you ask for the views of farmers and Institute workers as to what the future of it should be, I feel like saying that in my opinion it will be a long time yet before the Institute will have done the work which it was organized to do. In our ever advancing system of agriculture there will always be some few leaders, and a great many who will be content to follow after they have become convinced that those leaders and experimenters have indeed a better system and more profitable practice.

I think there will always be work for the Institute in teaching the rising generation of farmers the newer and more scientific practice of agriculture. But only men, who are students first and all the time, will be qualified for this work. How little yet do any of us realize the possibilities of agriculture. Our farming has been slowly evolving through past ages from the most primitive practice of primeval man to its present status, but who will say that we have more than just begun to realize its limitless possibilities.

The post graduate course which you hint at for farmers I think will be studying along the line of cheaper production by adopting more and more the intensive system of agriculture, studying the laws of selection and the survival of the fittest in both plant and animal life, studying to conserve and add to the fertility of our farms, studying to have our soil in that condition in which it will retain the greatest amount of moisture so that dry seasons will not be so disastrous to us, studying nature with a view to obtaining more and more of its secrets for our advantage, studying the composition of feeds and the capacities of our animals for using our different kinds of stuffs so that we may feed stock to advantage and at a profit.

These are but a few of the subjects which the Institute can give us light upon and set us thinking about. Many of them have already been intelligently discussed by the leaders in our Institute, but we have as yet only touched them, and new facts are coming to light every day as a result of scientific research along agricultural lines which we can have explained to us better through the Institute than any other way.

I think the education and the most important information often comes to a meeting of farmers from the questioning that generally follows an Institute address. The speaker then has a chance to impress his strong points upon the audience. Possibly if there was less of the lecturing in our Institute meetings and more of the question and answer instead, many would take part in the meetings that would not do so otherwise.

In reference to the library suggestion, the local Institute could carry out that idea with much profit to themselves. The library should contain the latest standard works on agriculture, and should have for distribution all the bulletins and reports of the Government Experimental Farms and Illustration Stations. This would be a grand way to get this Government agricultural literature into the hands of the farmers, who could study and discuss the results very profitably at their local Institute meetings. There should also be a good selection of books other than agricultural.

There will always be a place for the local Institute where farmers can meet and discuss their successes and failures and learn from one another any new ideas on short cuts to success which may have been found out by individuals.

If farmers subscribed for and read the excellent agricultural papers published in Canada, of which THE FARMING WORLD is one of the best and cheapest, there would not be such great need of carrying information to them through the medium of the Institute speakers. But, I am sorry to say, it is only in a few farm homes yet that you find the up-to-date agricultural papers. Every Institute member should take at least one of the leading farm journals of Canada.

A. P. E. ISLAND FARMER.

The Dual-Purpose Cow

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

Many farmers believe in the "dual" purpose cow—an animal that will produce both beef and milk profitably. We will not at present discuss the advantages or disadvantages of keeping such an animal; sufficient to say that such a cow is desirable in the judgment of some cattle keepers, and that the authorities who conducted the dairy test at the St. Louis Exposition provided a class for the entry of such cattle—Class "C." There were thirty-five cows entered in this test—twenty-five Shorthorns, five Holsteins and five Brown Swisses. The fat in the milk produced was valued at thirty cents per pound, solids not fat at three cents per pound and gain in live weight at four cents per pound. The test showed a net profit, after deducting cost of feed, of \$4.81 per cow for the Holsteins, \$4.13 for the Brown Swisses, and \$29.32 for the Shorthorns.

No Jerseys were entered in this test, but by applying the rules to the work of the Jersey herd of twenty-five cows entered in Classes "A" and "B," fair comparison may be made. The milk of the Jersey herd contained 5810.69 lbs. fat, which, at 30 cents per pound, would be valued at \$1743.20; and 11032.86 lbs. solids, at three cents per pound, \$330.98. Their gain in live weight was 1797 lbs., which, at four cents per pound, would be valued at \$71.88. The total credit to the herd would then be \$2146.07. Deducting the cost of the feed, \$722.40, we have \$1423.67 net profit, or \$56.94 net profit per cow. Comparing this with the net profits in the cases of the three herds taking part in the test, we find that the Jerseys prove the best "dual" purpose cow, surpassing the Holsteins in net profit by \$19.13 per cow, the Brown Swisses by \$15.01 per cow, and the Shorthorns by \$27.72 per cow.

The Jersey is not a beef breed, but if a man must have a breed of cattle profitable for butter, for milk, and for beef, what's the matter with the Jersey? Dec. 1, 1904.

R. M. Gow.

British Columbia Notes

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

The ranch owners of British Columbia have formed an association to counteract the intolerant influences of the meat trust. We are going to have another try to establish a farmers' weekly market in Vancouver. I have been pushing the matter with petitions to the council and in the public press for several years past, but have always been thwarted by the malign influences of the wholesale houses. However, I think this municipal election will bring about a favorable issue, as the question is to

be made one of the strong planks that candidates will be required to support.

We hope to hear more about agricultural matters during the coming session of the Legislature than in past years.

The New Westminster show turned out to be a financial failure, whereas the Victoria exhibition came out \$700 to the good.

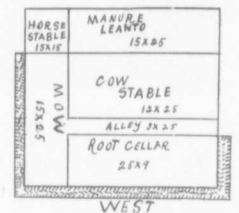
J. G. V. FIELD JOHNSON,
Vancouver, B.C.

A Barn Plan

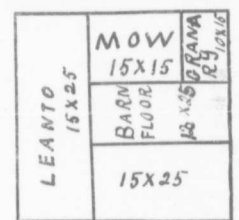
Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

The accompanying sketch is the plan of the barn that my father and I built in 1903. As I never saw any plan in THE FARMING WORLD like it, it may be of use to someone who is going to build a barn.

The barn is built on a side hill, and has a wall of stables on the north and north sides and eight feet on the south



side. This leaves the stables under ground, as shown in the plan. One can drive in from the west side over the cellar and live stock, and dump the roots into the cellar from the outside.



If anyone wants any further information let them address THE FARMING WORLD, as it is a good paper.

STEPHEN A. WEEKS,
Prince Co., P.E.I.

Drain the Wet Spots

Wet land should be drained, as it may be the most fertile on the farm. By the use of drain tile there will be no unsightly open ditches, and the field can be cultivated as easily as any other. If the land is not very wet the cost of drainage will be but little, and such land will be just as valuable for pasture as before, with the added advantage of being adapted to a greater variety of grasses than formerly. It can then also come under the regular crop rotation. If a plot has been too wet to use for ordinary crops it will also be too wet for grass some years, and when drained it will produce green food earlier in the spring and later in the fall.