

are practicing mixed farming feed beef cattle in winter for spring shipment, but it is noticeable that dairying is not a specialty here, as silos are few and cows are not in evidence in the fields to any considerable number, while sheep are few and far between, though good heavy brood mares and colts are more numerous than in most sections. One is, however, impressed with the thought that such excellent land, for most profitable results, should carry more live stock for the maintenance of fertility of the soil, if not for possible gain in the feeding of coarse grains and fodder on the farm, instead of marketing the same. However, these farmers are evidently enjoying comfort and prosperity in their own way of conducting their business, and if they are satisfied with the results, it is not our purpose to make complaint, but rather to congratulate them on their good fortune in the possession of so beautiful and fertile a piece of country.

### RE SLINGS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"An Old Subscriber," in June 4th issue, re slings, illustrates in an improved form a device that was used in this locality fully thirty years ago, and which we found quite satisfactory. One disadvantage was the length of the slings, but, of course, with a stake in the center of the rack, a shorter sling could be used. Another disadvantage was we failed to find a satisfactory way for holding the bundle up to the car while being carried back over the mow. I fail to understand from the illustration how this is to be done.

Lambton Co., Ont.

G. A. ANNETT.

### PREPARATION OF THE SOIL FOR LATE CROPS.

In the rush of work which obtains on the farm just now, and the result of the backward season for sowing the spring grains, some apparent mistakes are noticed in the cultivation of the soil. It is frequently noticed that insufficient preparation is given. The wet weather has started the weed life freely, and, in order to get the hoe crop in early, some of the cultivation necessary is left to be done after the crop is up. This system is most frequently a mistake, as one can accomplish a great deal more in cleaning the soil in its preparation than can be done after the crop is up, and to much better advantage. What is a week's delay in planting, if the land can be so much better fitted, as I believe it can? When well fitted, the crop will come more quickly, more evenly, and will grow faster, so that, as a rule, the farmer who is a good cultivator, and does most of the weed killing previous to planting, usually comes out best in the fall, except, perhaps, for an occasional early frost.

There is danger, too, of working some of the clay soils when they are too wet, causing them to bake, and making them more difficult to work in the after-cultivation.

There will, in all probability, be a large area sown with buckwheat this year, or bare-fallowed. It should be remembered that the buckwheat crop is a good weed exterminator, but much of its success in the final analysis depends upon the previous preparation of the seed-bed for the crop.

In the case of the bare fallow, it should be remembered that the broad-shared cultivator is a more rapid and more successful weed exterminator than the old-fashioned and slower method of frequent plowings. Let the motto be that no weeds shall any more than see the light of day. Don't let them get lungs. Keep them in the tuberculosis state.

T. G. RAYNOR.

### MAKING ALFALFA HAY.

In visiting my farm, recently, I found my seven acres of alfalfa looking very fine. It was very even, and about as thick as it could grow, apparently, and, if well handled, will make an excellent quality of hay. I said to the man working my place, "That alfalfa will do to cut next week." "As soon as that?" said he. "Yes," I said, "I saw it was getting ready to blossom, and it should be cut when you see the first blossoms out. Take a good hay day, cut and air-dry it rapidly, and then put it in small coils, and let it cure out well there. Before housing, open it up to air a little, and then store it in the mow." My man is inexperienced in handling alfalfa hay, and I thought there might be a number of others like him. It would be too bad to have the fine crops of alfalfa spoiled which one sees in travelling over the country this year, by leaving it too long before it is cut, as it makes woody fibre very fast after it blossoms, and having it dry very long in the sun, for then most of the leaves would break off, which would greatly depreciate its value for feed.

There is no doubt but that the alfalfa crop is steadily becoming more popular. I have found more seed offered this year in more places than usual, during my rounds in inspection work. I have also found it quite pure, and of very good quality in other respects. It is being tried now in nearly every part of the Province. Some, of

course, will fall down, through not sowing it on a well-drained soil; others, in sowing it too thinly; others in not making provision for the suitable bacteria; and still others will pasture it too closely the first year or so. Nevertheless, it should be persisted in. Experience will count.

T. G. RAYNOR.

## THE DAIRY.

### MEDICAL MILK COMMISSIONS AND THE PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED MILK.

The pure-milk problem seems to be a never-ending one. Various methods have been adopted to procure a supply of clean, wholesome milk, especially for infant feeding, but, up to the present, no very satisfactory solution of the problem has been devised. The latest plan for local improvement is the formation of medical milk commissions by physicians who have no monetary interest, but are working for the sole purpose of obtaining purer and more healthful milk. Before dealing with the work of these commissions, as described in Bulletin 104 from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, we should like to observe that, in our judgment, this question will never be solved until it is treated as a national question, the same as is done with tariffs, railways, canals, mines, forests, etc. A National Milk Commission, for the purpose of securing uniform methods of working, and for creating a cleaner public sentiment on the milk supply, would do a great deal of good. Medical men view the question from one viewpoint, and farmers look at it from another—chiefly from a dollars-and-cents viewpoint. In the bulletin, several U. S. dairymen reported

that it would be cheaper for the State to bear the cost of animals slaughtered for tuberculosis than to bear the cost of tuberculosis as borne at present in its various forms; besides, what a saving in human life and suffering! We seem to be afraid to tackle this question, and probably farmers are, to some extent, at least, justified in keeping aloof until the question of compensation is settled. We say again it is a national question, and must be treated in a national spirit. What question is more important than the health of the people? What single factor begins to compare with milk in its effect upon the health of people? Everybody is dependent, more or less, upon milk. The children cannot get along without it. Why debate the problem any longer? Let us acquit ourselves like men, and as Canadians!

### THE U. S. MILK COMMISSIONS.

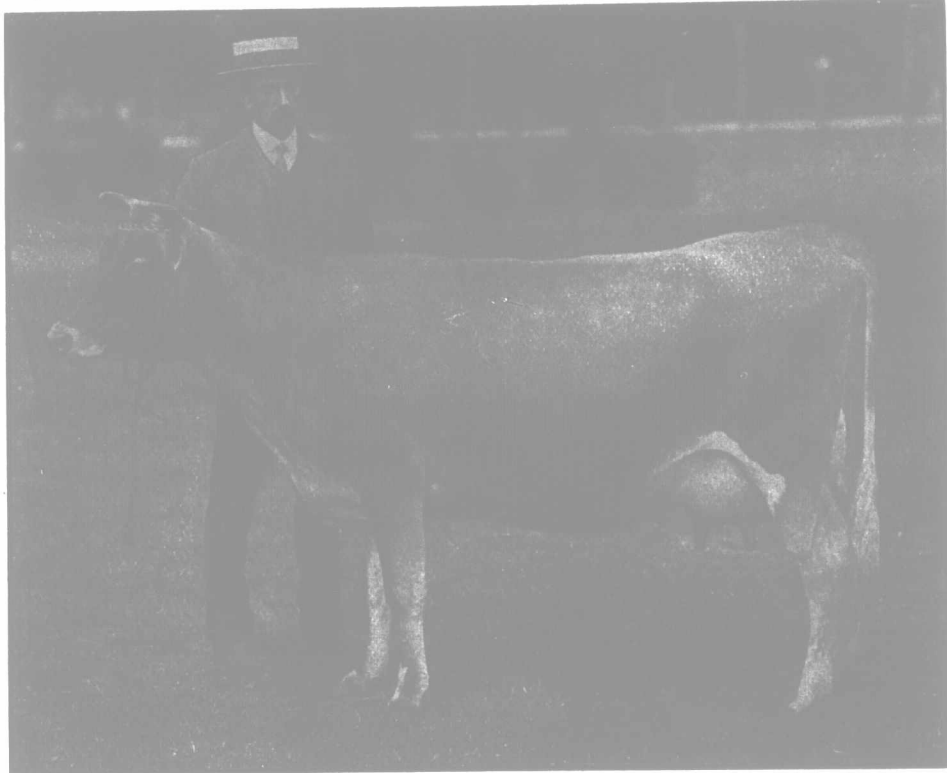
Our cousins are noted for their enterprise in every phase of life. In 1896, the Medical Society of the State of New Jersey made an effort to improve the milk production of the State, and an appeal was made for strict state supervision of all the dairies in New Jersey. The appeal failed through lack of funds, so the authorities said. Probably they could not see enough votes in it. They were pretty sure of being able to hoodwink the farmers on election day. Or they may have been afraid of rousing opposition. "Let sleeping dogs lie," is a favorite maxim with small politicians. Nothing daunted, a Newark, N. J., physician took the matter up in 1892, and on April 13th, 1893, the first Milk Commission was formed. Since then, twenty-five others have been organized. The object of the commission was to establish correct standards of purity for cows' milk; to provide for chemical and bacteriological examinations of the product; to have the cows frequently inspected by competent veterinarians; to promote only professional and public interests.

The use of the term "Certified," as applied to milk, is patented in the United States. Several States have passed, or are about to pass, legislation giving protection to properly - certified dairies. This is doubtless wise, and almost necessary before much progress can be made. Otherwise, unscrupulous dealers and dairies may ruin the business which an honest man has established. Some of the Commissions have a binding contract with the dairymen; others do not. The Commission tries in every way possible to help and co-operate with the producer. Very complete, detailed instructions are furnished to the dairymen regarding milking, feeding cows, caring for milk, etc. Iron milking stools, which can be sterilized and kept clean, are recommended. Clean white suits must be worn. (We saw, recently, that, owing to an order from a New York Board of Health, that all persons, when milking, must wear clean white suits, the women had gone on strike.)

The amount of milk handled daily by the various commissions varies from 120 to 9,373 quarts. A few certify to cream as well as milk. The maximum bacterial content of milk varies from 10,000 to 50,000 per c. c.; that of cream, 25,000. The fat standard ranges from 3.25 to 4.5. The standards for solids not fat vary from 8 to 9.3 per cent. Only eight commissions require a "solids-not-fat" standard. Employees must be healthy. In some cases they are regularly examined by a physician, and, when ill, are cared for in a special building. Bottles and all utensils are sterilized to prevent spread of contagious diseases.

The price for certified milk ranges from 8 to 20 cents a quart, and averages 12½c. The price of ordinary milk in the same localities varies from 5 to 10 cents, and averages 7½ cents per quart.

The expenses of the Milk Commissions are met by private contributions, by the sale of certified milk cans, and by taxes of so much per quart (½c.), or by charging each dairymen so much per month (\$6 in one case). The writer of the bulletin recommends the method of per bottle tax.



Majesty's Lady Houpla (imp.).

Jersey cow, three years old. Sold for \$2,000 at T. S. Cooper & Sons' sale, at Coopersburg, Pa., May 30th, 1908.

that the business of producing certified milk is not profitable. One stated that it was not profitable at less than 15 cents a quart.

At the outset, we need in Canada a sanitary dairy farm, run on business principles, to find out what it does cost to produce clean, wholesome milk, or certified milk, to use a technical phrase. Surely there are a sufficient number of public-spirited men in Canada to enter upon an enterprise of this nature. In order to test this matter, the writer will be one of twenty to put \$1,000 into a sanitary dairy farm, to be run for profit, and for the purpose of finding out what is the actual cost of producing and marketing milk which is clean, free from disease germs, and of such a character that it will pass the most critical inspection. We have been doing a lot of talking and writing on the subject, these many years, but we seem no nearer a solution of the question than we were twenty years ago. There are any number of dairymen who are prepared to go into the business of producing pure milk if they had some assurance as to its cost. The greatest stumbling block is the use of the tuberculin test. All the dairies supplying milk for the U. S. Milk Commissions are required to have their cows pass the tuberculin test at least once a year, some every six months. In the case of reacting cows which are to be slaughtered, the question arises, Who is to bear the loss? We unhesitatingly say that the State ought to do so. In conversation with a prominent medical doctor, recently, she (the doctor was a woman) contended