

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Alberta, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

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THE RECORD OF PERFORMANCE

There are now about 70 herds entered in the Record of Performance Test that is conducted under the direction of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Nothing that has been done by the Department of Agriculture under Hon. Sydney Fisher, has accomplished more for the pure bred dairy stock interests of the country than has this Test. The Department of Agriculture deserves credit for the success it has made of this line of work.

Similar tests are conducted by the Breeders' Associations in the United States and in other countries. The results accomplished, however, fall short of those secured in Canada. Where the breeders conduct the tests themselves, the records that are made are often suspected. The tests in Canada, being conducted as they are, under the direction of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, inspire greater confidence than would be the

case were they conducted in any other way.

One result of the Record of Performance Test is that breeders are discovering many valuable animals whose existence would have remained unknown were it not for the test. One breeder this year has developed a Holstein cow with a record of over 21,000 lbs. of milk in a year.

This year the work has shown a wonderful extension. The Department of Agriculture finds it necessary now to employ three men constantly to look after these tests. The results being accomplished are so gratifying, however, the Department would be justified in employing 10 times that number of men were the demand to warrant it. While the tests aid the breeders of pure bred cattle chiefly, it helps individual farmers indirectly, in as much as it enables them to ascertain where they can secure pure bred dairy cattle from deep milking strains. By consulting the Record of Performance Test, any farmer can soon learn where pure bred cattle of high class milking qualities can be obtained.

THE POTATO CROP IN ONTARIO

The potato ranks comparatively high as a money maker among the staple crops produced on Canadian farms. In Ontario, the potato industry does not occupy the place it might. Taking the money value of this crop as compared with other crops, we find that it ranks second in Prince Edward Island, first in Nova Scotia, first in New Brunswick, second in Quebec, third in Ontario, fourth in Manitoba, fourth in Saskatchewan and fifth in Alberta.

Ontario stands first in acreage and total yield of potatoes, yet we find that she does not produce enough for local consumption. She imports thousands of bushels every year from other provinces, chiefly from New Brunswick. In Toronto, we find that from 2,000 to 3,000 bags per day are used, or 30 cars for every week of the year. Of this amount approximately 80 per cent. comes from the Maritime Provinces. Several other large cities and towns consume enormous quantities of potatoes and for the most part, they look to the east for their supply.

This practice of getting potatoes from the east seems to be gaining ground. Maritime potatoes are gaining the preference over Ontario potatoes because of the fact that the supply from the east is made up of one or two leading varieties of excellent type and quality. In Ontario, on the other hand, a great many different varieties are grown, and as a result, the supply is made up of small lots mixed together and they present a very uneven, unattractive stock.

But this is not all. Statistics reveal the fact that there is a gradual decrease each year in the acreage devoted to potato growing in Ontario. In many cases the Ontario farmer scarcely grows what potatoes he requires for his own use. This should not be. Our progressive potato growers have demonstrated year after year that potatoes can be grown to perfection

in Ontario and with no inconsiderable profit. The potato trade can be kept in Ontario but in order to keep it, we must take up potato growing on a larger scale in suitable centres. Old worn out varieties must be replaced by newer varieties of a more desirable type and the number of varieties used must be limited to one or two outstanding sorts prominent for their quality and freedom from disease. Instances can be cited in Ontario to-day of growers handling from 15 to 20 acres of potatoes.

If we would make potato growing as profitable as it might be, we must not only take into consideration the foregoing facts but also adopt labor saving devices for handling the crop. To justify the installation of labor saving machinery, we must increase the acreage grown and co-operate more with our neighbors in the purchase and use of such machines.

FOR THE RAILWAY COMMISSION

Dr. Rutherford, Dominion Veterinary Inspector General and Live Stock Commissioner, has been suggested for the Dominion Railway Commission to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Thomas Greenway. No better man than Dr. Rutherford could be had for the position. His intimate knowledge, which he gained in his present capacity, in regard to the Live Stock Industry of Canada, would make him a most valuable acquisition to the Commission.

The extent of our live stock interests, which are primarily concerned in transportation rates not only on live stock but on grain and on mill by-products, that are inseparably connected with these interests, demand that they have a champion on the Board of Railway Commissioners. No other man could so well serve the interest at stake and be so well in touch with the Canadian Agriculture in general as Dr. Rutherford. Farm and Dairy heartily endorse the suggestion made that he be appointed to the commission.

UNDERDRAINING AS AN INVESTMENT

If any were in doubt before as to the profitability of underdrains, they have had the lesson forcibly brought home to them this year. The late spring following by copious and persistent rain-fall have made undrained fields unfit to work for a period long past the time when they should have been seeded. Underdrains, where needed, have demonstrated themselves to be one of the best, if not the best investment that a farmer can make. Mining stocks and other get-rich-quick schemes are not to be compared with the handsome returns secured from underdrainage.

Investments that return their initial capital in one year are few indeed. Underdrainage is one of them. Practically all who have spent money on underdrainage state that they got their money back in from one to three years and most figure the time at the shorter period. Illustrations of the profitability of underdrainage were given by Prof. Wm. H. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College on page

six of Farm and Dairy, May 18th. Any one with money in the bank and land at home that needs underdrainage cannot too soon place his money in underdrainage—that form of farm improvement that brings such large and decided returns in so short a time.

INFORMATION ON COST OF PRODUCTION

The amount of milk that a cow will produce is one thing; the cost of production is for the farmer another exceedingly important thing and quite another matter. A cow might produce a great number of pounds of butter in a week but it might be done at a loss or it might be done at a profit. Some valuable information relative to the cost of producing milk and butter has been obtained in recent years at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, under the direction of Mr. J. H. Grisdale.

Results of tests for a period of six years with Ayrshires, Guernseys, Shorthorns and the French Canadian Cow in comparison are available. It has cost on the average 52.36 cents to produce 100 pounds of milk for the Ayrshire, 63.47 cents for the Guernsey, 68.47 cents for the Shorthorn and 57.64 cents for the French Canadian Cow. The cost of a pound of butter produced by the Ayrshire has been 11.38 cents; by the Guernsey 10.97 cents; by the Shorthorn 14.54 cents and by the French Canadian 10.81 cents.

These figures will be more interesting when we have the figures from other herds to compare them with.

The need of such data has long been felt. It is not enough that the dairyman know how many pounds of milk a cow produces. In order to know where the profit comes in, we must know what the milk costs. The net profit per cow is what counts with the farmer in figuring out the yearly record. The Dominion Government have come to recognize this fact in connection with the work of the cow testing associations and this year some of the older cow testing associations have been induced to take up the work of recording the cost of feed for their cows. Some valuable results may be looked forward to when these associations have completed a year's work under this new system of obtaining records.

Dairyman, who as yet have failed to make provision for soiling crops this coming summer should do so now. If history repeats itself, and in all probability it will, there will be need for such feed again this coming summer. The man who makes provision now will be the "lucky" man that will have feed when it is needed. Cows once allowed to slacken in their milk flow cannot be brought to their normal flow again in that lactation period. In view of this fact, it is therefore the poorest of economy to allow cows to suffer from a lack of feed. At the critical period when pastures fail, much of the work of the entire season may be lost, for it is necessary to feed the cow throughout the year whether she produces a normal flow or not.

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