

### A Strong Plea for Better Farming.

The great problem to be solved among farmers to-day is how can we derive a fair yearly return from our farms and at the same time sustain the fertility of the soil? By observation we might learn that to follow the plan of raising coarse grains and sell them off the farm is one of the last things to do if we want to make a living off our farms and at the same time leave them in a shape that those who follow may still have plenty of plant food left. We are apt to lay too much stress on how can we raise a certain amount of money for this year without asking ourselves what effect will this have in the future? If we take from our brooks double the quantity of trout that we should take in order to keep a fair supply for future years, we will find we have done it at the expense of future years' fishing. So with the farm. If we break up a lot of our sod fields and make an extra effort to raise more money than usual, providing we sell all off the farm in the way of grain, we do it at the expense of future years, because the straw will not return to the farm the elements of plant food we have sold in the way of grain. A man hears of somebody making well out of growing clovers, and he decides to do the same, without making preparations for doing so; consequently he has more weeds than clover, and it costs just as much to thresh it as good clover, so he comes to the conclusion that clover-growing does not pay. The old farms of this country which have had a rotation of wheat and oats (nitrogen-consumers) for the last fifty years are no doubt lacking in nitrogen. Let us feed our coarse grains on the farm, with all the corn and roots we can grow, and we will soon find we will have manure enough for double the quantity of land we had before and of better quality, and let us keep our root and corn crops clean. Then we have our fields in proper shape to seed down to clover. We will then not only have a clean crop of clover, but a profitable one, and the clover plant which you have been successful in growing has succeeded in drawing from the atmosphere that long-looked-for element, nitrogen, and has deposited it in the soil to help you grow crops in years to come. After you have followed this plan for five years, and look back over the past, you will find that you have been feeding at a profit more than at a loss, and have succeeded not only in getting from your farms a fair yearly return, but you have succeeded in increasing the fertility of your soil.

Grey Co., Ont.

FRED C. CURRIE.

### Pea Bugs and Pea Growing.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR.—In view of the prevalence of the pea bug and other hindrances to secure a paying crop of peas, many farmers have given up trying to grow this valuable crop. In sections of the country where the pea bug prevails, the seed should be treated with carbon bisulphide, so as to destroy the bugs. This should have been done early in the fall while the insects were in the embryo state, and before they had materially injured the pea. The method of treatment is to use an air-tight box that will hold say ten or twenty bushels. Fill it with peas and set a dish on top containing one pound of carbon bisulphide, which is sufficient to treat eighteen or twenty bushels. Close the lid, making it as near air-tight as possible, and leave for three days. By this time the carbon will have penetrated all the peas in the box and destroyed every germ of insect life without injury to the pea. If all the farmers in a neighborhood would unite and treat their seed peas, it would not be necessary to repeat this treatment every year.

Peas require dry land, either naturally or artificially so by underdraining. A rich sod is preferable, plowed in the fall and thoroughly cultivated in the spring before sowing. Sow beginning of May with grain drill. The quantity of seed per acre depends on the variety. Ordinary size varieties, 2½ bush. per acre; marrowfats, 3½ bush. If the seed has been much eaten by bugs, more should be sown per acre, as the seed germs will have been to some extent destroyed.

WM. RENNIE, Supt.

### The More Solid the Land the Better Catch of Seeds.

In regard to growing grasses, I will say that we have only had one miss catch of seeds in fifteen years, and that was seeded with wheat after turnips and plowed deeply. Since then we never plow after turnips, but simply cultivate, and have found that the more solid land is the better catch of seeds.

We use no other grasses and clovers except red clover, timothy, and a little alsike, and get best catches after spring wheat or Banner oats—stiff strawed. We sow seeds after the drill, and harrow after with light harrows. I do not like to harrow or roll after seeds have sprouted, but have done it without injury.

We have been sowing Colorado spring wheat for about ten years—the heaviest spring wheat I know of. I always sell it for seed. We grow the Banner oats, with a little flax and wheat mixed when sown. The wheat grows higher than the oats, and makes a richer feed. We have been sowing Mummy peas, but I have bought Canadian Beauty seed—they seem to be the most popular. Turnips—the Bangholm and Champion, mixed—do well.

Ontario Co., Ont.

DAVID BURNS.

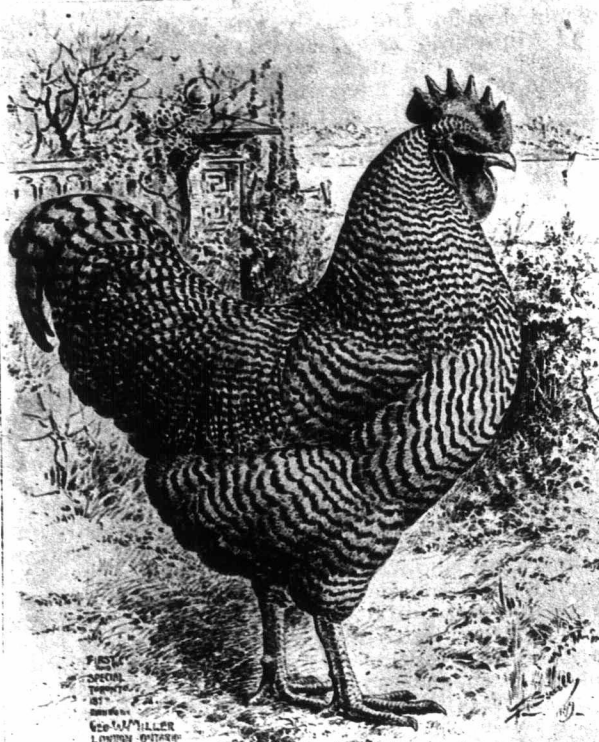
## DAIRY.

### Milk Fever Treatment.

In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of February 15th, page 94, was published a description of a new cure for milk fever, which consists in the main of injecting a gland stimulant into the udder. There have recently come beneath our notice two cases of this malady, which were treated according to the new system, along with other medicines, and made rapid recovery under the treatment of Dr. Tennant, V. S., London, Ont.

Case 1, had calved 24 hours, and was found down and unable to rise. Her head was around at her side, her eyes were glaring, and other well-defined milk-fever symptoms were present. The veterinary first drew with difficulty six quarts of blood from her. He gave her one ounce of aloes, half a pound of common salt, and two ounces of spirits of ether nitrate. He also milked out the udder and injected one dram of iodide of potassium in a quart of water at 98 degrees. She did not lose the power of swallowing, and every five hours she was given the spirits of ether nitrate and a quantity of whisky, the latter as a heart stimulant. Twelve hours later the cow was still down, but her bowels had commenced to move. She was again milked out and injected into the udder as before, and in six hours she was up. She was given another injection at the end of ten hours from the second one, while the spirits of ether and heart stimulant were continued. On the third day the cow had made complete recovery.

Case 2, was in high condition. Twenty-four hours after calving she was down, perspiration stood on her body, respiration was difficult, pulse fast and weak, temperature up to 103, and she had



PLYMOUTH ROCK COCKEREL.

OWNED BY GEO. W. MILLER, LONDON, ONT. WINNER OF 1ST AND SPECIAL PREMIUMS, TORONTO, 1899.

been constipated ever since calving; in fact, she appeared a likely case to die. She was treated much the same as case 1, except that she was not bled. Her udder was injected after milking, every ten hours. She was able to rise on the 2nd day, but was still quite sick. At the end of 48 hours she showed a decided turn for the better, and before the end of the third day she had almost recovered. This case required more heart stimulating with whisky and nuxvomica than case 1. These are the only cases of milk fever the doctor has had since he commenced the new treatment, and he is fully convinced of its effectiveness. It would be interesting and more convincing to see a bad case treated with the new system without the aid of other medicines.

### A Child Can Turn the Separator.

SIR.—Thanking you for your kindness in giving space in your valuable paper for our last letter, regarding experience with cream separator, we ask a further favor from you now, as one of the statements then made has been called in question, on page 149 of your last issue, under the heading, "A Grateful Letter." If D. H. McA. will take the trouble to come to our place, we will be delighted to allow him to try our machine and convince himself, as we have not the slightest doubt but one trial will be sufficient. A farmer, as sceptical as D. F. McA., convinced himself while running our machine that a child could run it, and purchased a National. He told us his little boy, nine years old, separates the milk of seven cows and is not fatigued. Our next neighbor's little boy runs ours sometimes. We have no experience with the Melotte, and therefore had no reference to the power required to run it. We thank you again for past favors.

Wellington Co., Ont.

A. & B. MACDONALD.

### Keeping Record of Milk Yield.

Among some recent interesting paragraphs from the Experiment Station of the Kansas State Agricultural College is one regarding "The Scales an Incentive to Increased Milk Yield." It reads as follows:

"T. A. Borman, of Navarre, Kansas, says his cows actually give more milk when there is a pair of scales hanging in the barn. At first thought this may appear ridiculous; but upon a little reflection it is not hard to understand. When a cow gives less milk than usual the record shows it, and an attempt is made to discover the cause and remove it. On the other hand, when the yield is above normal the causes are searched out and if possible the same conditions are supplied to the rest of the herd.

"But I have not the time to bother with recording each cow's yield," says someone. Here experience comes to our aid, and tells us that it takes about twelve seconds to weigh and record a cow's yield, or the milk from five cows can be weighed and recorded in one minute; and the extra pains that a milker will take when keeping a record will more than pay for the time."

## POULTRY.

### Women and Poultry.

Those who wish to make a profit out of their poultry this season will by this time have begun to make preparations. The early hatches are the ones that pay, and all up-to-date poultry-keepers will try to have a large proportion of their chicks hatched in April, so as to secure next winter's laying stock, and also to have nice plump roasters for the early fall markets.

I would advise farmers' daughters right here and now to take up this branch of farm work and see what they can make out of it. Tuck up your skirts and go to work, and you will find poultry-raising a healthful and interesting pursuit, as well as being profitable. Women are better adapted for this work than men, as they will more faithfully attend to the many little details that go to make the sum total of success; but remember that *success* means *work*, and failure follows neglect. In managing poultry, one must be quick to observe, prompt to act, and generally energetic and persevering, and if you have not these qualities to begin with, you will acquire them as you go on, if you are in earnest and mean to succeed. Both keeper and poultry need grit. If you are near a good market your profits are much more certain and returns quicker. Study the markets, both foreign and local, and make up your mind what is most needed and what you can raise to the best advantage. Do not think you will try everything at once. When there is only one member of the family to take charge, I would advise making a specialty of one branch. If your local market calls for choice new-laid eggs, and plump, tender chickens at all seasons of the year, begin with these and supply a first-class article, and you will soon be known and your produce sought after. This brings me back to the hatching question. Look over your flock now and see that every fowl is strong, healthy and vigorous. If there is a sick one, remove it at once, and I would also weed out a few of those small, poor-looking ones that lay such tiny eggs; also every surplus male that is not required, then your flock will look more uniform, and the useful birds will have a better chance. Nine farmers out of every ten keep more hens than they have accommodation for. Crowding is one of the greatest drawbacks to success, and I notice that it takes a long time for people to realize this. I have been told by people lately that they keep 150 or 200 hens; that they have been getting two or three dozen eggs a day this winter, and think they are doing pretty well. At the same time I was getting over three dozen a day from 60 hens. For the sake of economy, it is absolutely necessary to have a breeding pen from which to raise the young stock, and the pure-bred male should *always* be used. Instead of paying \$1 each for three or four inferior birds to run in the flock, pay \$3 or \$4 for one really good one, and buy from a breeder who keeps his cockerels separate from the hens until wanted for the breeding pens. From 12 or 15 of your best hens you can get enough eggs to raise your chickens from, and do not allow another male bird in the flock. I consider it scarcely honest to sell fertile eggs for export. Were all farmers to adopt the plan of the breeding pens and keep no males in the laying flock, our egg industry would soon experience a wonderful change. With the aid of cold storage in transportation our eggs would reach the foreign markets in first-class condition, as regards freshness and flavor, and there would be little waste; we could get top prices for them, and the demand would be increased tenfold. It is to our honor and profit individually and as a country to supply a first-class article in all lines, and it is the only way we can hold our own in any market.

Why should we not make a name for ourselves as supplying the best poultry and eggs that go into the British market. This is something that Canada's industrious women can do, by taking up the work and carrying it out in a systematic and businesslike way. This industry alone, small in its way,