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EDITORIAL

Read the Story

In addition to agricultural and home information THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE endeavors to include something of interest in the form of short stories and serials. In our issue of September 14 appeared the opening chapter of "Tag, or the Chien Boule Dog," one of the best serials yet secured. Be sure you do not miss the first installment. Tell your neighbors about it. They, too, may find it interesting.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Too many farmers and cattlemen are ready to believe that all the talk going on about the widespread prevalence of bovine tuberculosis and dangers of it originates from the pipe dreams and idle speculations of veterinary surgeons and medical men. It is the easiest way to avoid a grave danger, but not the wisest. To rid the live stock of America of tuberculosis is the largest problem that confronts the livestock men and veterinarians of this continent today. The disease exists, known or unsuspected, in every section of America. It has to be dealt with effectively before the way is paved for the eradication of human tuberculosis—the scourge of this continent to which the universal attention of the medical profession and boards of health in all centers is being directed. Bovine tuberculosis is widespread. It is a pressing, grave and present problem, the solution of which requires all the thought and skill and tact that can be brought into service, both by the medical and veterinary professions and those directly interested in the raising of live stock.

Whether or not bovine tuberculosis is transmissible to man makes little difference. To control it in our live stock, and finally, let it be hoped, eradicate it, is a matter large enough and important enough economically in itself. Consequently the sane and practical report of

the international commission on the control of bovine tuberculosis will be read with interest by those who are seeking light. It is a valuable summary of the latest thought on the handling of the problem of the century. Its suggestions, if carried out, particularly those dealing with the educational and demonstration work necessary to prepare the public to support more advanced means of dealing with the disease, will hasten the concerted action by cattlemen and the authorities, without which co-operation no progress can be expected. To deal effectively with tuberculosis is going to require long years of educational effort, and the work cannot be started too soon.

Hogs to Test for Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis problem and its solution has been given careful study recently by Burton R. Rogers, of Iowa state, who formerly was federal veterinary inspector. In a pamphlet recently sent out he deals with the danger of hogs becoming tuberculous from getting the germs in faeces from tuberculous cattle running in the same yards or fields. His claim is that ten per cent. of all cattle in the United States are tuberculous, and that forty per cent. of those that react to the tuberculin test pass tuberculosis germs. Hogs rooting through these faeces naturally become afflicted with the dread disease.

Mr. Rogers points out that the hogs in reality test the cattle, because when a tubercular hog is found in the slaughter house it can safely be inferred that he came from a farm on which there were cattle suffering from tuberculosis. The difficulty has been that it is not known from what farm the slaughtered animals come. He suggests, therefore, that hogs be tagged to show the name and post office address of the producer. Then when the veterinary inspector at the abattoir locates a hog suffering with tuberculosis he can refer to the tag and readily locate a farm on which to test the cattle for tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis statistics, compiled from the United States bureau of animal industry reports, show that inspectors have "retained" an increasing number of slaughtered hogs and cattle each year for the nine years from 1900 to 1908. In 1900 only 5,440 hogs and 4,289 cattle were found to be tuberculous; in 1903 the numbers had increased to 72,305 hogs and 8,848 cattle; in 1906, 208,887 hogs and 14,662 cattle were retained, and in 1908 the figures were 706,046 hogs and 51,838 cattle. For the past two years it is said that 2,000 tuberculous hogs are located each day.

It is evident therefore that the tuberculosis problem cannot be neglected longer. Pure air and absolute cleanliness will keep sound herds free from the disease.

What Do Your Neighbors Read?

One of the greatest boons you can give to your neighbor in a modest way is to help provide something worth while for him to read. Honest writers are chagrined because of the fact that what they write is not read by thousands of people who should be interested—and practically all of them would be interested if they knew what they are missing.

Then why not help your neighbor in a way that will not make him feel he is living on charity? Every farmer should read a farm journal that deals with agricultural conditions under which he labors and agricultural affairs in which he is interested—many of them read more than one, and are prosperous largely in proportion to the study they give to reliable agricultural literature. They frequently run across something that helps a little to master some phase of farm work, and few seasons are so rushed with work that they cannot find an hour or so some time through the week to read what they have learned to recognize as having been written for their benefit. They make their reading count in dollars and cents.

What about your neighbor? Does he read a farm journal? If not, take a copy or two to his house the next time you are going over. There always is something that is interesting and helpful. Articles that do not appeal to you may be of value to him.

Humus and Moisture Supply

On another page of this issue a contributor refers to the dry weather of the past season under "The Lesson of the Drought." Our correspondent urges that it is not wise to attempt to grow grain crops in the Canadian West on stubble ground, and states that thorough cultivation on last year's stubble made very little difference in yield.

This teaching may hold good for a considerable area in Northwestern Saskatchewan (where the writer of the letter is located) and also in other localities, but it should not be forgotten that conditions vary greatly. There are hundreds of farmers in different parts who have seen big yields on well cultivated fields that have not been in summerfallow for years, while neighbors who did not practice thoroughness with implements used in tilling the soil had rather poor returns from areas that were summerfallowed in 1907 or 1908.

It is true that moisture must be in the soil before we can conserve it for the use of our crops. A summerfallow properly looked after is best for this purpose, but a well worked soil in which there is a reasonable supply of humus will stand up well in crop yield even in a year like 1910, although it had been cropped in 1909. Thorough cultivation is needed in all