

Farmers, Rocked to Sleep.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Among the animals that compose the stock on Ontario farms, the dairy cow is still the money-maker, the rent-payer, and the mortgage-lifter, despite the treatment she receives during the rough and wintry months of our Canadian climate.

Farming is not a degraded occupation, nor are its operations so simple that the dolt can be her manager. Indeed, agriculture is the highest and most independent calling, affording plenty of scope for the best brains; and stock-raising, her most important tributary, a science and an art in which too few strive to gain distinction, but scarcely maintain the standard of the past.

"You are the backbone of the country!" cries the electioneering politician. "Yours is the most enviable, uplifting and independent calling," is being declaimed by the press at every issue, and even the orator has added his tribute: "Baronial castles, great halls, stately mansions, do not make a nation. The nation in every country dwells in the cottage."

All this complimenting, I say—though in the case of the politician it is often mere blarney—has served to rock the majority of farmers to sleep. They have, like idle birds, cuddled back in their own nest, complimenting themselves on the strength and fleetness of their wings, without attempting to soar, without attempting to peak in at another nestling, or to prove their speed and endurance by practical tests with their mates and kind.

Experience is still our great teacher, but observation is a great faculty we must cultivate. Without observation, our labors will seem mechanical necessities. Practice it, and we will make valuable discoveries, arrive at conclusions, and learn truth.

Have you been observant of late during your drives along our country roads? If so, you will know who is the best feeder, breeder, weeder, who the best farmer, and who owns the best stock in your locality. Your eyes will also have impressed another fact and mental picture, namely, the ill-bred, gaunt, semi-starved condition of at least sixty per cent. of the dairy stock, as they stand about the barnyard, from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m., dirty, covered with vermin, and partially bare of hair. Is such a practice to our own, to your own, financial interest? Can it be recommended by Institute speakers and the agricultural press? If it is the most profitable method, why do not its adherents refute the appeals of reformers, and furnish data to prove their superior profits.

Recently, an auction sale of farm stock was held in this locality. The owner and maker of the sale has been a poor feeder, and his stock were of the sort I have described above. Despite the fact that buyers are scouring the country for milch cows, his sale was but indifferently attended, and bidding draggy, and very low. In this same township, another farmer has been offered \$600 for any ten cows (grade Holsteins) in his herd of thirty, and refused. Is a man to be willing to let \$35 to \$40 represent the value of his best dairy cows at this season? Think you that feeding, breeding, weeding, would pay? We cannot all be a Bates, a Booth, or a Cruickshank; nor will many of us be a George Rice, and few of us have capital to be an F. F. Field, and purchase a mammoth herd of record making and breaking cows, but each and all can be their disciples.

Breed, feed and weed—these are the foundation stones which our successful breeders point us to and our text-books teach, but I would rearrange them to feed, breed and weed, for, if a man will not feed, of what value is his breed. Feed makes the breed, as surely as money makes the mare go.

We must learn to farm more intensively, to make the old timothy meadow produce, instead of 1 to 1½ tons of hay per acre, 8 to 12 tons of corn silage per equal area; also roots and alfalfa. When this advancing step is generally taken, we will cease to see our dairy stock out in all sorts of weather, eking out an existence around a straw stack during the winter months. The cow cannot develop her fetus on a barely maintenance ration for herself. Nature demands that she develop it at any price to herself, and

she does, hence her gaunt, thin condition when poorly fed. The maternal strain upon the dam during the last few months of pregnancy is very great. To develop and nourish a calf weighing from fifty to eighty pounds at birth, must be, and is, a heavy strain upon the system of the dam. Let us consider this, and feed more and better.

FARMER'S SON.
Lennox Co., Ont.

Fruit Trees Wintered Well.

The district between Hamilton and the Niagara River certainly never looked more lovely than it does at present (May 22). The mingled bloom of plum, peach and pear presents a pleasing contrast, and it is present in great profusion. Great numbers of people take a run down to Beamsville and back upon the electric road just to see the blossoms. Automobiles, too, along the main road, especially in the afternoons, are much in evidence.

In the main, the fruit has wintered well, and although a certain percentage of the peach buds were killed in the winter, there are plenty left to give a good crop. The frost seemed to strike in streaks. Between Stony Creek and Grimsby, north of the G.T.R., near the lake, considerable damage was done to the peach buds. In the



Netherland Aaggie De Kol 6439.

Canadian-bred seven-year-old Holstein, with a yearly milk production of 21,667 pounds.

neighborhood of Jordan and Vineland, again the damage was done further inland. Around St. Catharines the prospects are good both for peaches and other fruits. Small fruits, generally speaking, have wintered well.

There is a tremendous plum blossom, but report says that pollen is somewhat scarce. Pears have a fairly good show, and cherries have abundance. Apples are not showing as yet, Concord, and most other varieties of grapes, have come through the winter well, but Niagaras have suffered somewhat from the late spring frosts, killing the wood back and injuring the buds, especially in young vineyards.

The spring here is somewhat late, and has been very wet, so that considerable difficulty has been caused to fruit-growers in their spraying operations. In spite of this, the lime-and-sulphur home-boiled wash has been applied thoroughly and well. A great deal of the commercial lime-and-sulphur solution has also been used, and many have sprayed this year who never sprayed before. Good hand-spray pumps have been much used this year, and have proved very useful. The wet weather has caused the ground to be very soft, and the heavy power outfits have had considerable difficulty in filling their contracts. Some held off, hoping that the ground would dry off, consequently a few orchards of early plums were sprayed when in bloom, a practice not advisable.

Quantities of early tomatoes are being put out now. The weather is very favorable, and they should do well, if we escape late frosts. Earliana is the kind most planted for this purpose. On the mountain, except on the ridge road, but little spring grain has been got in as yet, and the farmers there are feeling pretty blue. Hay and fall wheat, however, look well.

A good deal of fruit has been planted this spring, but a great deal is still heeled in, the land only now being sufficiently dry to plant in many places. This season has shown to perfection the great benefits that come from thorough underdraining.

F. G. H. PATTERSON.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

To Our Club-raisers.

There are thousands of farmers who do not know what they are losing every year through not being subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Therefore, we want all readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" to act as club-raisers this year, and send us large lists of NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

If you send us two new names and \$3.00 to cover same (each new subscriber paying \$1.50), we will mark date on your paper forward one year as remuneration to you; or, for each single NEW NAME, accompanied by \$1.50, we will advance the date of your address label six months. Cash commissions or premiums, as preferred, for larger lists of new names.

In clubs of FOUR RENEWALS OR OVER, we will accept \$1.25 each.

Premiums not included in club offers.

Start raising your club immediately. Get "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" into every household in your locality.

New Canadian Milk Record.

The Canadian-bred Holstein cow, Netherland Aaggie De Kol, not only has made a creditable showing in milk production, but has succeeded in setting a new Canadian record for quantity of milk given in 365 days. She was bred by M. Richardson & Son, and now belongs to the herd of J. Van Patter & Sons, of Elgin County, Ont. Her sire is Victor De Kol Pietertje, and her dam Netherland Aaggie.

On May 6th, 1908, she dropped her calf, and the test started May 7th. In 365 days she gave 21,667 pounds of milk. Her best 30 consecutive days out-turn was 2,628.75 pounds, and her best day 96 pounds.

The weight of milk by months was as follows: May (1908), 1,930 lbs.; June, 2,503½ lbs.; July, 2,304½ lbs.; August, 2,190½ lbs.; September, 1,811½ lbs.; October, 1,581½ lbs.; November, 1,450½ lbs.; December, 1,570½ lbs.; January (1909), 1,628 lbs.; February, 1,458 lbs.; March, 1,586 lbs.; April, 1,379 lbs.; May, 275 lbs.

Loss of Young Stock.

Reports from Western Canada indicate that severe storms, accompanied by snow, did considerable injury to young stock in Alberta. Coming as they did when the herds and flocks were producing young by the score every day, the loss was very heavy. The ranchers in some localities estimate the mortality of young at 25 to 40 per cent. In addition, some of the mothers also succumbed, being weak owing to the late season causing lack of grass supply. The fine weather of last week following the storm was most welcome.

The late season, with copious rains, brings most forcibly before the farmers the advisability of thorough drainage. From all parts of Ontario come reports of advantages derived where fields have been tile drained. In many localities the time between rains has been short, and unless something had been done to carry off the surplus water the soil did not become dry enough to work it until another downpour came. In some cases lack of drainage has resulted in the fields being practically covered with water, making cultivation or seeding absolutely impossible. In very few instances is this the case where drainage has been attended to.

At a meeting of the Guelph City Council, last week, final arrangements were made to finance the additions to the Winter Fair building. On receipt of plans and papers from the Government, contracts will be let, and the work proceeded with at once.

At the session of the British Parliament so much interest centered on the budget that little attention was paid to agricultural affairs. Even the embargo on Canadian cattle received no consideration.