Long Experience in Sugar Making

F. H. Mizener, Brome Co., Que.

For the last 20 years or more I have been engaged in making maple syrup and sugar, at first using a pan and heater. This method was superior to the old system of iron kettles. For the last four years I have used the Grimm Champion evaporator and have found it as far in advance of the pan and heater as that method was of the kettle. The evaporator takes less wood, boils in more sap in a much shorter time, and makes a far superior article. By its use the syrup can be boiled down thick enough to can, thereby saving the second time heating necessary with other methods. This second heating darkens the syrup and this makes it an inferior article. By using good bright tin buckets, tin spouts, and using nothing but tin and galvanized utensils in the bush, and by keeping everything perfectly clean and in good condition, there is nothing to prevent one from making a first-class article which will bring the highest market price.

Cleanliness and haste are two of the most important points in sugar making. Keep the syruping-off pans clean. Mine are washed every morning before we commence to boil. Gather the sap often and boil it very quickly.

With regard to spouts, I have used a great many kinds, but consider the Grimm spout far superior to all others. The bore is very small, and with it the tree requires no rossing, which is an advantage as rossing injures the tree to a certain extent. The bark is left in its proper place, the sun cannot strike the bore, thus preventing the sap from souring. I would advise the No. 2 spout with the bucket wire. The wind cannot blow the bucket off with these, as it surely will do with other spouts.

Let the Commission Tell Us

W. H. McNish, Leeds Co., Ont.

I note with a great deal of satisfaction that the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association at their annual meeting endorsed the proposal of Farm and Dairy to send a commission over to Europe to inquire into the methods adopted in those countries that produce large quantities of bacon for the export trade. This was a very important step taken by the association, and, when the deputation appointed by that body waits on the Department of Agriculture, their wants should be recognised.

The expense of sending over a commission of say three or four farmers would be a trifle compared with the results of the report, for, I am sure such a commission would stimulate the production of bacon as nothing else would. The people would be satisfied.

If the Danish methods of hog feeding are more economical than ours, we want to know it. On the other hand, if the credit to their great success is due to co-operative packing houses, we also want to know that. No country has at their disposal the raw material for the production of choice bacon to equal Canada, and why should we not do more at the business? Let the commission tell us.

Is the Hog Business Profitable?

J. S. Kyle, Dundas Co., Ont.

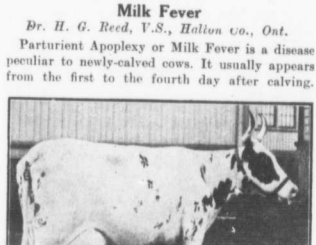
It would be advisable to appoint a commission as suggested by Farm and Dairy to investigate the hog question thoroughly and find out if it is paying the Danish farmers to buy our grain, and where the profit and loss is. The Danes may be no better off than we are but are hoping against hope to come out all right in the deal, and are actually losing at the present time. We know and feel that if they can stand the strain long enough they will win in the end.

If that is their game to run us out, we would like to know it, as I consider we Ontario farmers can stand that business as long as they. If it is for the want of knowledge of proper feeding or care of his majesty, the hog, we as a class can compare favorably with anything in Europe, if we have the necessary information. If there are really dollars in the hog business, we are the boys that would like to know where to get at them, so we will not be ousted from our British market. As we are true descendants of John Bull, what we have we want to hold, if we do not have to pay too much for our catch.

Milk Fever

Dr. H. G. Reed, V.S., Halton Co., Ont.

Parturient Apoplexy or Milk Fever is a disease peculiar to newly-calved cows. It usually appears from the first to the fourth day after calving.

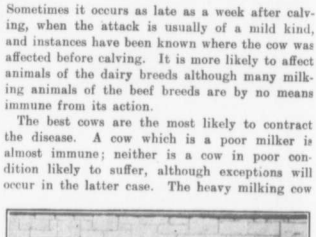


An Ayrshire Cow that Has Won Honors

"Eva of Menie," bred and owned by Mr. A'ex. Hume of Northumberland Co., Ont., was an outstanding winner in the Ayrshire Classes in 1906 and '07, at the Toronto, Charlottetown and Sherbrooke Exhibitions. She gave 8,500 lbs. of milk, testing 4.2 per cent. fat.

Sometimes it occurs as late as a week after calving, when the attack is usually of a mild kind, and instances have been known where the cow was affected before calving. It is more likely to affect animals of the dairy breeds although many milking animals of the beef breeds are by no means immune from its action.

The best cows are the most likely to contract the disease. A cow which is a poor milker is almost immune; neither is a cow in poor condition likely to suffer, although exceptions will occur in the latter case. The heavy milking cow



Some Thrifty Shropshire Ram Lambs

Sheep are recognized as a strong factor in combatting weeds. Sheep of good type and quality, are just as efficient at such work as are more indifferent sorts, and they are worth more when ready for market. The above lambs were bred and fed at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

especially if she is in good condition is the kind most liable to an attack.

The first symptoms are an excited and nervous condition, a moving about in the stall in an excited manner with a gradual loss of power till the patient lies down and is unable to rise. She will lie with her head thrown sideways along her ribs and will be unable to raise it up. In some cases the patient will be stretched full length on one side unable even to lie up in a natural condition.

Any man who has ever seen a well-marked case of the disease will never have any trouble recognizing another when he sees it. It has been a source of great loss to dairymen in the past, more so than it is likely to be in the future as Veterinary science has recently discovered more successful methods of treatment. But while it is well for the dairyman to know that the disease can now be successfully treated it is better that he should understand that it is possible so to manage his cows as to make it almost a certainty that he will not have a case of it to treat.

Cows, especially if in good condition as very cow should be, at calving time should not be fed any rich or stimulating food such as corn, wheat or pea meal for at least two weeks before coming in, they should have succulent food such as clover, hay, silage or roots, but no meal, the bowels should be kept relaxed. Food such as described will usually keep them right, but if constipation should be present give one or two pounds of epsom salts to overcome that condition. Cows fed in this manner for two weeks before and for one week after calving are not at all likely to suffer from milk fever. Many a good cow has been lost because her owner was too anxious to have her make a big showing at the pail as soon as she came in and in order to enable her to do so fed her to excess and the result was milk fever.

Another preventive measure is not to milk the udder out clean for two or three days after calving, milk out a little at a time and do it often This seems to be nature's method, for under natural conditions the calf does the milking and we all know the manner in which he will go about business. Newly calved cows should be kept dry and warm. Allowing them in a draught which predisposes to a chill is liable to produce an attack of milk fever. They should not be allowed to drink large quantites of cold water which will also predispose to chill.

The curative treatment consists in simply milking the udder out dry and filling each of the four quarters with pure oxygen gas. This treatment rarely fails to cure. No person should ever attempt to pour any liquid, not even water, into the throat of a cow suffering from this disease because the throat is paralyzed. The cow cannot perform the act of swallowing and the fluid is almost sure to run down the wind-pipe into the lungs killing the patient sometimes right at once, at other times probably not for some days.

The Ensilage Proposition

C. D. Cook, Hochelaga Co., Que.

If your cows don't pay whose fault is it? It is a case where it is right up to you Mr. Dairy-Farmer, it is your problem, and it is your pocket-book that is affected.

You can't run a furnace to advantage without proper fuel, and neither can you run a dairy to advantage without proper feed. Of course you could fill your coal stove with cobble stones, and it would be just as full as if you used coal, but it would be a pretty chilly thing to gather around on winter evenings, and no sane person would really blame the stove because it didn't throw out any heat. On the same principle you can fill the old cow up on straw, mouldy hay and frozen cornstalks, but no sane person ought to blame the poor creature if she didn't give any milk.

Your dairy is to you what the manufacturer's mill is to him. He realizes that in order to run his plant successfully, he must use proper fuel for his boiler to generate steam, and you, in order to run your dairy at a profit, must use proper feed to produce milk, and that brings us to the subject of ensilage.

There are just four ways for you to look at this ensilage proposition, and each way spells profit. It will save your hay, decrease your grain bills, make more milk, and benefit your land.

The average hay crop is about one and one-