

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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1. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Western Ontario, and Bedford, Ontario, Dairy-men's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Jersey and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

ECONOMY THAT TENDS TO POVERTY

The problem of securing teachers in our rural schools is promising to overshadow in difficulty the problem of securing efficient farm labor. Teachers there are in numbers almost sufficient to fill our schools, but really good teachers are scarce indeed. Why are our young men neglecting this, one of the noblest of all professions—the imparting of knowledge to future generations?

We Canadians have often been accused of wasteful extravagance. As a nation we are said to be drifting into the same expensive habits that are attributed to our United States neighbors. National extravagance is supposed to be one of our great sins. But in some things we have been too economical. When it comes to hiring school teachers we have been so economical that good teachers are scarce and trustees of many school districts find difficulty, particularly in the

rural sections, in getting teachers at all.

Economy in teachers is the last economy to which a wise people will descend. We should keep our best teachers no matter what the price. We should make the financial returns such that instead of being a stepping stone to other lines of endeavor that are more profitable, teaching will become a profession, an occupation for men of wide vision. Cramming in facts and figures is not teaching. We need school teachers who can teach our children not only to mechanically repeat what others have written in books but to be able to think and plan for themselves. That is true education, and such education can only be given by thoroughly trained men and women who are making a life work of the profession.

We have not this class of teachers in our rural schools. Our economy in dealing with the school teacher problem lies in a more liberal view of the importance of the profession and financial returns to the teacher that are comparable with the returns for similar service in other lines of endeavor. Let us loosen our purse strings and make the teaching profession worth while to the best men, who now pass it by.

TEST FOR BUTTER FAT

"We never got the greatest value from keeping individual records of production of our dairy cows until we started to use the Babcock test as well as the scales," said a successful dairy farmer to an editor of Farm and Dairy recently. "We are paid for milk on the butter fat basis at our cheese factory. Through records we have found that several of our cows that we had thought inferior were really bringing us more money than others that gave more milk."

A record of the weight of milk given by each cow in our herds is valuable as an indication of the producing ability of the cow. Truly accurate records, however, must take account of both the weight of milk and quality of milk. For instance, a cow giving six thousand pounds of three per cent. milk will produce in the season one hundred and eighty pounds of butter fat, which, paid for at the rate of twenty-five cents a pound, would be worth forty-five dollars. Another cow giving only five thousand pounds of milk, did her milk test four per cent., would produce two hundred pounds of butter fat worth fifty dollars. If records of the milk production only were kept, this second cow would probably go to the butcher before number one, when as a matter of fact it was bringing in a revenue of five dollars a year more than the first one.

Many dairymen, when milk is paid for by weight, are making the mistake of not taking into account butter fat production. At the majority of our cheese factories milk is still paid for by the pooling system. But this system is bound to go, and in the next few years the dairymen who will find themselves ahead on

their cheese cheques will be the ones who have kept records of both milk and fat production and bred accordingly.

INSTRUCTORS' SALARIES

Mr. John McGregor, a director of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, estimates the expenses of a dairy instructor at \$3004 a year. This leaves the instructor \$394 to clothe himself and keep his family. While this estimate of expenses is too large in some districts, in other districts it is moderate, as travelling expenses are large, and these the instructor must meet from his meagre salary. Truly a small return when the importance of the service rendered is considered.

The great improvement that has taken place in the quality of cheese manufactured in Ontario factories has been due in no small measure to the excellent work of the dairy instructors. So beneficial have been the results of the inspection and instruction work that it is now proposed to carry instruction to the patrons on the farms. To carry on this work to best advantage the staff of instructors will have to be increased.

To attract the best men, however, higher salaries will have to be paid. A salary such as the instructors now receive that affords them only a bare livelihood will not attract good men to the profession. The recommendation of the Dairymen's Association that the instructors' salaries be \$1,200 is moderate and should be acted on by the Provincial Government.

The progress that the industry of fruit growing is making in Quebec province and the increased interest in the fruit industry

Fruit Growing that farmers of that province are taking is reflected in the Pomological and Fruit Growing Society of Quebec. Optimistic indeed was the outlook taken on the fruit possibilities of the province by the many fruit growers who gathered at the last meeting of the society held at Macdonald College recently. Portions of Quebec supposed to be entirely unsuited to the production of fruit have been proven by members of this society to have almost ideal conditions for the growing of the very highest classes of dessert apples. Some of the more optimistic fruit growers claim that there are only two or three counties in the whole province that cannot be made to produce apples profitably. Quebec farmers are taking much greater interest in this most profitable industry than in the past. Truly the fruit belt is extending.

Of the short courses to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, two in particular should be encouraged by fruit men: We refer to the valuable courses in box courses, packing of apples announced on page eight of this issue. One of the most serious difficulties under which Ontario fruit men have labored in competition for the fruit trade of Western Canada has

been the unpopular packing of the Ontario fruit. The barrel pack with which our fruit men are so familiar is not popular in Western Canada, where consumers are well acquainted with the box packed fruit from the Western States and British Columbia, and prefer that style of packing. These courses are intended to instruct Ontario fruit shippers in the styles of packing preferred on one of their best markets. The first course of this kind in Ontario was given at the O.A.C. last winter, and proved successful. If these courses prove popular it is expected that the work will be extended to all the fruit growing sections of the province. Those who are interested in seeing Ontario fruit take a first place will take advantage of this opportunity to inform themselves as to the best methods of packing apples in boxes.

The year 1911 was marked by a great increase in Canada in the number of cows tested for milk and fat production.

Tests for Canadian Holstein Dairy Cattle tests conducted by the Breeders' Association, there has been a large increase in the number of cows under test, and, better still, many new breeders who have never before been in official test work, have entered cows that have made good records. The increased interest shown in Record of Performance work is still more marked. So great has been the number of entries of cows in this test that the present staff of inspectors have found it difficult to keep up with their work. This interest that breeders of dairy cattle are showing in production tests shows how far we are getting away from the show ring standard of judging dairy cattle.

The dairy cattle that command the high prices now-a-days are the ones that make the big records, not the ones that take the first prizes at the shows. This means more intelligent breeding and a much more rapid improvement in the producing ability of our dairy cattle.

"Eternal vigilance" has been interpreted as "indefatigable diligence." Either will bring success in farming. Both mean close application to business.

Improve Stock by Cooperating (Breeder's Gazette)

Cooperation has been such a potent factor in Denmark in the development of the dairy industry, which forms the basis of the nation's prosperity, that the system has been largely extended to breeding affairs. The census of 1909 showed that there were then 1,884 cooperative breeding societies in Denmark, of which 1,250 were devoted to cattle, 270 to horses, 253 to hogs and 102 to sheep. About one-fourth of the cattle and horses, and six per cent. of the hogs were kept by members of the breeding societies. The cooperative dairies numbered 1,167. If the results of cooperation in breeding are so satisfactory as they have been in dairying, much may be expected from Denmark as a producer of improved live stock. Co-operative systems patterned on the Danish idea are being introduced with expectations in America. They introduce high-class sires, which rapidly improve the average character of the stock in their localities.

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