

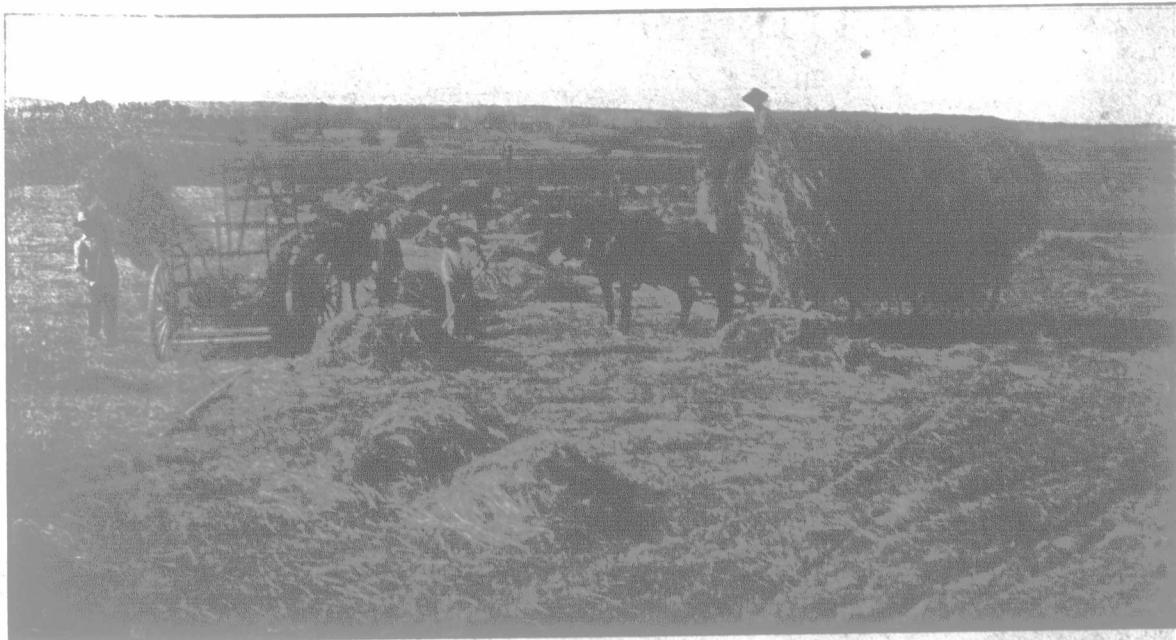
the sea. It can be realized, I know, that it is being realized already on some of our individual farms.

We keep at the College at Truro herds of beef and dairy cattle. But a few years ago, we could sell a bull of one of the best breeds for upwards of \$100, when we would have to sell a bull of one of the dairy breeds for such a small figure, and the sale was so uncertain, that it did not pay to raise one. Now the demand for dairy bulls is so good that we could dispose of many times more than we have, and at prices equal to those we used to receive for beef bulls. Then, our people were satisfied if they could say that such a bull was pure-bred (more likely, "thoroughbred") Jersey, or Ayrshire, or Holstein. Now they talk about his individuality, and even more of the number of pounds of milk and butter produced by his dam, all of which means higher attainment and larger profits in the dairying industry.

If agricultural papers and lecturers have done nothing more for us than tell of the possibilities of a good dairy cow, they have well justified themselves. Our average Maritime cow produces not more than the average American cow—three thousand pounds per annum—yet it costs us about \$40.00 to feed her. To make this even pay, one must get at least 35 cents per pound for butter the year round, and \$1.50 per one hundred pounds for milk. But why try to make this sort pay, when it is possible to have cows that will average from two to three times that quantity? Our whole herd of Holsteins, Ayrshires and Jerseys at the College, at Truro, averaged, during the past year, nearly ten thousand pounds of milk, and, although it cost from \$60 to \$70 each to feed these cows, yet they paid profits ranging from \$25 to \$100 each. They differ from the "three-thousand-pounder" in two respects. First, they are the result of years of consistent effort to produce milk, their female ancestry being composed of cows that were all high milk producers. Ultimately, they trace back to common, ordinary stock, which produced far less than 3,000 pounds per annum, simply sufficient to start their calves, born in a state of nature, on the struggle for existence. But, through breeding toward one definite goal—milk production—they are now each of them producing at least as much milk as three average domestic cows. Secondly, they were well fed. We have had cows that it did not pay to feed, either poorly or well. In our stables, breeding and feeding are going hand in hand to produce rent-paying cows. The same can be done in every Maritime stable.

These facts, one would think, must be patent to all. In a way they are. But if practice is the proof of belief, the number who evidence their faith by their works is woefully small. However, the number is growing, and a little leaven will soon leaven the whole loaf. One particularly troublesome feature confronts us—possibly more in Nova Scotia than in the other Provinces. We have, in proportion to the total number of cows owned, a large consuming population of miners, fishers, manufacturers, and city folk. To supply these with milk and cream, the tendency is to collect into the areas closely adjoining the towns the best cows of the Province. The milkmen who own these say they can't afford to raise calves, finding it cheaper to buy than to raise their cows. And so, for years, they have been going into the "hinder" parts of the country to buy the best cows available. The result has been that farmers in the "hinder" parts of the country have, each year, been selling their best cows and raising their heifers from poorer ones. The outcome already is that you can't buy good cows. Is this to be wondered at? No. Either these dairymen must raise their calves, sired by bulls of the dairy breeds, or we must arrange a system by which these calves born in the dairymen's stables can be placed in the "hinder" parts of the country to be reared. One editor of a local paper, to my knowledge, has been trying to work up such an exchange, with, I am sorry to say, only fair success. Can you assist, or can you suggest another solution? Unless we tackle this problem now and solve it, we can never hope to make substantial progress in improving our commercial dairy stock. I would suggest as a vital subject for discussion by your Maritime contributors the following: "Which is the more profitable for the dairyman or milk-seller, to buy or to raise his cows?"

There are further matters which I thought to include in this letter—matters about horses, and sheep, and swine, and crops—but these must await another time. Dairying, after all, stands first, and if, for the present, it is well. With a New Year's resolve to give them the care that they should receive, Christmas can bring no greater gift to our Eastern agriculture than better dairy cows. We of the East join in sending Merry Christmas greetings to your readers all over Canada. We've had a good season—the best for years—and we look forward to the New Year with greater hope than ever. May the New Year bring happiness and prosperity to all in our own land and abroad who read your Christmas page!



Haying on the Dyked Lands of Nova Scotia.



"When the Frost is on the Pumpkin and the Corn is in the Shock."



A Familiar Winter Job.