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COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS

MANY MEMBERS WEIGH EACH MILKING DAILY.

By Chas. F. Whitley, Dairy Branch,
Dominion Department of
Agriculture.

In 1904 the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch of the Department of Agriculture undertook some preliminary work in three counties in Quebec to gauge the attitude of farmers toward cow testing and to gather data for driving home some forceful comparisons. Seventy heads were then under observation. With a view of arousing more widespread interest in the movement, the next year saw a change in methods, and seven localities in Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island were selected for a thirty-day test, and over 1,350 cows were recorded.

In January 1906 the first cow testing association was organized at Cowansville, Que. Sixteen associations commenced work that year with entries of over 3,000 cows. The plan in brief provides for the organization of any number of dairy farmers into an association, the members electing officers and a committee of management. Members agree to weigh the milk of each cow in the herd night and morning on at least three days every month throughout the entire period of lactation, and to take samples of each of the six milkings. These composite samples are

TESTED ONCE A MONTH

at the nearest cheese factory or creamery. Members provide themselves with scales, sampling dipper, and a sample bottle for each cow. The Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture has so far provided all blank record forms free, together with preservative tablets and sulphuric acid for testing. In addition to this the Department has paid the local makers at the factories for testing each sample every month.

Many members have taken the next step in systematic testing and are now weighing each milking daily, and recording the weights and kinds of feed consumed. The Department also supplies a small booklet for keeping an account with each cow in the herd.

In 1907 there were 32 associations, increasing in 1908 and 1909, till in 1910 this number had grown to 167, with 11,850 cows being recorded. In addition to these associations, records are kept of over 600 cows owned by individual dairymen, while more than 20,000 forms for daily milk records were supplied last year to applicants.

The early months of 1911 saw a further enlargement of the association plan in the establishment of Dairy Record Centres in Oxford, Peterborough and Lanark counties, Ontario; St. Hyacinthe and Brome, Quebec; and Kensington, Prince Edward Island. The official in charge of each centre, besides supervising the regular association work is taking a dairy census of his district, and disseminating dairy information. Specific, concentrated effort of this kind continued in each locality for several years, should prove of the utmost value.

FACTS AND POSSIBILITIES

Cow testing has had a remarkable influence on profitable dairying. Aiming at obtaining definite knowledge of the actual production in milk and fat of each individual cow in the herd instead of resting content with knowing the total yield of the whole herd and then estimating an average per cow, cow testing has been instrumental in opening the eyes of scores of dairy farmers to facts and possibilities. The cows that do not pay for their feed are being discovered, those considered only average are classified on their merits, many thought the best in the herd are found to be poor, and some even not to be worth keeping. Cows are selling for higher prices as their records prove their value as producers, good herds are being built up as the worthless cows are eliminated and heifers from the best dams are retained; young bulls from the good cows are in active demand at remunerative prices.

More milk is being obtained per herd, and even from a smaller herd; hence more milk comes from a given area, which lowers the cost

of making at the factory. As the cows are handled better, owing to the desire to increase the record, the milk and cream are cared for better, so that the factory work is improved. Cow testing is working a revolution in the condition of stables. Owners see by the records that it pays to provide ventilation and abundance of light; and they notice that health improves and the yield increases as the animals and stables are kept thoroughly clean. A new order of feeding is commencing on farms where heretofore dry straw was the winter's menu; corn and roots are being grown so that a cow with any latent possibilities in her may be developed as a producer. With the more careful feeding the grain ration is being apportioned according to the yield of fat so that true economy of production is the rule. Many correspondents testify that cow testing is interesting the boys and girls on the farm. Another bright resulting feature is the tremendous saving being effected in time, energy, feed and unnecessary labor that was bestowed on animals not worthy the name of dairy cows. A vast amount of power and human energy has been wasted on such thankless guests, but the dairyman is awakening to the fact that cow testing is a valuable time-saver and labor-saver as the poor cows are DETECTED AND REJECTED.

The tangible additions to incomes are not the least satisfactory results of a few minutes per month spent in recording milk yields from individual cows. Sample letters from members read as follows. From one in an Ontario association: "My herd has increased from 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of milk for each cow in two years." This is a 60 per cent. increase. Another Ontario member states: "In 1907 the average yield was 3,794 pounds of milk, in 1910 it was 5,000 pounds." This is an increase of 2,206 pounds per cow, or 50 per cent in three years. From Quebec comes: "In 1908 our cows gave a revenue of \$20 each, but in 1910 it was \$32.50, or more than twice as much." From the same province is the statement: "Previous to weighing and keeping records our average return per cow were only about \$40, last year we got \$60." This is an increase of 75 per cent. A member in Nova Scotia writes: "From four cows in 1908 I sold 557 pounds of butter; from six cows in 1910 I sold 1,400 pounds." This is an increase of 68 per cent. One in New Brunswick says: "I have just about doubled the average yield of milk." One in Prince Edward Island writes: "My herd now gives me three times as much milk per cow." From British Columbia comes the statement: "We have more than doubled our average per cow," and from the same province: "I have raised the average yield of fat by forty pounds per cow."

Such definite gains surely furnish the strongest possible incentive for every dairy farmer to take up cow testing systematically.

ATE BREAD 2,000 YEARS OLD. Guests at Dinner Spread It With Butter of Elizabeth's Reign. One of the oddest dinners ever given was that in Brussels, Belgium, recently, of which a guest says: "At that dinner I ate apples ripened more than eighteen hundred years ago, bread made from wheat grown before the Children of Israel passed through the Red Sea, and spread with butter which was made when Elizabeth was Queen; and I washed down the repast with wine that was old hundreds of years before Shakespeare was born." This seems at first blush an incredible story; but it appears that the apples were from an earthen jar taken from the ruins of Pompeii; the wheat was taken from a chamber in one of the Pyramids; the butter from a stone shelf in an old well in Scotland, where for several centuries it had lain in an earthen crock in icy water; while the wine was recovered from an old vault in the city of Corinth.

WILL SEND CANNON TO MINT. The French Government has just decided to send several old cannon to the mint to be turned into money. Several old fortresses are being dismantled and these bronze cannon are no longer necessary, so it has been thought better to convert them into coins than to throw them on the scrap heap.

SPEED OF A RHINOCEROS.

Chased a Hunting Party and Got Away in Safety.

Out he burst at last with a crashing of brush and timber, reaching the open just in front of me; stopped for a minute to sniff the breeze, then advanced at a quick trot toward my pony, writes Dora Vandeleur in the Empire Review.

Being mounted and inexperienced, I felt a false sense of security; he lumbered toward us with surprising swiftness, yet it seemed so difficult to believe this mouth animal bent on mischief that I simply sat still and watched its approach.

The pony stood this inaction as long as its nerves allowed, which I should judge was until the creature had got within eight or ten yards; then wheeled with a most disconcerting suddenness, and set off like the wind across the level.

Fast though the pony flew (and having caught his panic, I was urging him to do his utmost), to my horror and astonishment the rhinoceros not only had no difficulty in keeping up, but gained.

I heard a shot, and then another, and looked back over my shoulder hopefully; the creature was coming on faster than before! A third shot came from somewhere on my right, and I felt the pony slacken his pace; evidently the last bullet had found a billet somewhere in the rhino's thick hide, for to my surprise and relief he had wheeled round sharply, and set off at a clumsy gallop across the plain at right angles to his former direction.

The whole party followed in hot pursuit, even the Irish terrier puppy which accompanied us on our expedition rushed as hard as he could, tumbling head over heels upon the tussocks of coarse grass, and emitting shrill yaps of defiance.

We could not get near enough to get another shot at the rhino; it was amazing that such a great unwieldy brute could travel at the pace he did, far quicker than a horse's gallop. Finally we had to give up the chase, much to our disappointment, for my sister and I had been longing for a rhinoceros horn to take home as a trophy ever since we started on our month's trip up country.

THE TREE OF TRUTH.

How an Officer Was Detected of a Theft.

In her recent book descriptive of the Island of Cuba, Irene A. Wright has given a pretty legend told her in Guanajay, a town not far from Havana. "Opposite its principal cafe is the plaza, unusually attractive, it seemed to me; its little plots of soil, the roses bloom the year round, adorning the cafe building is the church, its altars are many, and I have since heard, regarding one of the trees of the small yard about it, the best legend told me with reference to any locality in Cuba. In the shade of that tree one must speak the truth.

"In the early years, the story goes, when Indian chiefs were still powerful enough to make it worth the Spaniards' while to placate them, the daughter of a chief of a Guanajay tribe was robbed of a wonderful necklace of pearls. So great was her father's wrath that it became necessary to punish someone for the theft; and as the culprit could not be identified, they pitched upon a young man who, by some unhappy circumstance, might easily be charged with the crime.

"The young man was condemned to die, though he denied his guilt up to the very moment of execution. A priest, mounted on a mule, accompanied him to the spot where the church now stands, where death was to be inflicted.

"The victim, still protesting that he had stolen no pearls, asked for ten minutes' final grace, and it was granted.

"The firing-squad stood close at hand, and especially near was the officer in charge. The priest, still mounted on his mule, kept close by the prisoner; and he, as the minutes speeded, called upon Santiago and upon Mary to heed his plight.

"The padre's mule, at that critical juncture, snatched at a single leaf drifting down from the tree in the shade of which he rested, and missed it; but his teeth caught in the doublet of the officer in charge of the firing-squad, ripped it open—and the missing pearls fell to the ground in the sight of all.

THEIR STYLE.

By hard work and careful habits he had got together a little fortune. The time had arrived for him when walking was no longer a pleasure, and so he decided that he was at last justified in ordering a family carriage.

Of he went one morning to a carriage builder's, and described in detail the kind of vehicle he wished to buy.

"Of course, you'll want rubber tyres," said the carriage builder. "No, sir," replied the old man in tones of resentment. "My folks ain't that kind. When they're riding they want to know it."

FROM MERRY OLD ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE.

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

There were 182 deaths from measles in London last week—120 above the average number.

Rear-Admiral Charles M. Cocks succeeds Vice-Admiral Sir Alfred W. Paget as senior officer on the coast of Ireland.

A man who committed suicide by shooting himself in a first-class compartment of a Midland Railway train at Trent Station, has been identified as Harold Swain Ellis, of Greenfield House, Hemstead, Birmingham.

A man who was killed by a train near Clapham Junction, was stated at an inquest not to have been struck by the engine, but to have been hurled aside by the air cushion which was formed in front of it by the speed at which it was travelling.

In seven days no fewer than 267,000,000 herring have been landed at Yarmouth.

A Sheffield police constable giving evidence against two soldiers charged with breaking a plate-glass window with their canes, said the numbers and initials of the canes had been imprinted on the glass.

Owing to the declining birth-rate in Leeds, there are fewer children in the Public Schools than there were in 1900.

The tallest member of the new Parliament will probably be found to be Douglas B. Hall, the Unionist representative for the Isle of Wight, who is no less than six feet five inches in height.

After an interval of a week, another case of smallpox was notified at Bury the other day, bringing the total number of cases to 27.

Collins' Music Hall, Islington Green, was sold at the Mart, London, for \$50,000.

Permission to take Australian aborigines to England for show purposes has been refused by the Commonwealth Government.

About fifty cases of measles are still being treated at the Royal Naval College, Osborne.

An "In Memoriam" concert was held at the Queen's Hall, London, on May 9, in memory of the late King Edward.

One of the street donations obtained by Salvation Army collectors during the self-denial week was a \$500 note.

The Countess of Dunsford, of Gwyrch Castle, Abergele, has promised \$1,250 to the fund which is being raised for the investiture of the Prince of Wales.

A return recently issued shows that the cost of Civil Services has grown from £26,686,934 in 1903-4 to £46,787,873 in 1911-12.

While a motor engine was travelling to a Bermondsey fire it skidded in Tower Bridge road, mounted the pavement, knocked down a tree, and killed a woman.

Mr. John Read, who rose from the position of working shipwright to be a magistrate of Portsmouth, died at Portsmouth in his eighty-ninth year.

The governors of the Dulwich College estates have voted \$5,000 for the repair of roads under their control, which will be traversed by the King and Queen on their visit to the Crystal Palace to open the Festival of Empire.

NEW CURE FOR CANCER.

Germany Using Fungus As Remedy For Extreme Cases.

What appears to be a very promising experiment for the cure of cancer has lately been made in Germany. A fungus bearing the name of *Mucor racemosus* malignus has been grown in malignant tumors of certain animals. This is not the irritant but a dead culture of it, which applied to the growth, causes it, as alleged, to subside. This remedy, called antimiterium by its discoverer, is not a specific but, like tuberculin, consists of the fungus itself and its decomposition products. In action is also resembles tuberculin, for after injection a febrile reaction takes place. It must be used only when an operation has become impossible, and even at that advanced stage cures have been effected. There is also a remedy which has the same nature for tumors which is called antitumor and contains substances which go to build up the cartilaginous tissue of the animal body. The fact that cartilaginous tissue does not suffer from cancer leads a Berlin pathologist to the idea of using this substance to stop the further development of the cancer cells. After injection of antitumor a strong reaction sets in also. What success these remedies will have remains to be seen.

INEXPENSIVE FRIENDSHIPS.

"He likes to make friends with dogs and children."

"Yes," he says dogs don't want anything and children don't want much."

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SCOTLAND YARD IS READY

HAS PLANS TO GUARD CORONATION VISITORS.

Arrivals at Ports Will be Inspected, Raids Made and Hotels Watched.

The hundreds of international crooks and grafters who intend visiting London this summer and are hopeful of reaping a bumper harvest during the coronation time will be annoyed to learn that Scotland Yard has prepared extensive plans for their care and reception. Every device of the English law will be employed to keep them out of the country and if they should happen to slip in, every device to harry and prevent them from doing business will be enforced.

EXPECT SWARM OF CROOKS.

Information which Scotland Yard has received leads it to believe that a perfect locust-like swarm of crooks from all lands intend to descend upon London this year. Superintendent Frank Forest, the head of the criminal department of Scotland Yard, is fully cognizant of the situation and is arranging the most effective deposition of his 800 detectives to cope with the unwelcome invasion.

Arrivals at every English port, including Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton, Glasgow, Dover, Folkestone and others, will be subjected to a scrutiny by experienced detectives from the yard, and any recognized crook will be detained and rejected under the alien act. But this port precaution is only the skirmishing line of the campaign, so to speak. A large force of detectives will be set aside to spend their time at the leading hotels and restaurants watching for crooks and harrying them away if no real definite charge can be brought against them. The hotels will be most anxious to co-operate with Scotland Yard, not only prompted by the desire to rid their hostries of undesirable, and to protect their guests, but for their own protection as well, as under the English law a hotel that harbors thieves is liable to lose its license.

PLAN PERIODICAL RAIDS. Periodical raids and round-ups will be made at the various night resorts where these criminal petrels are sure to congregate. The action of the metropolitan police act which gives the police power to arrest anyone on suspicion of loitering about the streets for the purpose of committing a crime will be rigorously enforced.

Men with records, or known to the police, will be generally judged by the English magistrates to be loitering about for no good purpose, unless they can definitely show to the contrary, and be sentenced to three months' imprisonment. At the end of that time, under the new alien criminal act, which has been introduced, they will be deported, and if they show their noses again in England a two years' term will be the penalty.

A CLUB FOR EACH WIFE.

No Papuan Gentleman Beats Two Wives With Same Weapon.

The marriage customs of the Papuans are somewhat similar to those of many other savage races. The ceremony is in a matter of purchase. The men marry when they are about 18 years of age and the girls at 12 or even earlier.

When a young man desires to get married he visits the father of his prospective bride and puts forward his personal belongings as an inducement to the father to consent to the union.

If a man has a gun he is a great personage and can demand anything, but besides their bows and arrows and spears most of the Papuans have very little. Even agricultural produce is scarce, the only cultivation undertaken being on a very primitive scale.

A little clearing is made by both men and women, and the women then grow bananas and sweet potatoes. The men are always armed, and when the women go to the patch to attend to their crops or gather the produce the men go with them as a protection. The women, however, do the work.

Many families have a bundle of

ancient Portuguese cloth centuries old, and when a young man is seeking a bride one of these he looms is generally part of the deal. The youth and the girl's father haggle over the marriage until eventually they agree to terms and then the thing is done. The men are not limited to one wife, and once a girl is married she is subject to her husband in everything and is practically his slave.

"In another part of New Guinea," says a writer in the Wild World, "I remember a distinctly strong confirmation of the custom which places a woman at the entire mercy of her husband. At one house I visited I saw standing outside the doorway three huge stone clubs, each large enough to fell a bullock.

"On making enquiries I found that they tallied with the number of wives owing allegiance to the householder; the clubs were used by the man to beat his wives with if they annoyed him. The quaint part of it was that while the women seemed to raise no objection to being flogged unmercifully by their lord and master, they would not be beaten with the same weapon as that used on another woman; so the native kept a separate club for each wife."

FIRST CHILDREN.

English Doctor Thinks They Are the Poorest.

"The law of inheritance should be altered so that not the eldest but the second or third son comes into the possession of title, property and position on the father's death."

This revolutionary opinion was given by a physician with a large family practice in London when discussing the examinations of only and eldest children recently made in Vienna by Professor J. Friedjung, from which it would appear that only the eldest children are usually timid, neurotic, unstable and hysterical.

The professor had under examination 100 such children, forty-five of them being boys. Of them all only thirteen were fully normal. Eighteen were severely neurotic and sixty-nine showed nervous instability.

"I have frequently noticed that the eldest children are often backward and neurotic," said the family physician referred to. "The eldest child has usually been the only child for a considerable period and the only child is the hub of the house. Everybody has to give way to it; everything is sacrificed to it, and the child speedily suffers from exaggerated ego. Such a child is spoiled, pampered and improperly fed. Even supposing that it is not true that the first child is naturally more so good as later children, he soon becomes not so good because of the way he is treated.

"In large families the healthy children, physically and mentally, are those which, having been born latest, are left to grow up by themselves and look after each other, instead of being coddled and sheltered by the parents. Children of a big family are far fitter than those of one or two children only."

"Professor Friedjung is quite right," said another physician. "The best children are born when the mother is aged from 28 to 35."

WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The South African woman is generally very highly domesticated; she is not only capable of managing her native servants very cleverly, but she is able to cook well, make jam and pickles, look after poultry, attend to the garden and make her own dresses and those of her children," says the Empire Magazine.

The social life in all South African towns is a strong feature, dancing is a favorite amusement and holiday picnics on river banks are general. Women play tennis, croquet and golf and do a good deal of cycling. Life in South Africa ranges from old established culture and luxury, with every surrounding convenience and taste, to the loneliness of the veldt farm, and to this life and her husband's interests, the English born girl soon adapts herself if she is at all adaptable. She can be healthy, happy and free and usually fairly prosperous, with more money to spend than she would have in a similar position at home.