

bility and do not speak with authority). The public cares little whether an animal is red and white, fawn and white, black and white or "black and blue." What the public wants to know, and what they have a right to know, so far as public tests can settle such a question, is, what is the best cow for my, or our, particular line of dairying, whether it be milk production for town and city trade, cream and butter production, cheese, or condensed milk?

If the various Breed Associations wish to donate special prizes, or give money for the regular prizes, as they do now, for doing which they deserve highest commendation, they may do so under the proposed plan, but it is now time to get above petty breed jealousies, and adopt a basis of awards more in accord with the spirit of the times in a progressive dairy country?

If We Must Have Beef

L. C. Smith, Peel Co., Ont.

Ever and ever the tendency is more and more toward dairy cattle. Beef cattle are either standing still or actually on the decline in every province of Canada. But we eat just as much meat as ever we did. We Canadians, like our British ancestors, cannot get along without meat. Our wives do not know how to feed us properly without a good big percentage of beefsteak. If acquired characteristics are transmitted from father to son, then we Canadians are doomed to be meat eaters. Sometimes we decide when meat is particularly high in price that we will try the vegetarian stunt, but it doesn't work well. I tried it myself once, but it was worse than pestilence and famine.

But where is the meat to come from? Raising beef on the old lines is not profitable. I can remember in my father's day when practically the whole revenue of the farm came from what little grain we sold and from the steers. The cows did not give milk enough to make it worth while milking them after the first three or four months, and hence the foundation stock was a dead loss. Hence we have the effort to breed a dual purpose cow. Beef men believe that if they could get a cow that would give enough milk to pay for her keep over and above the feeding of the calf and make a fair profit besides, the steers sold then have only their own feed bill to pay and not their mothers as well. I believe it has been proven that the dual purpose cow is a myth and a delusion. The specialized dairy cow is so much more profitable that we cannot afford to give the dual purpose cow stable room. The difference is easily explained. Our dairy bred cattle have been bred with milk production as the sole object for hundreds, and in many cases thousands, of years. The production of milk has become a part of their nature. Beef bred cattle have inherited exactly opposite tendencies. And we expect in a generation or two to overcome the beefing tendency that has been inculcated by hundreds of years of breeding.

But we must have the beef. Here is my plan. Why not have our specialized herd of females of cows of some famous dairy breed? To breed beefing animals we would use a pure bred sire, but on no account would any of the progeny be retained in the herd. We would also keep a pure bred dairy sire which would be bred to only the best milkers in the herd, and the progeny here would be retained to perpetuate the foundation

stock. The advantage of this system would be that we would have a self-supporting herd and I believe we could breed from this cross, steers that would make good market animals. What do you think of my plan?

Alfalfa Growing in the Eastern Provinces

T. Glyson, Prince Co., P. E. I.

Some have had fair success in growing alfalfa here in the eastern provinces of Canada. The experiences of others have not been favorable. Such has always been our experience before with other new plants. The writer would urge upon dairy men who want to increase their profits in that line of farming to grow alfalfa. It has been proven to be as rich in food constituents as wheat bran. It has not found it difficult to grow from two and one-half to three tons to the acre with a fair amount of care in getting a good catch.

In the spring of 1911 I sowed one and one-half acres to alfalfa with a catch crop of oats. The oats grew a heavy crop, which gave the alfalfa a poor chance, but the oats were cut August 12th, and no stock was allowed on the field after, which gave the alfalfa a good growth before winter set in. During the following winter we had very little snow, and this gave the alfalfa another set-back, but the first of the next summer was very hot, and the alfalfa made a remarkable growth, it being ready to cut on July 8th. We got a crop of a little over two tons to the acre. Then came our next set-back, as we scarcely had a warm day for the remainder of the summer. We cut the second crop on August 20th, the yield being about 1,500 lbs. to the acre.

Our initial experience should be an encouragement to other dairy farmers to raise alfalfa for



The Most Profitable Crop Possible on Many Canadian Farms

Sheep have made good on the high-priced land of the Old Country. They are even better adapted to make a profit from rough land that cannot readily be tilled. There is room in every province for a great number of sheep, and after being long in disfavor we believe that our farmers are now beginning to appreciate the value of the "Golden Flock."

their cows. The best place to grow alfalfa is on a field sloping to the south with good drainage and sheltered from the cold winds in spring, by a wood if possible. The seed should be treated with nitro-culture before sowing. It requires at least 20 lbs. of seed to the acre. Although I have seen alfalfa growing a good crop in the most exposed field on my farm, I would avoid trying to grow it on wet or low land.

Hand selected seed always gives a good account of itself even in the most adverse season. Heredity counts; even in seeds.

There are prospects for a great trade in proved seed for years to come, and if all growers will deliver the right kind of goods, the demand will increase as the quality increases. Men who have clean farms should have their eyes open to their opportunities in this direction. The first here will reap the best profit.

Why Protect Farm Machinery?

A manufacturer of farm machinery says that if the farmer took as good care of his implements as the manufacturer did of his factory machinery his sales would drop off nearly one-half. A farm machine often suffers more depreciation when neglected during the winter than it would in two seasons of hard usage.

Nearly all farm machinery will stand a great many years of use if properly housed and cared for. The ordinary farmer gets only about one-third the service from his farm machinery that he should. The average life of a binder is from five to six years, but when properly housed and the necessary repairs made promptly, instances are on record where they have given 20 years of service.

A good coat of paint adds very materially to the appearance of a machine and pays for itself many times over in keeping the wood parts from rotting and the iron from rusting. In applying paint, remember that one coat of thin paint applied every year is much better than one coat of thick paint applied every two years.

The thing which should receive first consideration in the care of farm machines is a good dry shed to protect them from the weather. The life of a machine is increased many times by proper housing and care when not in use. It is not necessary to have an expensive building. All that is required is one that will keep out the moisture and direct rays of the sun. Above all things it should be dry. Dryness prevents rust and decay.

BEST TIME TO PROTECT

The time to make a machine ready for next season is not when you have the leisure to do it.

It should be attended to at the moment you haul it in from the field after you have finished with it. It is not a wise plan to put it off. If you wait for a more convenient time you are quite apt to neglect it altogether. Other work will come on and the farmer will consider himself too busy to stop. The consequence is, that he has lost a good chance to save himself a lot of labor the very next time he needs it.

When a machine is needed is very often when time is most valuable. If it has been neglected the previous season and

left to stand out-of-doors considerable time must be spent making repairs and putting it in such a condition so that we can use it. Often broken parts are found, which make it necessary to secure repairs before the machine can be used.

Just as necessary as the proper housing of a machine is the prompt repairing of all broken and missing parts. Every bolt in a farm machine is put there for a definite purpose and if broken or lost an undue strain is put on another part, often resulting in a serious breakage and loss in both time and money, for break downs always occur in the midst of a busy season.

All expense incurred in housing, painting and repairing farm tools will come back ten-fold in actual dollars and cents to the owner, besides the satisfaction of always knowing that the tools are ready and in good condition when wanted.

Is there money in seed improvement work? Mr. Geo. Boyce, of Menieville, one of our C. S. G. A. members, sold 800 bushels of seed oats for \$800. What would he have gotten for ordinary oats?—T. G. Raynor, Ottawa, Ont.