

acre is ample if put in this way, but it should not be covered too deeply. The drill will ensure a more even stand, as the seed can be put in to a more even depth.

I have never used anything to inoculate the seed and have had very good success in getting a stand, but would not say anything against inoculation. I think it much better to cut the crop the first season, as cutting will help to kill the weeds, strengthen the plants and send the roots farther down, making the stand stronger and better able to stand the winter. After the first year two very good crops should be grown. The first should be cut just as the plant is coming nicely in flower. It will make better hay than if it stands longer, and early cutting will give ample time for the second crop to mature. By cutting very early some have secured a third crop in a season. The quantity that can be secured per acre depends largely on the kind of stand. A reasonable stand should give two to three tons of hay per acre. Another advantage in having a good stand is in getting a better class of hay. The hay is finer, not so rank and stocky.

I have raised some very good seed, but have not had the success that can be had. Threshers being so busy they do not like to take the trouble to thresh little lots of alfalfa seed. But if the farmer can spare the time to try to grow good seed the thresher should be willing to help show what can be done. The time will come when threshers will be anxious to thresh alfalfa seed, because there will be money in it, and that is the best and only way to make a success of threshing the grain. In short I think alfalfa is the coming hay for this and other parts of the country.

Alta.

LEVI HARKER.

### Starting on the Prairie

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Some time ago I noticed in THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE an article on the capital needed to start farming. I would like to tell the following little story in that connection:

An old settler and I were on the trail last fall, when we met a strongly-built, determined-looking man of thirty coming from town with a yoke of oxen and an empty sleigh. After we had passed, the old settler said:

"There's a man that'll be the best-off man in this district in a few years, if he keeps on the way he's doing. He came in with nothing a year ago last spring and he's just finishing hauling out about a thousand bushels of wheat."

"Did he start on a homestead?" I asked.

"No, he came up here with his wife and baby and located in that old house back there. He got three green steers from somebody, broke them in, and started breaking for a fellow. He broke quite a bit, and then got the breaking of 30 acres more from which he was to get the whole of the first crop for pay. He did all kinds of work with those oxen and made good money right through. Then this year he has gone right ahead, and the crop from that 30 acres he broke is going to set him right up. He is going to have quite a lot of crop for 1910, and should be well on his feet if it turns out well at all. He has managed to get along without anything much in the way of machinery so far, and now he is in such shape he can buy all he needs."

How is that for a record for a man who started right from his uppers?

D. R.

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Large quantities of Western-grown oats were shipped South this season and sold for seed to the farmers of the corn belt. Canadian oats weighing from 40 to 45 pounds per bushel sell in the Central West at good prices, these sections not being climatically situated for the growing of large yielding heavy-weighting oats.

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Cultivate thoroughly the land intended for alfalfa. Destroy all the weed growth that appears. Then in the last half of May or early in June sow the alfalfa, seeding fifteen to twenty pounds per acre without a nurse crop.

## DAIRY

Hon. J. S. Duff, minister of agriculture for Ontario, introduced into the provincial legislature a government bill to amend the municipal act, empowering cities and towns to license and regulate milk vendors, and inspect places where milk is handled, whether in the municipality or elsewhere. It would also give power to revoke the license, if the commodity is not handled under clean, suitable and sanitary conditions.

### Feeding Dairy Cows

Milk contains a large percentage of protein or flesh-forming material. The food destined for milk production should, therefore, be rich in that element. Certain foods, such as clover, alfalfa, roots, gluten meal bran, oil-cake meal, cotton-seed meal, are rich in this constituent, and these feeds should, therefore, enter as largely as possible into the composition of the ration for the dairy cow. Certain other feeds, such as timothy hay, corn meal, barley, wheat straw, etc., are comparatively poor in this material, and should, therefore, be fed in moderation, or not at all, if the others are available.

The dairy cow should be persuaded to eat all she can. To this end, succulence is probably the cheapest and most satisfactory aid, and if to such a succulent ration the additional good qualities of easy digestibility and richness in protein be added then the dairyman's problem is solved.

J. H. GRISDALE.

### Big Returns From One Calf

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In forming a herd of cows for dairy purposes whatever the breed may be which is chosen, there are several things which must not be overlooked. The first is the use of sires from some well-known strain possessing the best of dairy properties, where records of the yields have been kept as well as the yield of butter fat. When you purchase cows to begin a herd choose only those which give you a good impression—cows having a good sized udder with nice medium sized teats, with a thin skin on the udder, the same coming well forward under the belly of the cow. Generally you can tell by the touch of the udder if she is a good producer of milk. With cows and a sire to mate to them the heifer calves should be kept and raised into cows. Hand-raising is preferred if you wish to get good dairy cows, especially if the breed you have in hand should be Shorthorns. In Cumberland and Westmoreland in the north of England, where it is generally admitted that some of the finest specimens of the dairy Shorthorns are raised, all breeders are thorough believers in the pail-raised calf. Their objection to the sucking process is that the calf gets too fat and tends too much to go to beef—and we all know the doctrine of "Train up a child, etc."

There seems to be something in the north country belief. I know from experience that you scarcely ever find hand-raised Shorthorns over there to fail to be excellent dairy cows. I remember my late father going to a sale of pedigree Shorthorns, about 40 years ago, when he was endeavoring to form a herd of dairy cows. He could not find anything to his liking at the place, but in looking over the farm next morning he came across a heifer calf that took his fancy, and as he saw the dam was what he wanted the next thing was to see the dam of the sire of the calf. This he succeeded in doing with quite a lot of trouble, and as all came up to this requirements he decided to purchase the calf if money could get it; and he bought it for about \$100. For a two weeks old calf it certainly looked risky, but it turned out all right. We raised quite a large family from this strain, mated always with bulls selected from Shorthorns possessing great dairy qualities; with the result in my 20 years' handling of these cattle that I

never knew a failure as a dairy animal amongst them. To-day you will find them with the highest yields at the London dairy show. On several occasions winners were found to have been produced from this strain so practically raised by a north country tenant farmer, when Shorthorns were anything but a success at dairying. You can find specimens from this illustrious calf in Lord Rothschild's and several other noted dairy-men's herds, and it is doubtful if there is a more valuable strain in the Shorthorn breed to-day than these descendants of my late father's purchase of 40 years ago. In addition several bulls from this strain have taken the highest awards at all the principal shows in the Old Country. Therefore I feel confident, with care and attention, it is possible for us in Canada to do the same, if we will only persevere.

Alta.

TOM RAWLINSON.

### How I Built Up a Dairy Herd

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

How would I advise fellow-farmers to proceed to build up a profitable herd of cows for dairy purposes? This is not just as simple a question as at first sight it appears. It embraces the possibility of various initial conditions, each of which would presuppose a different start. One herd might contain females of merit; another not have a single animal worthy of consideration from a dairy standpoint.

However, the first requisite to improvement is to know just where we stand, and one must make sure of the capabilities of the females of the herd at the start. In Manitoba the dairy department of the Agricultural College is now ready to assist any desirous of this information. This is a great help, as it relieves the farmer of much intricate and troublesome detail, and of considerable expenditure for equipment, and gives him expert assistance when it will prove exceedingly valuable. I am availing myself of these advantages and commend the same to any who wish to improve their knowledge of just which cows are profitable and which are boarders. This work is an adaptation of the Contesting Association, which has been very successful in the Eastern provinces, and enables the cow owner to obtain the necessary information cheaply, easily and exactly.

How much easier and better than the conditions when I set in to improve my herd—but my experience helps me to value this, and also to confirm the next step which would be to obtain a pure-bred bull of my favorite breed, who ought to have as dam and grand-dam good milkers and be himself a promising animal. Now all the heifers from this bull won't be of equal value, and the process of selection will have to go on, and on, always breeding in the same line. This is imperative, swapping and changing breed of bulls is fatal to success, and this won't come right away—nor ought we to expect it. Exposure, neglect, cross-breeding, poor feeding for years have produced results which can only be overcome by many years of careful breeding, painstaking selection, scientific feeding, careful handling and housing.

My own herd has been built up from about 3,000 pounds to 6,000 pounds per cow per annum, and with no extra cost for feed. They are not unprofitable but in a few years I expect to make the average 10,000 at a very slight increase in the cost of feed, which increase I expect will be returned in methods of cultivation, and then the herd will be more than doubly profitable. This result will follow working upon the same lines, breeding up, selecting, and improved feeding.

When neighborhoods follow this line as well as individuals, even better results can be obtained, for instance a number clubbing together can buy a better bull than perhaps the individual can afford; the neighborhood would get a better market for surplus stock than the individual, as buyers would be able to obtain car lots. Then the spirit of co-operation would enter, and the social life of the neighborhood, where all are employed at one occupation will be improved.

Man.

J. H. FARTHING.