

FRUIT BULLETIN

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O'LEARY, V.C.

(By an Irish Correspondent of the "Times," London)

I can recall Tom Kiely in his prime, I have seen the athletes who represented America at the Olympic Sports, and I have watched the All Black New Zealand team; but I have never seen a man who more impressed me with the sense of physical fitness than Sergeant Michael O'Leary, V.C., home on leave from the trenches. In the few following days I had opportunity of observing him in many and varied surroundings—he always of course the idol and the central figure. Everywhere he bore himself as a hero should, simple and unabashed. On his way back from the Palace Theatre in Cork, he said merrily, looking at his bruised right hand, that he must get back to the trenches to rest!

Sergeant Michael O'Leary is only twenty-five years old. At one time he was in the navy, but was invalided out. The work of scraping boilers, and sitting cross-legged in the wet, gave him rheumatism of the knees, but he recovered to join the Irish Guards, and after serving with the colors passed into the Reserve.

In the R.N.W.M.P.

Soon after leaving the Irish Guards he learned an agent was over from Canada recruiting for the North-West Mounted Police, and as he was a shade under the height for the R.I.C. he decided to try his luck. The medical test for the North-West Mounted is very severe, but O'Leary was easily selected, and the hard, open-air work was much to his liking. All the patrolling is done on horse-back, and the average daily duty is thirty miles. O'Leary gave a taste of his cool courage in capturing two robbers after a running fight lasting two hours. The thieves were armed with automatic revolvers. O'Leary was presented with a gold ring, which he still wears, and the donor remarked prophetically, "If you do as well on active service, you will earn the Victoria Cross."

Rejoined the Guards

On the outbreak of war, none of the North-West Police were allowed to send in petitions, and late in November O'Leary joined his old regiment in France. There were only 140 left of the gallant battalion that fought stubbornly in the Brigade of Guards to protect the retreat from Mons. It was very hard to get O'Leary to speak of his deed of February 1 that won the V.C., and often he said that many had done more, but had not his luck. The Coldstream Guards were next his regiment, and their outposts were surprised and the position was lost. The Irish Guards had a shot at retaking it, but the fire was too heavy. A day passed

and the Irishmen wanted another chance, but the Coldstreams said the job was theirs. A heavy bombardment preceded the attack, and then the Coldstreams came out to cross the 200 yards that separated them from the German trenches.

O'Leary was an orderly that day, and not being for active duty, carried no bayonet. He had, however, all day been watching the country ahead, and saw the earth thrown up. The Coldstreams were met by a heavy fire, and the charge hung a little bit, and then in support the Irish Guards came out. O'Leary, fleet of foot, seems to have got well ahead. He had not got far when he felt the ground give, and, springing back, he saw a German bomb-thrower in a covered-in pit. He shot him, and hurrying on to an angle of a trench he had marked all day, he came on it sideways, and with five shots disposed of as many Germans; the second man fired at him but missed.

Captured the Gun

He saw his comrades busy with the bayonet farther up the trench, and leaving that job, he decided to make for the second point, some sixty yards farther on, where he knew a machine gun lived. If he could get there before it was remounted and brought into play, so much the better. He calculated it was dismounted during the bombardment lest it be put out of action. One quick glance showed O'Leary he could not cross the swampy ground between him and the machine gun, so away up the left he sprinted, and along the railway cutting, shoving in five more cartridges. He had started with his magazine carrying ten and one in the breech.

A jump, and he is off the crossing and down a pathway of sandbags and the machine gun section suddenly see O'Leary standing on their right front. The officer has his finger on the button to release the hail of lead when O'Leary fired. He never pressed that button. One can see the white scared faces of the others and O'Leary ruthlessly avenging many a hideous crime, steadily going down the line. One can hear him calling on his comrades and see the wild dash and the mud flying and the Irish Guards using their bayonets in that trench. O'Leary had emptied his rifle and won the Victoria Cross.

An Unspoiled Hero

In his little speech of thanks in the square of Bantry he told us he had only done his duty and he was going back to the trenches to try again. I heard him say he did not want a German sniper to get him; if the end came in a charge it wouldn't matter. The old Latin tag, "mens sana in corpore sano," kept coming back irresistibly to my mind in O'Leary's presence. His pleasant smile lights up the freckled face, and the clear blue eyes, alert and direct, that meet yours so steadily, are a true index of his simple, resolute heart. No superfluous tissue clogs the free play of his silken muscles; they are ready and alert for manly deed. And so with his mind; there is the fixed purpose to do his duty, and his soul is freed from all excesses that would cloud or obscure this one idea. Unshaken, he has carried this resolve on the battlefields of Flanders, and no man is more surprised that the world talks of his little turn of duty on February 1. He has been awarded the highest medals for valor from the British, French and Russian nations.

At a banquet in his honor in his native county he asked for lemonade, and when thoughtlessly pressed to take wine he closed the matter by stating gravely he had to "keep fit." Many hundreds of times was he asked for his autograph, and many hundreds of times did he comply.

THE DAIRY SIRE

The dairy bull, as well as every other breeding animal, should be handled from birth to maturity in such a manner

as to insure the fullest natural development. The underfed and uncared for calf will always remain undersized, and while his offspring may not be any smaller on this account, the question as to whether his undersize is inherited or caused by poor management can never be determined, and his desirability as a sire is thereby diminished.

As good or better results are usually attained by feeding the bull calf on skim milk as when whole milk is used, altho some breeders follow the practice of allowing the animal to suckle a nurse cow until eight months or a year old. Under ordinary circumstances the calf should be allowed to suckle its dam for two or three days; then gently broken to drink and allowed whole sweet milk for two weeks or more and then gradually changed to sweet skim milk. It is an advantage to feed the milk directly from the separator and before it becomes cold.

The calf should be taught to eat as soon as possible. He will begin to nibble grain and hay or grass at two weeks of age, and soon thereafter will be using a regular ration. He should be fed quite liberally on grain in connection with his skim milk and hay. For grain, corn with oats and bran or oil meal gives good results, while clover, alfalfa or other leguminous hay is best adapted to his needs. There is no particular advantage in keeping the calf fat, but there is no harm done if he appears smooth and beefy while young, as this condition will soon disappear. If possible the skim milk should be fed until the eighth or ninth month, or even longer.

Separate from the Herd

The young bull should be separated from the heifers by the time he is six months old, or even before if he shows signs of early development. He is best confined with other bulls of his own age or with young steers. By the time he is a year old he can be given light service, but he should not be used more than once a week. There is serious danger of impairing his future usefulness by too frequent service, and this is one of the most potent arguments in favor of keeping him confined.

The advantage of using him a little while quite young is that it permits his ability as a producer of high quality cows to become apparent by the time he reaches his fourth year of age. If his get fail to show good results at the pail, he can be disposed of while still quite young and a better performer secured in his place.

At one year of age a ring should be placed in the bull's nose for convenience in handling. This should be done regardless of a mild disposition on his part. Any bull of a dairy breed is likely to become vicious, and this should always be kept in mind. Under no circumstances must he be allowed to discover his own power, but he must always be kept in subjection. Treat him with kindness, but firmness, and never allow him to be teased or harassed either by man or by other animals. He should not be allowed to run with the herd, because a record of the date of breeding of the cows cannot be kept, heifers may be bred while too young or cows too soon after calving, and the bull exhausts himself and becomes an uncertain breeder.

While the advantages of keeping the bull confined are generally recognized, yet the method of confining him is sometimes far from what it should be. Too often he is compelled to remain in a dark, dirty stall where he has no chance to exercise. Under such treatment his breeding powers are weakened and he often becomes impotent by the time he is mature. He is best confined in a large, airy box stall, opening into a well fenced paddock, or a good shed in the corner of a lot is sufficient. Some provision should also be made to relieve him from torture by flies.

Exercise is important with the bull and he should be allowed plenty of it. Where more than one bull is kept on a place they can usually be placed in the same lot without damage, tho occasionally this cannot be done on account of a vicious disposition.

A great amount of care and consideration must be given the bull from his earliest days up, but they are necessary in developing and maintaining his highest worth.

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