

The 3,000 lb. Cow of Quebec

J. C. Chapais, Assistant Dairy Commissioner, St. Denis, Que.

The report of the Chief Dairy Inspector of Eastern Ontario for 1908, showed an average milk yield per cow of only 2,700 pounds in the six months, May to October. Allowing for home use and after-season milk, the return would be little, if any, over the disheartening 3,000 pounds limit. The situation concerning dairy cows of Eastern Ontario as stated, is pretty much that of the Province of Quebec. Its causes are also for Quebec what they are assigned to be for eastern Ontario, viz., too much importance attributed to the external point of the cow and too little to its alimentation.

Many were undoubtedly surprised when they were told that in a large section of Ontario, there are more cows giving yearly only 3,000 pounds of milk than there are of those giving a larger yield. We generally find in the columns of the agricultural press records of cows giving from 7,000 to 15,000 and even 20,000 lbs. of milk yearly. We do not entertain any doubt about the truthfulness of such assertions. We know what are the wonderful performances of some Holstein and Ayrshire cows. It is very seldom that any mention of cows yielding only 4,000 lbs. or less is printed, consequently some readers come to the conclusion that the majority of the cows of the province are all phenomena, whose average yearly yield of milk is at least, 6,000 lbs. Many are in fact induced to scorn their own common cows and to get, through great money sacrifices, some offspring

is the disappointment of the ordinary farmer who buys one of those cows, keeps her in a poor stable, feeds her insufficiently with coarse feed and finally soon sees that costly animal take on the poorest of appearance and give but a scanty yield of milk.

SIMPLE WAYS OF IMPROVEMENT

It is only after such unlucky experiments that the farmer comes to think that there are other ways of improving his herd and those ways are simple. Let him buy a well bred bull of the Ayrshire or French Canadian breeds of cattle, raised under the severe climate of eastern Ontario or Quebec and practise the selection of the offspring of that bull mated with his best common cows. Then, by taking good care of those well selected animals, feeding them with substantial and liberally supplied food, he will obtain, not extraordinary yields, but an average of 5,000 to 6,000 lbs. of good, rich milk, yearly, and he will not incur the risk of introducing in his herd and locality such diseases as tuberculosis, which readily prey on the very highly bred animals, which on account of too frequent inbreeding, excessive production of milk and want of acclimatization, are not hardy enough to do well with only ordinary care and food.

Difficulties and Discouragements with Alfalfa

Alfalfa dying out the second year is, in most incidents, due to one or two causes, namely, neglect to plow under stable manure for the preceding crop, or pasturing in its first year. Not an animal should be turned on

Economy in Plowing

Plowing, on the farm of Mr. R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., the gold medal farmer of 22 counties, is an interesting operation. While at this farm some time ago an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy was much interested in what he saw. Two three-horse teams were hauling double furrow plows and a single team a single furrow plow. "By plowing in this way," said Mr. Ness, "we figure that three men and eight horses can do as much work as five men with single furrow plows. In this way also less time is lost turning the horses at the ends of the furrows."

"Our fields are in 20-acre lots, 2 acres wide and 10 long. We are turning 12 ft. ridges into 18 ft. ridges by putting three into two to save machinery and the loss of time that takes place where small pieces are worked. Fields of this size work extra well with all the farm machinery that is used in their turn, first the double furrow plow, the 4 horse double disc cutaway harrow, X seed-er, smoothing harrow, roller, double horse corn cultivator, binders, manure spreaders, side delivery rake, hay loader, etc. Each implement in turn works much better on a long straight stretch, than in short, fields besides saving time and fencing.

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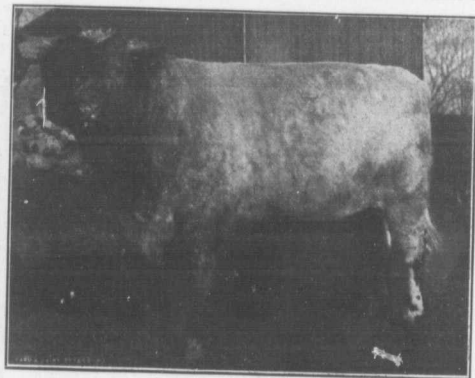
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WHERE THE MISTAKE COMES IN

This is a great mistake. In fact many don't know what amount of inbreeding has been required in order to make of such large yields the standing character of a family, which differs as much from the common families of its own breed as do the various breeds of cattle between themselves. They are not aware that those animals must be very highly fed. They further forget that those marvelous milkers have very delicate constitutions on account of their high in and in breeding. This fact puts their owners under the obligation of keeping them in the most comfortable lodgings and of bestowing upon them the best and most constant care. For these various reasons, we may imagine what

an alfalfa field for pasture until the second year, preferably the third. Another cause is disturbance of the soil and plants by severe freezing. This may often be prevented in a degree by a light top dressing of manure in December.

Of course, alfalfa calls for more work in harvesting than corn, or clover, or timothy, but one acre of prosperous alfalfa is worth two or three acres of corn, or clover, or timothy, even for market, while for feeding purposes, the difference is even greater. The poor farmer, the lazy farmer, the corner grocery farmer or should not sow alfalfa.—Extract from "Coburn's Book on Alfalfa."

Note.—It is not safe to pasture alfalfa in Canada the third or any year.—Hy. Glendenning, Ontario Co., Ont.

Do not hurry the cows from the pasture to be milked.