

## Retention of the Afterbirth

Dr. David Roberts, Wisconsin

Retention of the afterbirth, or failure to clean, is an ailment among cattle which is not uncommon and often looked upon by the ordinary breeder as trivial. At the same time there is perhaps no common ailment or disease that is more troublesome.

The cause of this ailment are numerous, such as abortion, being out of condition at the time of freshening, freshening in a damp, cold stable, having access to cold water immediately after calving or being constipated at the time of freshening.

Perhaps there is no period in a cow's life that she should be given more careful attention than at the time of freshening as the slightest exposure to a cow in this delicate condition is liable to prove serious.

### PRECAUTION

A cow approaching the period of freshening should be given proper care and attention. Her feed should

be plished to some extent in the care and feeding of the animal previous to freshening.

If, however, the animal is unfortunate enough to retain the afterbirth longer than three hours after freshening it is important to give her special attention, such as placing a blanket upon her in cold weather, give warm drinks, boiled oats, bran mash, and such medical ingredients as will have a tendency to ripen the afterbirth, enabling it to come away of its own weight and accord.—"Kimball's."

## A British Columbia Prize Farm

One of the successful competitors in the prize farms competition conducted by the Department of Agriculture of British Columbia, is the farm owned by J. M. Steves. His farm consists of about 200 acres of prairie land in Fraser valley, about 12 miles from Vancouver city.

About 80 head of pure bred Hol-

stein breeding, to be obtained. Mr. Fisher has succeeded in getting 27 head out of high-record families, and these will be offered for sale at public auction at Fredericton, on the 12th of April. At this sale an opportunity will be afforded all provincial breeders to offer anything they have for sale that is pure bred and registered. This applies not only to cattle, but also to horses, and it is expected that there will be quite a large offering of stock. This sale will be conducted along the lines of the provincial sales held in past years in Ontario.

## Facts About a Prize Farm

J. W. Richardson, Haldimand Co., Ont.

The Dairy Farms Competition, as conducted by Farm and Dairy during the past two years, has been an education to us. We have found out some of our weak points. In these we hope to improve. Our steading, "Riverside Farm," is situated three miles west of Caledonia, on the banks of the Grand River. It now contains 550 acres. It is 40 years since my father purchased the first 100 acres. He was one of a large family, and when he started out his funds were low, so he purchased a farm as low in price as possible. It was pretty well run down, as wheat and barley had been grown extensively and sold off the farm for some years. His aim was to build up the farm, pay off the mortgage, and make a home for himself and family.

Since that time the farm has been gradually built up, and one of the items in the building up of the farm was the growing of alfalfa. It is 34 years since it was first sown on the farm. The first three or four years we were not successful, but we persevered, and for a great many years we have grown alfalfa successfully.

At first it was grain growing, then beef raising, but the profits were low. Twenty years ago we began weighing our milk and found our returns so low from a beef and dairy herd

that we decided to specialize, and began at once to breed a dairy herd. We selected a pure bred dairy sire to head our herd, and weeded out the beefy cows and poor milkers. Our aim has been to build up a first class dairy herd by proper selection and breeding, and securing the best sires possible to place at the head of our herd. Some of the champion producers have been raised and gone out from Riverside Farm.

For 30 years we conducted a home dairy and made butter. For the last five years, however, we have sent our milk to the cheese factory in summer and to the creamery in winter.

In dairying we increase the fertility of the soil. By doing so we are able to feed two cows and feed them better on the same land that once fed one. The main feature of our farm operations is the production of alfalfa, clover, roots, and ensilage. By growing these crops we lower the cost of production of milk.

## Experience with Alfalfa

Four tons of satisfying cattle and horse fodder was secured per acre by Mr. R. Scott, of Smith township, Peterboro Co., Ont., last year from a four acre plot that had seeded to alfalfa three years before. Mr. Will Scott, while conversing with an editor of Farm and Dairy last week, stated that they had fed the alfalfa to their horses and worked them on it for a considerable time last fall, giving them no grain at all, and they worked well and kept up in good condition on the alfalfa alone.

Mr. Scott is seeding four acres more to alfalfa this year. Last year he seeded 2½ acres to alfalfa; thus he will have a very fair acreage seeded to this valuable crop.

The second cutting last year, owing to the unfavorable season, did not amount to much. The first and third cuttings were heavy. Mr. Scott says that alfalfa hay seems to be very satisfying to his cows. They like it well and milk splendidly when fed upon it.



Where Cows are Kept Clean, Comfortable and Contented.

An interior view of the cattle stable on Valley, B.C., is here shown.

be of a laxative nature, easy to digest, her surroundings should be of a sanitary condition. She should be placed in a thoroughly disinfected and properly bedded box stall, and should be given close attention during the act of freshening and until she is delivered of her afterbirth.

The afterbirth is attached to the womb by about 63 cotyledons, buttons or small attachments, so it is not surprising that when anything changes the condition of the animal which may interfere with the circulation of the blood that these little attachments fail to ripen and release the cow or the afterbirth.

A cow in a strong, healthy, normal condition should expel the afterbirth a few hours after freshening in a way which resembles the ripening of an apple, which after reaching a certain period is released from the tree, and if the apple is pulled from the tree while still green or unripened, there is danger of the twigs or branches being pulled off. The same may be applied to the afterbirth.

### DANGER TO AVOID

If the afterbirth is removed by main force before it has reached a ripened condition, there is great danger of the cotyledons, buttons or little attachments being pulled off with the afterbirth. This will leave raw sores in the womb of the cow, which are liable to become infected by putrefaction of clotted blood or portions of the afterbirth retained, which often is the case when the afterbirth is removed by main force. In this manner many a valuable cow is ruined by having the afterbirth mechanically removed, which requires considerable force, especially when it is not in a condition to come away of its own weight.

Consequently it is always important to give cows at this period the very best of care and attention. Do all in your power to prevent retention of afterbirth, which can be accom-

plished to some extent in the care and feeding of the animal previous to freshening. If, however, the animal is unfortunate enough to retain the afterbirth longer than three hours after freshening it is important to give her special attention, such as placing a blanket upon her in cold weather, give warm drinks, boiled oats, bran mash, and such medical ingredients as will have a tendency to ripen the afterbirth, enabling it to come away of its own weight and accord.—"Kimball's."

## Notes From New Brunswick

W. W. Hubbard, Fredericton, N.B.

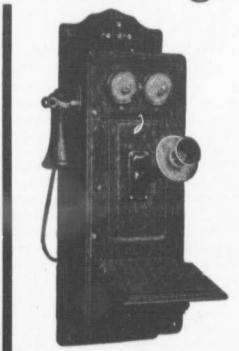
In stock raising and in dairying the province of New Brunswick is most backward; outside of King's County, where about one half of all the factory cheese and creamery butter of the province is made, there is not much interest taken in the dairy cow.

In King's County, however, where the business has not been increasing lately, there is much greater activity among dairy farmers, who now that they see alfalfa can be grown as a fodder crop, are much encouraged over the feed problem, which has been a serious difficulty with them in the past. These farmers especially in the Sussex district have been fairly consistent breeders of good dairy stock, specializing on the Ayrshire breed. As a consequence, most of them are getting fairly good returns from their herds, and they have a splendid foundation upon which to breed up to larger production.

### PURE BRED STOCK AT AUCTION

The dairymen who attended the recent Farmers' and Dairymen's annual meeting succeeded in having a resolution unanimously passed, urging the Department of Agriculture to make an importation of good dairy stock. The Department immediately acted upon this recommendation, and Mr. Geo. E. Fisher, Sec. of the Association, was asked to attend some of the Ontario sales and gather there and elsewhere some of the highest producing individuals, and bulls of

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