

Gossip.

Maple Lodge R. O. P. Shorthorns.

With the price of milk and all dairy products soaring away above the high level there has, in the past few years, been a tendency for some of our Short-horn breeders to be rather boastful of the milking qualities of many of their breeding females. Far too few have, however, taken advantage of the Record of Performance Test by putting these cows on official test for yearly production, so the public can have some authentic records as to how closely these herds really do approach the ideals of these admirers of the dual-purpose cow. For this reason alone there are many herds in the country to-day which include females capable of producing upwards of ten thousand pounds for the year and these are classed with cows of some so-called milk producing herds. As many "Advocate" readers will remember, one of the very first Shorthorn breeders in Canada to take up the R. O. P. work was the late A. W. Smith, of Maple Lodge, Ont., known also as one of Ontario's most prominent breeders of Leicester sheep. Mr. Smith was at all times an ardent worker towards the advancement of all breeds of live stock. In Shorthorns he had his own ideas and a visit to the herd to-day, which is managed in the same careful way by his sister, Miss C. Smith, proves conclusively that the foundation was laid along the right lines. A great many of the more fashionable families of the day are represented in the breeding females, and the semi-official records of production of a number of these should be of interest to all. The three or four mentioned below will be sufficient to give a favorable comparison of the milking qualities, and here it may be said that the beef type has by no means been sacrificed. The majority are big, strong cows, in most cases carrying a wealth of flesh. Norma's Rose has, as a four-year-old, just completed her year with 8,698 lbs. of milk testing 4 per cent., an increase in milk, of 2,038 lbs. over her last-year record. Julia, another Lavinia cow of the same breeding, has over 8,000 lbs. in nine months. Gipsy Lady 2nd, still another of the same family, has 11,576 lbs. of milk and 530 lbs. of fat, her average test being 4.57 for the year. These are only a few of the older females. There are a number of other females, Strathallans, Cecilias, Duchesses, etc. A two-year-old heifer of the latter family, Griselda 5th has 6,037 lbs. in 319 days and also averaged over 4 per cent. If in need of a young bull, a few females or anything in Leicesters it will be well to keep the Maple Lodge herd and flock in mind.

A Parting Christmas Rhyme.

At Christmas-time the fields are white,
And hill and valley all bedight
With snowy splendor, while on high
The black crows sail athwart the sky,
Mourning for summer days gone by
At Christmas-time.

At Christmas-time the air is chill
And frozen lies the babbling rill;
While sobbingly the trees make moan
For leafy greenness once their own,
For blossoms dead and birdlings flown
At Christmas-time.

At Christmas-time we deck the hall
With holly branches brave and tall,
With sturdy pine and hemlock bright,
And in the Yule-log's dancing light
We tell old tales of field and fight
At Christmas-time.

At Christmas-time we pile the board
With flesh and fruit and vintage stored,
And 'mid the laughter and the glow
We tread a measure soft and slow,
And kiss beneath the mistletoe
At Christmas-time.

O God, and Father of us all,
List to Thy lowliest creature's call,
Give of Thy joy to high and low,
Comfort the sorrowing in their woe,
Make wars to cease and love to grow
At Christmas-time.

Let not one heart be sad to-day,
May every child be glad and gay,
Bless Thou Thy children great and small,
In lowly hut or castle hall,
And may each soul keep festival
At Christmas-time.

Rubber Actually Drops in Price While Everything Else Goes Up

How British Government's Foresight Saves Canadians Millions of Dollars. Wearing Rubbers, Overshoes and Rubber Boots to Save Leather is Certainly Sensible Economy.

Despite the war tax, and increases of from 50% to 100% in the cost of the cottons and chemicals used in its manufacture, there has been practically no advance in the prices of rubber footwear, thanks to the surprising fact that the rubber itself actually costs less than before the war.

Up till about 1908, the rubber forests of South America and Africa, producing about 60,000 tons a year, easily supplied the demand, and raw rubber sold at \$1.00 to \$1.30 a pound. But when motor cars began to multiply, and the use of rubber belting, hose, footwear, and a hundred other things kept on increasing, the consumption of rubber grew phenomenally, quickly exceeding the supply. By 1910, raw rubber had gone up to \$3.00 a pound, and rubber goods of all kinds kept pace. Probably you remember paying excessive prices for rubbers for a year or two.

In this alarming situation relief came—not as the World expected, from synthetic rubber invented by German chemists—but from plantation rubber grown in Ceylon, Sumatra and the Malay States, with the encouragement and aid of an Empire-building British Government. These plantations, begun several years earlier, came into the market in 1910 with 8,200 tons—11% of the World's supply. By 1914, when the war broke out, they were producing 60% of the total—and controlled the situation.

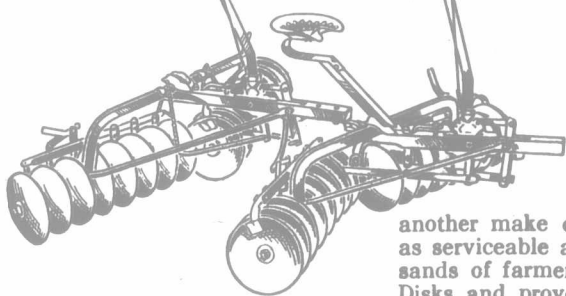
Then, with a practical monopoly of raw rubber and absolute control of the seas, Great Britain was in a position to supply the enormous war requirements of the Allies and to cut the Teutons off completely. This, of course, she has done, but, instead of charging the rest of the world high prices, the British Government actually lowered the price to less than 70 cents a pound—a figure below that asked before the war.

This means a substantial saving to every man, woman and family in Canada—a saving doubly important on account of the 80% advance in the cost of shoe leather. It means that a pair of rubbers, costing from 75 cents to \$1.25, will practically double the life of a pair of shoes costing several times as much—that an inexpensive pair of overshoes will add months of wear and comfort to old shoes that would be useless without them—that rubber farm boots will cost far less than leather for the winter and spring, while they will keep the feet dryer.

Besides the saving of money and the invaluable protection to health, wearing rubbers helps to win the war. The soldiers MUST have leather in vast quantities for shoes and equipment—and it is getting scarcer all the time. So every pair of boots we save releases leather for military use and is but a fair return to the British Government, whose foresight and fairness have made our rubber footwear so cheap.

**Save The Leather For The Soldiers—
Help Win The War!**

Sizes for Horses or Tractors



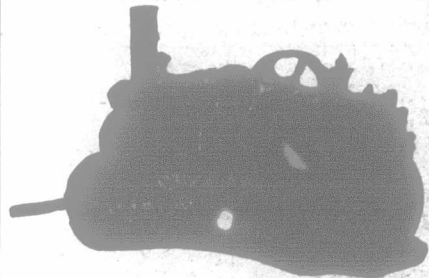
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