



FARM AND DAIRY



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

& RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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Evidences of Progress in Cow Testing*

Interest is increasing as the Money Value of the Test Becomes More Apparent

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IF we may assume that cow testing is of some value to dairymen, we may hope to find some evidences of progress. A hasty sketch of two or three results may therefore be of interest.

One evidence of recent progress in cow testing is the marked increase of interest taken in it by the average dairy farmer, interest real and widespread. Requests for information on the subject and for record forms come by almost every mail from all provinces. One demand for a further supply contains this typical statement, "I would not like to stop weighing; it is a surprising check on the feeding and working condition of the individual cow." That man weighs every milking.

A second evidence is the decided influence cow testing has had on general public sentiment. Occasional discussions on it are overheard amongst non-dairymen in public places, frequently with this commentary, "what a simple and sensible proposition." It is not regarded as a freakish experiment; indeed, cow testing has proved itself a vital necessity to the progress of the true dairyman. Invisibly banded and corded together as such good men are now, the time seems almost ripe for a membership badge or a club button as a distinguishing mark of honor for these leaders, real benefactors of their communities.

Where Farm Improvements Flourish

Then the solid and substantial improvements made on dairy farms belonging to this progress class of cow testers constituted even to the most casual observer a third strong evidence. Where do you note the abundant forage crop, the improved stables, the windmills, the new silo, etc., etc.? On the very farms whose owners use milk records. Local tradesmen and machinery agents have that fact sired up, and to those particular farms stream through the local dealers the labor-saving implements, the good piano, the new dresses, the inside plumbing and lighting systems for the deserving partners in the home. Cow testing helps along "business as usual"; it rests not there, but always in the van of progress issues a summons to every devotee for "better business than ever."

Turning now to the personal equation, we find in the large crop of benefit reaped by the farmer himself a fourth evidence in such improvement made in the ordinary dairy herd that registers on the luminous dial of progress not merely present gain, but a forecast of future greatness. We find, for example, that the standard of production is being steadily advanced, men now talk freely of 7,000 and 8,000 pounds of milk as a herd average, and that type of owner aims even higher, while the type formerly content with 4,000 pounds

of delicious food for mankind from the coarsest of feed, yet we can only stand aghast at the large room there is for general improvement. Taking a survey of 650 herds in our five eastern provinces, I contrasted the best cow in each herd with a poor one, the lowest yield but one, and obtained this result; valuing fat at 30 cts. a pound and allowing \$55 as the average cost of feed, each one of the best cows gave as much profit above that feed cost as was made by 15 cows of the poorest type. This comparison of 1,300 representative cows surely points out one great want, a better supervision and direction of willing, but at present quite erratic, cow energy is urgently needed on many a farm to-day; with 15 to 1 the odds are altogether too unequal. In this great cow game, duly indexed on fateful cards, what hand do you hold? Have you four dairy queens, a royal flush, or some mean little two spots?

It is the outstanding privilege, more, the bounden duty, of every dairyman to move the pointer on his own pressure gauge of efficiency. Cow testing is good insurance against losses, and builds a solid concrete dam against the deceptive leaks caused by those poor cows that dribble only a meagre 125 or 130 pounds of fat in a season. We need to replace that too costly kind, that deciduous cow shedding her leaves too early in the fall, by the economical almost evergreen type that in an honest season's work cheerfully gives 280 or 300 pounds of fat. To weigh and sample is but a trifle, a matter of only half a minute; from that tiny seed act climbs the sturdy plant of

While we entertain unbounded admiration for the good dairy cow as an economical producer

(Concluded on page 16.)



Cows of this Type Become More Common as the Cow Testing Movement Extends Its Influence. —Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy on Farm of John Murphy, Dundas Co., Ont.

*Part of an address delivered to the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, in convention assembled.