

MEET

Experimenters in Small Farm.

because it makes appearance in the an attractive out need in it?" asked

a growing popu- which, for some both barley and wheat, the profes- the greatest per- Ontario of any years. In speak- high every farm- for table of the the Golden Hen- exceeding five, mailed for flavor, it they are there in case of the

ON DISPELLED the alto- idea, that the most desirable duction stand- s conducted at oughout the pre- mension has for siderably ahead 1912 the Ideal, form, gave the at this point a fessor what he manged. Pro- me sugar man- 0 per cent. of five per cent. el, and 15 per cent, but they not in the manged.

g fodder corn the present. The nt which was 6 tons per acre 29 tons per acre. was, was the most at it would be in Ontario. mention was rior, a variety 186.4 bushels rorable season, dry and almost potatoes Irish Eureka are choose between

STION compared his e distribution similar to the ss cow might slippery turlo- would be to off the ques- if ordinary ed to be applied average farm. test points in ing the tying of capital in and the irreg- As remedie- tested that all the fields in the machinery of the ase buildings, duction of seed and over and out of the live ty will be dealt ure issue of

arning on a home to the being manor ie, Ont. and Mr. Clark's to the require- it is to say 25-acre farm (p. 11)

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No. 3

A SUGGESTED BASIS OR SCALE FOR AWARDEING PRIZES IN COW COMPETITIONS*

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Awards in Dairy Tests Should be Made on a Strictly Commercial Basis. A Commercial Classification Entirely Eliminating Breed Considerations Suggested. Would This Make The Test of More General Value?

WHAT the French call, *Loistes Poires*, or the "let alone" policy is most popular with the masses. A new idea is usually distasteful to most persons. Some one has said, "mankind in general, hates new ideas because it requires thinking in order to understand and accept them." This peculiar trait of humanity has been put into a rhyme which runs as follows:

"To follow foolish precedent and wink
With both our eyes, is easier than to think."
Men who advocate changes and improvements are usually spoken of as "cranks," "kickers," and "knockers." The fact is, however, that most improvements have resulted from new ideas generated in the brain of a thinker—a "kicker" if you will.

The present is essentially a commercial age, particularly so for the Anglo-Saxon race. Commerce holds sway in, and dictates the policy of nations who speak the English language. Philosophy and sentiment play but a small part in this "work-a-day," "get-rich-quick" age and generation.

VALUE THE BASIS OF AWARD

Coming to something more practical, we find the prizes in nearly all classes of live stock and live stock products at our exhibitions awarded, so far as possible, on the basis of their relative market value—or what these are worth in dollars and cents. The judges in certain of the leaf, bacon and mutton classes at this Fair have their judgments, passed upon animals on the hoof, "checked up" by the judgment of experts on the carcasses of these same animals. These two are getting closer together each year. In the horse and poultry classes, it is, or ought to be, the relative money values that decide awards as interpreted by the best judges obtainable. What would we think of a judge, say of bacon hogs, who awarded the prizes largely according to the fat on the hogs? Fat is an important factor but not all by any means. Market or food values being the basis for practically all other classes produced for human food, why not bring the dairy cow competitions under similar rules?

So far as I know the present scale for awarding prizes in the cow classes is a modification of an English scale of points used by the

British Dairy Farmers' Association. Their scale as used during the latter part of the 19th century, and at the present time for aught I know, was as follows:

- 1 point for each pound of milk.
- 20 points for each pound of fat.
- 4 points for each pound of solids not fat.
- 1 point for each 10 days in milk, after the first 20 days, limit 200 days.
- 10 points are deducted from the total score for each per cent. of fat below three per cent. in the milk.

This scale has been modified from time to time in Ontario, until at present we have for this Fair the following scale:

- 25 points for each pound of fat.
- 3 points for each pound of solids not fat.
- 1 point for each 10 days in milk after the first 30 days; limit 100 points.

The British scale aimed to include, so far as was possible in one scale, the relative market values of all kinds of milk and also to make some allowance for cows that were advanced in lacta-

tion at the time of the test. We have been gradually getting away from the original scale, until at present, the pounds of fat in the milk, which is the most variable milk constituent, practically decides the standing of cows in all classes. For the years 1907, '08, and '09, the prizes for all dairy breeds, and for all classes at the Guelph Winter Fair were awarded in the order of milk-fat production. In the year 1910 all first prizes for all breeds and classes, except Ayrshires, Holsteins, and Jerseys 48 months and over, were awarded according to milk-fat production, and these exceptions are based on a difference of only about one-tenth of a pound of fat in each case. All other prizes for that year, except a fourth prize in the Holstein cow class, went according to fat in the milk. In 1911 all prizes, except the fourth in the Ayrshire cow (48 months and over) class, the third prize in Ayrshires, 36 months and under 48 months, the fifth prize in the Ayrshire heifer class, and the fourth prize in the Holstein heifer class, were given on the milk-fat basis.

We thus see that four years out of five, at the Guelph Winter Fair, practically all the prizes have gone for milk-fat production. In the great majority of cases, weighing the milk and testing for milk-fat is all that was necessary under the present scale.

Briefly, my proposal is that the four great commercial classes, or uses of milk, be the basis for awarding prize. These classes are—milk for direct consumption, milk for cream and butter-making, milk for cheese-making, and for condensed milk.

In the first case, prizes would be awarded according to weight or gallons of milk produced, so long as it is legal milk—3 per cent fat, 12 per cent total solids as defined in the Ontario Milk Act of 1911. (A deduction could be made for milk under legal standard). In the second class, milk-fat would be the basis of awards; in the third class, milk-fat and casein; and in the fourth class, total solids; or, this latter class might be included in the first, and thus reduce the number of classes to three, as at least one milk condensery in Ontario buys milk by weight, regardless of test.

One other suggestion. I would recommend doing away with the breed classes as we have them at present. I can see no reason why the Ayrshires should go into a class by themselves, the Holsteins by themselves, the Jerseys and the Shorthorns by themselves, and the grades in still another class. This is too "exclusive" in a test where public money forms the chief part of the prize money. (I venture to say this on my own responsi-

What Varieties Shall We Seed Next Spring?

Members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union have thoroughly tested all our best varieties of grains. Following are the results of their tests in 1912 of a few varieties that in previous years had proved to be the best.

Experiments	Varieties	Comparative Value	YIELD PER ACRE		
			Straw, tons.	Grain, bus.	Grain, lbs.
Oats (6 tests)	Siberian	100	1.83	50.16	1766
	Regenerated Abundance	84	1.43	47.00	1601
	Lincoln	86	1.44	46.54	1582
Six-rowed Barley (23 tests)	O. A. C. No. 21	100	1.26	36.21	1246
	Emma	85	1.43	39.11	1646
Two-rowed Barley (3 tests)	Hanna	100	1.26	32.78	1574
	Two-rowed Canadian	95	1.30	32.22	1546
Hullless Barley (6 tests)	Guy Mayle	100	1.92	28.77	1726
	Black Hullless	93	1.85	26.23	1574
Spring Wheat (4 tests)	Wild Goose	100	1.69	15.00	1600
	Hamdrum	92	1.80	15.33	929
Buck-wheat (5 tests)	Rye	100	1.69	37.67	1808
	Silver Hull	78	1.69	32.83	1576
	Imperial Amber	100	1.52	24.20	1458
Winter Wheat (13 tests)	American Wonder	85	1.47	21.77	1292
	Crimson Red	66	1.89	21.54	1366
	Banka	79	1.43	21.15	1269
Winter Rye (4 tests)	Tasmania Red	60	1.80	20.96	1258
	Mammoth White	100	1.59	23.93	1540
	Common	68	1.88	19.83	1110
Spring Rye (3 tests)	O. A. C. No. 61	100	1.58	26.79	1500
	Common	90	.66	24.47	1370
Field Peas (20 tests)	Canadian Beauty	100	1.67	21.08	1296
	Early Britain	83	1.63	21.33	1292
Field Beans (12 tests)	Marrowfat	100	1.44	31.37	1882
	Pea Bean	93	1.19	30.11	1806
Soy Beans (2 tests)	Early Yellow	100	1.33	18.13	1066
	Brown	76	.84	13.49	810
Corn for Grain (7 tests)	Genesee Valley	100	15.58	57.86	3240
	Early California	100	11.66	54.77	3067
	Wisconsin Little Dent	77	9.16	42.69	2390

*An address at the recent Guelph Winter Fair.