

her own pasturage. Several other inhabitants of the town also kept cows, and, by a sort of general consent, they were left unmolested, as free commoners. The fresh grass soon produced a marked increase in the yield of milk, and the price was reduced to ten cents per quart. Every evening, just before sunset, the cow stood lowing at the gate of her small yard, sure of a mess of bran with a small admixture of meal. Only five times in the season was she missing, and then a boy hunted her up for twenty-five cents. Then, after the milking was done, she lay chewing the cud of content, in the open yard if the night was warm, and in her stall when it was rainy, or chilly with dew. As the summer passed, the garden supplied stalks of sweet corn, beet leaves, pea-vines, and other herbage, which supplemented the evening and morning mess. The daily yield, of course, diminished in the passing months, until the supply for the hotel was wholly cut off, the surplus being only sufficient for the neighbors who had the first claim. Late in October, the business which called me to the oil region was concluded, and we prepared to return to "America," as the half-homesick villagers called the entire country outside their present rough surroundings. The cow was for sale. It was not long before an offer of forty dollars was accepted, and the cow passed into the hands of a new owner.

And now came the question of profit and loss. My wife had kept a strict account with our cow. In fact, household accounts was one of her strong points, as a set of neatly kept books bear witness, though the hand that inscribed them has long been dust. The account with the cow posted up something like this:

Cr.		
By calf .....		\$ 2.00
" 517 qts. milk @ 15c.....		77.55
" 768 " " " 10c.....		76.80
" cash for cow .....		40.00
		<hr/> \$196.35
Dr.		
To purchase money.....		\$60.00
" bringing home.....		2.00
" 600lb pressed hay @ \$3.50.....		21.00
" 200lb corn meal @ \$3.50.....		7.00
" 600lb bran @ \$2.00.....		12.00
" paid boy to hunt her up.....		1.25
		<hr/> \$103.25
		Balance.....\$ 93.10

The amount paid the girl for milking was not charged to the cow, as the abundant supply consumed in the family was