

THE DUAL-PURPOSE COW.

No. 1.

ED. *Hoard's Dairyman*:—During the entire discussion of this question in the *Dairyman* since my first article sent to the *Breeder's Gazette* was reprinted in its columns, nothing has surprised me so much as the complete misapprehension of my position with reference to the same as expressed by the writers who have seen fit to criticise my views. And most of all have I been surprised that the editor of the *Dairyman* has fallen into the same mistake. I feel grateful, therefore, for the space now accorded to me, to enable me to put myself right with the readers of this excellent paper.

Read those criticisms carefully from first to last, and you will notice that they are all based upon the idea that I am the enemy of dairying and dairymen, because of my advocacy of the dual-purpose cow. No view could be more unfounded. I took particular pains to state my exact position on this point in the papers sent to the *Gazette*. Again and again have I put myself on record as being in favor of the straight dairyman having a dairy cow and no other, and of his improving her to the greatest possible extent. No man in the United States rejoices more than I do in the progress dairying has made during recent years, in the improvement that has been made in the dairy cow, and in the magnificent work that *Hoard's Dairyman* has done in this direction during recent years. It is my conviction that if this republic were to erect a monument to ex-Governor Hoard, great, high, and costly, after his translation to the better land, it would not then have cancelled the debt which it owes him. Is there anything in the view thus expressed that shows ill will to dairying or dairymen? I want to be fair. I hope all those who have criticized me can in the sight of God and man say the same.

The smoke of battle, therefore, has arisen from a part of the field around which there should have been no fighting. There is no difference of view between dairymen and the writer as to the mission of the straight dairy cow. The question is not will the dairy cow give more milk than the dual-purpose cow.

All the answers to the request of the editor for facts as to milk yields have been based on this assumption. I have all along conceded that the straight dairy cow would give more milk than the

dual-purpose cow. All of those letters to the *DAIRYMAN* which spoke of large milk yields simply confirmed what I had conceded from the first. And yet they were made to do duty against me not only by the writers, but by the editor of the *DAIRYMAN*. They were printed under the heading, "Facts versus Theory."

The question at issue has reference to the existence of the dual-purpose cow and the place that shall be assigned to her on the farm. The *DAIRYMAN* says she is not, that she is a myth. My contention is that she is, and that she is not a myth. The *DAIRYMAN* claims that she is a delusion and a snare, and that therefore no place should be accorded to her on the farm. My contention is, that she is not a delusion and a snare, and that she has an important mission to fulfill on many farms in this country. If I have mistated the position of the *DAIRYMAN* on this question, I hope the editor will correct me. I want to be fair.

And just here I may say that this question will have to be fought out, and within the next few years. It will not be settled by the *DAIRYMAN* saying that there is no such an existence as the dual-purpose cow, nor by my claiming that the opposite is true. It will be fought out on its merits in the experiment stations and on the farms. Men may rain ridicule on the head of the writer because of his views on this question, till they are wearied, but that will not settle the question. Like the soul of old John Brown, it will still go marching on toward settlement.

The time has come when there must be definite teaching on this question in our colleges. The breeds of live stock must needs be classified where teaching is to be sufficiently specific. As the question appears to the writer, cattle must be classified as beef and dairy; or as beef, dual-purpose and dairy. If the first classification is correct, the second must be incorrect and *vice versa*. In my book on "The Study of Breeds" I have adopted the three-fold classification, and so firmly am I convinced that this view is the correct one, that I am glad to have thus put myself on record. This book has been introduced as a text book into several of the foremost of the agricultural colleges. The professors who use it are going to accept or reject the classification. It is one of those questions that must be settled, and in the not distant future. The next decade will tell pretty certainly whether Hoard is right and Shaw is wrong, or whether Shaw is right and Hoard is wrong. And so con-