

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

It is time to grade cream in Ontario.

The cow that finishes strong and is difficult to hold up wins the race.

As far as possible all farm products should be sold on a basis of quality. Why not?

"As a general principle the higher the yield, the greater the cost, not only per acre but per bushel."

They are conserving breeding animals in Britain; a good lead for Canadian stockmen to follow.

What of the milking machine? Prof. Archibald's report at the Dairymen's Convention was encouraging.

Liquid manure should be saved, as never before. It is a complete fertilizer, and some of the artificial fertilizers will be difficult to obtain this year.

Experimental work done on the co-operative plan is of great value, and all should have read our report of the Experimental Union meeting in last week's issue.

If an open straw chute increases the bacterial count in milk 18,000 per c.c., as has been proven by experiments at Ottawa, a closed chute should make for cleaner milk.

Does the yield of farm products really depend so much upon the producer's knowledge of methods of production as it does upon the market price of the products?

Last year 5,000 experimenters carried part of the work of the Ontario Agricultural College to the farm by conducting co-operative experiments under the direction of the Experimental Union.

A writer who has been over the ground calls the women of the countries at war "The Bravest of the Brave," and from reports of the hardships which many of them are enduring nothing could be more correct.

It is generally held that large yields will prove a solution of the high cost of living. As prices drop who will pay the producer for the increased yield which must always be produced under the law of diminishing returns?

A speaker at the Dairymen's Convention said that some factories could be improved 50 per cent. in appearance by two days' work with hammer, saw and paint brush. How far could this statement be applied to some of the buildings on the farm?

Ontario grew 26,717,587 bushels of potatoes last year, or 7,000,000 bushels more than in 1913, and 8,000,000 bushels more than the average of the past three decades. How do prices compare? And still with all this, because of too many varieties, Ontario imports potatoes in car lots. Growers must decide to stick to fewer varieties and reap the reward of higher prices paid for large, uniform lots.

### Give Dairying a Fair Chance.

During a season of severe drought in the major part of Eastern Ontario the cows contributing milk to the factories increased their flow by 170 pounds on the average. This happened during the season of 1914, when up to June 24th little rain was seen and in some districts much later than that. Why are not the cows of Eastern Ontario giving 6,000 pounds of milk per year? During 1913 about 281,489 cows were milked by factory patrons, and each cow yielded approximately 3,274 pounds of milk during the factory season. A good milking cow should milk all winter and then give that quantity of milk from May 1st to Nov. 1st, which constitutes the season proper. The paltry little increase of 170 pounds in six months does not mean much in itself, but occurring in a season as it did, when grass and water both were scarce, it reveals the fact that a summer silo, green fodder and perhaps some extra grain would increase the flow of hundreds of these cows to the extent of 1,000 pounds each.

When cows are only milking a short time over six months 1,000 pounds of milk per month should be the average in a well-established herd. The low fat content is also a drawback to profits, but so long as factories pay by the hundredweight instead of by some recognized test, patrons will continue to produce milk low in fat. The cheese business is a good industry if patrons and manufacturers will combine to give it a fair chance, but so long as the cows yield between three and four thousand pounds, and this poor in fat, producers will be jumping from factory to creamery and to export or city trade much to the detriment of the industry and to the individual's interest. What is most regrettably wanting now is a determination on the part of farmers to produce more and better milk per cow, and someone in authority with courage enough to recommend a suitable method of paying for milk and courage to stand by his conviction.

### Co-operative Experiments.

Some time ago we received a letter criticizing reports which give prominence to certain varieties of grain and potatoes as the best for general use, and stating that these varieties, many of which have been originated at the Ontario Agricultural College or other experiment stations, may be suitable for the land on which they originated but this does not prove that they are of any particular value to the general farmer. Five thousand co-operative experiments under the direction of the Experimental Union are yearly proving the weakness of our correspondent's contention. True it is that very often that which does well on one class of soil will not succeed on other soil under different conditions, but when experiments carried on in every part of a province show a certain variety of barley, certain varieties of oats, certain varieties of wheat, of potatoes and of other crops to be leaders, then these varieties must have something about them well suited to conditions in all parts of the province. The greatest value of co-operative experiments is to the man who carries them out, and in the proving of the real worth of a variety which has originated at an experimental station for the general farmer. If a variety leads at Guelph, Ottawa or at any other experimental farm, and the experiments of 5,000 ex-

perimenters widely scattered put it in the lead there must be something in the value of the variety. Keep up the good work.

### Cream Grading.

There seems to be no good reason why cream grading should not be introduced in creameries in Ontario and other provinces. There is satisfaction for the producer, at least for the producer of high-class products, to know that his goods are sold on their merits and command the increased price which their quality is worthy of. There is a great agitation on foot among producers to have all products which are not now sold on a quality basis placed in this category, and nothing is more reasonable. If a man markets a dozen eggs which were laid yesterday and which are uniform in size, shape and color, it is only reasonable that he should get more for these eggs than should the man who markets a dozen laid perhaps a month ago and of all shapes, colors and sizes. Likewise the man who feeds his cows well, produces clean milk, and a rich, pure cream cooled quickly after separating and kept at a low temperature until delivered at the factory, should get some consideration over the man who is careless in all his dairy work and operates on a principle—"Oh well, my cream got by all the time and there is no use of making any great effort." Cream grading must be followed by grading the finished product, and to be its best success must have the co-operation of producer, factoryman and butter dealer. Manitoba has made a success of it, as shown in the report of Prof. Mitchell's speech to Western Ontario dairymen, published in last week's issue of "The Farmer's Advocate." Ontario butter has not been taking the place that it should in our large exhibitions. There is room for improvement. It is time for cream grading in Ontario? Ontario should be a leader not a follower.

### Yields and Prices.

"The Relation Between Yields and Prices" is the title of a little pamphlet written by Prof. E. Davenport, of Illinois, and which should be read by all producers interested in production and marketing problems. Prof. Davenport points out that it is generally assumed without argument by writers and speakers discussing agriculture that:

"The large yields are always profitable, and that the best farmer is the one who raises the most per acre."

"That large yields are a natural antidote for the high cost of living."

"That when prices are low the farmer should raise his yields to protect his income."

"That everybody is suffering because of the slipshod and wasteful methods of the American farmer."

"That we should now copy the intensive methods of older countries, and that more capital is needed for the best results."

There is, as pointed out by Prof. Davenport, both truth and error in all these propositions, and the error is dangerous to both producer and consumer. Canada, like the United States, and even to a greater extent, to use the professor's words, "is just emerging from a pioneer agriculture, in which land had little value, because it was abundant, and labor was the principal element in cost of production." Our farmers may have wasted fertility, but they had to, and they were forced also to be economical of labor which