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Note and Comment

Many who have harvested the hay crop have been agreeably disappointed in the yield. Though not a large crop the yield, especially of clover, has been greater than was expected a month ago. In any case, however, there will be a shortage, and unless other crops are being grown to supplement the hay crop, live stock may fare badly the coming winter.

A citizen living on one of the highways leading to Toronto, recently refused to contribute to a fund for the improvement of his particular piece of road on the ground that the more it is improved the faster the automobiles will go, and the faster the automobiles go the less useful will the road be to him. This may be a narrow view to take and yet there is considerable logic in the argument. The usefulness of an improved road is very much lessened to the farmer if that road is used as a speeding ground for automobilists, who care seemingly for neither man nor beast, so long as they can make their 30 miles an hour. While the efforts of the Automobile Club to improve the roadways of the country are to be commended, they should remember that these roads were built primarily for the people who live on them. Their rights must be safeguarded and the road kept safe for driving with horse and rig. The automobilist must be made to recognize this and to temper his speed accordingly.

Canada's trade agents in Australia, in reporting upon trade conditions in that country, state that \$15,000 worth of butter was exported to Canada last year. This is a rather remarkable condition of affairs. Canada, a great dairying country, cannot produce enough butter to supply the local demand. And yet we pay out thousands of dollars of public funds every year to promote dairying. What

is the matter? Are our efforts being wrongly directed or are our farmers going out of the business in spite of what is being done to keep them in?

Those who make cheese on Sunday are to have a little respite and be allowed to continue it this season with the distinct understanding that it shall be necessary for factory owners and makers to fully comply with the requirements of the Sunday Observance Law next season. It would be a hardship to enforce the law this season and the Attorney-General's department have acted wisely in postponing definite action till next season. Dairymen should make preparations for the change. There is no need of making cheese on Sunday if the proper appliances are on hand at the factory or farm for carrying for the milk.

The letter from Mr. R. E. Gunn in this issue throws considerable light upon the question of where the profits go in the journey of the live animal to the meat consumer in the city. He has not, however, shown us the weak, if there is one, that prevents the cattle producer from getting more for his finished animal. Perhaps, he is getting all that he is entitled to, and if the price of the live animal is to be increased the consumer will have to pay for it. However, there does appear to be a wide discrepancy between 18c. to 23c. per pound for ribs and sirloin over the retailers counter and 5c. to 5½c. per pound for the live animal in the farmer's stable. It may be accounted for in the fact that the meat buyer wants the best, and as the carcass is not all best, up goes the price of the choice cuts and down goes the price of the poor ones. If people could be taught how to cook and use the cheaper cuts properly the average price for the whole carcass could be raised materially.

A weak point in the system generally followed in Canada for converting the live animal into meat is that enough is not made out of the by-products. At the great packing centres of the United States every particle of the by-product of the animal is utilized and consequently the middleman is able to pay the grower a higher price for his cattle than he does in Canada. Mr. Gunn places the value of the hide at less than five dollars. A good average hide considering the price of leather should be worth more than this. A great many hides in this country are ruined by warbles, but this is a matter that will have to be dealt with at another time.

There are breeders here and there, who censure the record office at Ottawa for adhering strictly to the rules and regulations governing the recording of animals. They seemingly forget that these rules are laid down by the different breeders' associations, and that the officials at Ottawa receive explicit instructions through the record board to carry them out. If the rules are irksome and interfere with the breeder getting what he claims to be entitled to, the place to have them remedied is at the annual meeting of the Breeders' Association interested. If the rules governing the registration of swine, for instance, are not right, the Swine Breeders' Association is the body that is to blame and not the record office, and so on with the other associations. In fact, the record office is deserving of severe censure if it does not carry out to the letter the instructions laid down by the different associations for the particular breed of live stock over which they have supervision. Breeders will be well advised, if instead of heaping abuse upon the record office for enforcing the rules, as has been done by several parties lately, they will carry their grievances to the bodies responsible for these rules being there.