

Trials with Boarding Gangs

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

The practice always has been for the farmers to board the threshing gang in this district. I threshed here for nine seasons with a large outfit and gang but gave it up some seven years ago and don't feel like starting again. I now have a small gasoline outfit and do my own threshing, and also for one other man. We have men and teams enough to run the outfit and can do both farms about as fast as we could stack.

I never was in favor of the farmer boarding threshing gangs and tried to adopt the plan of boarding my own gang when threshing, but farmers were not so well off then as now, I suppose, and I could only get three jobs in the district if I raised the price sufficiently to pay for boarding men, so I did not try it. It has been the custom for threshing gangs to stay over Sunday where they were working Saturday, supposing there was only two hours' work to do on a Monday. Again it sometimes falls to the lot of a farmer to have to board the gang over Sunday and only have a day's threshing in all, while his neighbors with three or four days' work happened to miss them. Last fall a neighbor had his grain threshed, only half a day of oats, and the machine had gone with his consent to thresh wheat and left him that way, and he had to get another outfit at end of season to thresh his oats. The machine got there at eleven o'clock and only threshed one hundred bushels when the flues in the engine started to leak and nothing more was done until next day at one o'clock. The machine finished that afternoon but he had to board the gang and two teams a day and a half for one-half day's threshing and was not allowed one cent for it. I don't think any man has a right to keep a gang of men to make money out of them and expect other people to board them Sundays and idle days. It is a great trial to farmers' wives to have to board them when work is being done. House help is impossible to get and every farmer's wife has enough to do without boarding a threshing gang. In my opinion every thresher ought to board his own gang all the time and charge enough per bushel for doing so. I don't know what would be a fair charge extra for boarding but think a cent extra per bushel ought to cover it. I mean the men only to fork and run the machine—not the teamsters. If the thresher furnished teams and teamsters farmers should board them if only a cent extra was charged for board.

MANITOBA FARMER.

All Threshers Should Have Cook Cars

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE :

I have been reading the articles published recently on boarding the threshing gangs, and agree with what has been said by those who believe the present system should be abolished. I think every threshing outfit should be equipped with a cook car and sleeping accommodation for the men. Get a thresher with such an outfit

as this and you have no bother with the men around the house, the housewife has no meals to prepare or beds to get ready, and it doesn't make any difference when the threshers come, how long they stay, or when they go away. I consider threshers boarding themselves an advantage in every way, except for the thresher, and then only a disadvantage to him in case there came a month of bad weather, which is not uncommon here in the fall. Some outfits, in cases like this, pay so much a meal for board when not working, which is quite proper, as I consider a farmer stands enough loss in feeding threshers' horses, or, rather enough of his feed is wasted on the horses, for more is wasted usually than is eaten.

The farmer, of course, has to pay extra in his threshing bill for the cook car but the extra charge, I consider, is more than compensated for in the work and trouble saved. There is no greater nuisance around the place than the threshers. They borrow mostly everything a man has, and when they leave the various things are left wherever they happen to be used last. A cook car, to some extent, reduces the tendency to borrow.

Saving a protracted spell of bad weather, the cook car is an advantage to the thresher. The men are always right at their work; time is saved in mornings, moving from one farm to another, and in various other ways. I know a thresher who averages 500 bushels per day more with a cook car in his outfit than he did before.

Every thresher should board his own men. I would rather supply vegetables, water, milk and coal, and pay the extra price for threshing than board the gang in the house. For in boarding the gang one generally has to get extra help in the house, and run to town for meat every day. I think that before long it will be that threshers all of them, will have to board their own gangs.

G. T. GARRORD.

Beef Cattle Shortage in U. S.

U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, shows in his annual report that there has been a decrease of 2,187,000 in the number of cattle in the United States in the last two years. In 1907 the estimated number of cattle in the United States was 51,566,000. In 1908 this figure dropped to 50,073,000 and on January 1 of this year it had gone to 49,379,000. The report shows a decrease of \$20,000,000 in the cattle business in the last two years and beef prices are going so high that South American countries will soon be able to compete with American beef producers for the markets of the Eastern States. An increase of 30 per cent. in the price of corn and increases in the price of hay in the West has tended to discourage feeding in the Middle West, and cattle raisers have not the supply of cattle they formerly maintained. Beef prices are expected to go higher, it being estimated that there will be a shortage of a million head in stock yard receipts this year as compared with last.

DAIRY

Hint on Caring for Cream

The South Dakota Experiment Station after giving considerable study to the problem of improving the quality of butter in the State have published a bulletin in which is contained recommendations to producers and makers. The recommendations to the producers read as follows :

IMPROVEMENTS OF CREAM ON THE FARM

No one would consciously practice uncleanness in handling milk and cream. These raw products are foods, and, also constitute the raw product from which butter is made, the most delicious fat-food known. Dairy products are very perishable and those who produce milk and cream should be specially prepared to handle them in a sanitary way. Many are in the dairy business, but few are prepared to properly handle the raw milk and cream. This is due chiefly to wrong conceptions of what is understood by cleanliness and dairy sanitation.

DAIRY COWS AND SURROUNDINGS

Milk to be sanitary should first come from healthy cows, kept in a well ventilated and sanitary barn, and fed on desirable feeds. The milk will then come from the cow in an ideal condition, and when drawn, is the best of all natural foods. On an average, this stage of milk production is in a much better condition than is the handling of the milk and cream after it leaves the cow.

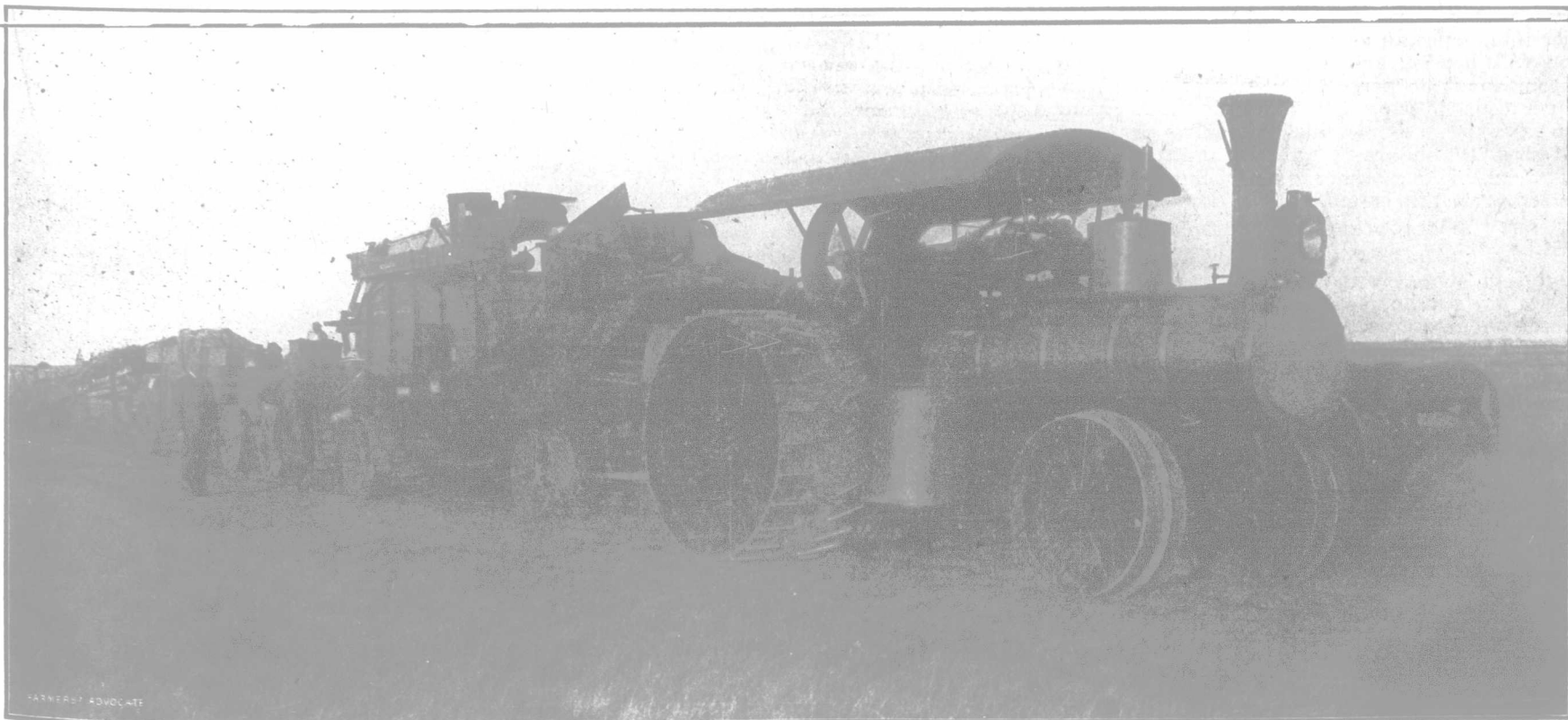
If the cream were delivered at the factories in as good a condition as when it came from the cow, the butter price would range at least three cents higher per pound, which would mean an annual additional profit of about \$15,000 to the dairy farmers in South Dakota.

Dust from feeds and from sweeping the barn, dirt from the cows' udder and sides, and from the milker's hands, and filth from improperly cleaned milk utensils, separator, etc., are laden with multitudes of undesirable germs. Germs are the cause of spoiled cream and of poor butter. If it were possible to keep out all germs, milk and cream would keep almost indefinitely. This, under practical conditions is not possible.

By great care in cleanliness, many germs can be excluded from the milk and cream, and, therefore, the quality and keeping property of them will be improved.

Feeding the cows hay, cleaning and bedding the barn, or any other act, which would raise dust and create filthy air in the barn, should not be done just previous to nor during the milking time. When milking is in progress the air in the barn should be as pure and fresh as possible and free from foreign obnoxious odors.

Milk and cream very quickly absorb foreign



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