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Well now have patience, have patience, for, if you are to be a farmer, that is a virtue you must acquire. The idea is this: You have always held a belief, gathered largely from hearsay, that farming was the game at which to get rich. As to this, however, you have no real proof, and so now that you have arrived at the actual point of jumping into the farmer's world you must use pencil and foolscap to ascertain to what extent facts of calculation will bear out hearsay, and incidentally, a few of your own pet theories.

As, however, all processes of calculation are somewhat wearisome it is of the utmost importance that you give a little thought to comfort. You positively must be comfortable to withstand the severe strain upon your mental resources. With this end in view you will trundle your ownest own arm chair up to the table, let yourself sink into its luxurious depth, look benignly at your wife, and intimate that you need pencil, paper, cigars, matches, a large jugful of something drinkable and your carpet slippers. When she has attended to these simple requirements, taken your boots off and otherwise shown her loving ability, and her great faith in your omniscience, you will be ready for business.

Now, it is quite possible that you have been paying forty, or maybe fifty cents per dozen for eggs, and in consequence you have acquired a strong inclination towards hens as money-makers. You will reason that if one Brahma hen can lay one egg in one day without working overtime she will be able, quite easily, to lay three hundred and sixty-five eggs in one year; and at this rate of going if you owned one hundred Brahmas and there were no casualties they would lay for you 36,000 eggs per annum, which at forty cents per dozen would—here you will get busy with pencil and paper—net you 1,216 dollars and 66 2/3 cents. At this point, in true farmer style, you will give vent to an excited and jubilant "Gosh!" The prospect of such riches will make you feel extraordinarily charitable, and you will decide on the spot that each year you will give that superfluous two-thirds of a cent to the poor. This done, thoughts of butter will begin to trouble you, and, as you have some idea that butter is, in some way connected with the bovine species, you will turn your attention to cows.

You may approach the cow business in much the same manner that proved so successful with hens: If one—but hold awhile. Before going any further your proper course is to determine what breed of cows shall have the privilege of belonging to you. If you take my advice you will invest your money in something that can boast of the bluest of blood in its veins; something whose ancestry may be traced along a line of King Cornpatches, DeSols, Count DeWillies, Lady Echoes, and Princess Mays directly back to where the first pair are just emerging from the ark, you will then have something warranted to drown you in milk or choke

you with butter-fat about every ten seconds. Now you may proceed with your calculations. If one King Cornpatch cow, which we will call Lady Echo, is capable of supplying you with the wherewithal to make four or more pounds of butter a day, then five Lady Echoes will give you, each day, twenty pounds which, multiplied by fifty cents and the number of days in a year will amount to the grand annual total of \$3,650.00. Simple, isn't it? "By jove!" you will exclaim delightedly, "why didn't I get back to the land years ago!" And Matilda, whom you had forgotten, will chime in, "Isn't it just too perfectly beautiful. We'll be able to buy a car now!"

I don't think there is any need to coach you further, you'll do very nicely by yourself now. You have proved that a handsome profit may be realized from cows and hens; you have dispelled all doubt in regard to the cry that there is no money in farming; you have acquired a superb confidence in your ability to work a farm profitably, and incidentally, to show those whiskered "Rubes" a thing or two; consequently, I can do but very little more. I might, I suppose, advance a few hints regarding pigs, but what's the use when your process of calculation will show you that turning pigs into dollars is mere child's play.

And so, put away your pencil and paper. For awhile you may dream a dream in which no harsh thing shall intrude; no burning July and August suns, blinding flash and rolling thunder, torrential rains, destroying hail and shrieking winds. Such rude elements will disturb not your dreaming spirit as it glides through a pleasant land where softly glowing suns prevail, where rains fall gently, and where little whispering breezes rustle through stately waving crops of grain.

In fancy you will see yourself brown of face, and mighty of chest and arm, stepping out into the fresh and dewy morn to be greeted by your faithful dog who cares not a rap for the liquid, God-given notes pouring from the throat of the little gray bird on the old rail fence; nor for the piping robin in the apple tree, the chattering sparrows in the eaves, and the "roosters" which far and near are trying, some sharp and shrill, others deep and booming, to out-crow one another in their efforts to give adequate praise to a new day—a new day into which shall presently burst the happy cries of your children, and the sight of them playing in the green fields, gathering wild flowers, and feeding downy chicks and ducklings. In due course this halcyon day shall be crowned with a glorious eventide, and your mind's eye will be gladdened by a vision of your wife standing at the pasture gate softly calling, "Ko-boss, ko-boss."

"Ah, glory be, Utopia at last!" you will exclaim, and your heart will surge up in the back of your neck, or some other place, causing a sentimental lump in your throat, and deliriously you will cry, "Grasshopper farm shall be mine!"

And it shall be so. You will go next day with a bag-

ful of dollars, part with them, and return home the proud possessor of a farm. Your canary, poodle dog, prize Persian cat, and the rest of your belongings will be moved thereon, and you will get down to business so earnestly and enthusiastically that at the end of a year you'll probably find that you have allowed enthusiasm to overrule good judgment and common-sense, whereat you will sit down, have a good cry, and then bravely reach for a pen, and write as follows.

For Sale—Grasshopper farm, a truly wonderful fifty acres that has hopped all over me, jumped on me, robbed me and otherwise ill-treated me: If so desired prospective purchaser may take over all stock and implements. The implements are a sight worth seeing, which is a very exact description of them. The stock consists of two weary-looking horses which know not the word die, or they would have died long ago. One asthmatical cow which gives sufficient milk to nourish one baby; a one-time frisky heifer; one single barrelled pig and one Shanghai rooster, which has been pretty well hen-pecked by his three wives. Send or bring your check for four hundred and ninety-nine dollars, and all is yours, with, if you care about such things, a nanny goat and a guinea pig thrown in for luck. Apply Tired Farmer, township of Despair, and apply quickly. "Then you may lay me low in the mold, and think no more of me."

York Co., Ont.

THE HIRED MAN.

THE DAIRY.

When the price of cheese was under discussion at the E. O. D. A., a Northfield dairyman requested to know how they were to make ends meet this year with the cost of production greatly increased, when, but a small profit was made under last year's prices. Commercial men seldom continue in a line that is less profitable than some other and why should the farmer be asked to do so? He cannot be blamed if he changes his method of farming in order that he may be engaged in the most profitable line. In fact, it would be called good business. An Iroquois dairyman admitted that 21 3/4 cents for cheese was a fair price last June, but contended that it was not fair last fall and that a decline in production of cheese was due to this fact. If the price is not increased this spring, farmers will turn their attention to other lines and there will be a further decline in cheese. Wheat, beans, etc., will be grown instead of feeds for dairy cows. If that is what is wanted, this particular dairyman advised leaving cheese prices as they were.

It would be a national calamity to allow the cheese industry to go to the wall, but no one can compel dairy-men to feed and milk cows at a loss.—Prof. H. H. Dean.

Fifty-first Annual Meeting of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association.

The fifty-first annual convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association was held in Stratford, January 16 and 17. Owing to the severe storm which blocked the roads early in the week, many regular attendants at the Convention were prevented from being present and some of the cheese and butter entries did not reach Stratford until the last day of the Convention. However, considering the handicap the attendance at the different sessions was all that could be expected; in fact, the hall was practically filled at two of the sessions. A splendid program was given. Practical subjects of interest to both producers and manufacturers were ably dealt with by authorities in their various lines. Those present secured first-hand information, which should assist them in their work the coming season, from men who have been carrying on experiments and tests the past year. Grading of cream and butter, paying for milk by test, comparative prices of dairy products, the importation of oleo, pepsin as a coagulant, the shortage of tin sheets for making dairy supplies, scarcity of labor affecting the farm, were among some of the problems freely discussed by those present, as they met from time to time during the Convention, and besides the regular program these subjects were touched upon from the platform. It was a splendid Convention and those unable to be present were the losers. The following resolution was passed by the meeting. It was to the effect that the Association believes that it is in the best interest of both the producer and consumer of dairy products to immediately upon the conclusion of the war rescind the present Federal order-in-council which allows, as a war measure only, the importation, manufacture and sale of oleomargarine in Canada, and they respectfully petition the Federal Minister of Agriculture, through the Federal Government to again put into force the restrictions against oleomargarine as they appear in the Dairy Industry Act. The Association was also in sympathy with any movement tending to support the creameries in a change of business policy which will, under present conditions, discontinue the supplying of cream cans free of charge to cream shippers.

President's Address.

R. W. Stratton, President of the Association, on opening the Convention commented on the fact that the 1917 prices of milk and milk products had reached the highest average on record. However, he believed that the cheesemen had a grievance in the unrestricted prices paid for milk by condenseries when the price of cheese was set. It enabled condenseries to pay about one dollar more per hundred pounds for milk than

was paid for cheese. He believed that this had a tendency to discourage cheese production. The buttermen also had a grievance in the removal of the ban on the manufacture and importation of oleomargarine. The speaker believed that ninety per cent. of the agitation for its introduction was inspired by those interested in its manufacture. The order-in-council allowing the use of oleo was put through at a time when the members who had been looking after the matter were absent from the Capitol. The numerous petitions and thousands of signatures registered against the importation and manufacture of oleo in Canada apparently had no effect. While oleo was allowed in as a war measure only, Mr. Stratton believed that if it is controlled it will be the first time in its history. He advised dairymen to see to it that the end of the war also ends the life of oleo in Canada. The President thought that the present was an opportune time for some steps to be taken to remedy the wasteful and extravagant system of furnishing cans to patrons of creameries. Owing to the great shortage of material for making cans an effort should be made to conserve the present supply as much as possible and to prevent the loss by cans rusting out on the station platforms.

Directors' Report.

The directors reported that the past season had been favorable for milk production, as there was no prolonged period of dry weather. However, the price of cows, feed and labor was so high that it affected the total production of dairy products. The directors doubted the wisdom of increasing the number of cream-buying stations, on account of the probable effect on the quality of butter, as well as on economic grounds, as the system merely places another middleman between producer and consumer. The directors appreciated the increased number of entries of cheese and butter from Western Ontario at the large fall exhibitions, and urged the cheese and buttermakers to make still further efforts to exhibit their products at these fairs, as it was considered to be an excellent means of advertising the good quality of Western Ontario dairy products. The removing of the ban against oleo will have a detrimental effect on the local butter markets, and it is also feared that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to properly enforce the regulations so as to prevent the fraudulent sale of this substitute of genuine butter. The high price paid for milk by condenseries resulted in a considerable

amount of milk being diverted into those channels and causing a decrease in the production of cheese, especially late in the fall. The directors believe that under the existing financial and abnormal shipping conditions the method of handling cheese through the commission was in the best interests of the cheese trade. However, they thought that "some further consideration of the situation seems necessary for the coming season to allow the various manufactured dairy products to be placed on an equal basis. The bulk of the milk produced in Canada is manufactured into cheese and butter, the prices of which are controlled; the former through the price fixed by the British Board of Trade, and the latter indirectly by the introduction of oleomargarine. If the price paid for milk not intended for the manufacture of cheese and butter is necessary for the producers to make a profit, it may become difficult with the present labor shortage to fully maintain cheese and butter production unless some levelling of prices takes place, especially when there is evidently no control of the expenditure required to cover the cost of milk production and also the cost of manufacture; that is to say, the cost of stock feed in the first instance, and the cost of supplies in the latter." The cheese and butter industry is now passing through a rather critical stage of development and the directors believed that it should receive every encouragement in order that there may be no curtailment of the output of highly concentrated human food. The financial statement of the Association showed a balance on hand of \$332.15. The total expenditure for the year was \$6,138.80.

Instructor's Report.

Frank Hens, Chief Dairy Instructor and Sanitary Inspector for Western Ontario, gave a comprehensive report regarding the amount of cheese and butter manufactured in the district during the year. He also gave an account of the experimental work which has been done in the grading of cheese and butter. The quality of both cheese and butter has reached a particularly high standard in Western Ontario, due in a large extent to dairy instruction work which has been carried on. The 140 cheese factories manufactured 29,206,290 pounds of cheese in 1916, which was nearly three million pounds less than in 1915. There were 10,969 patrons supplying milk to the factories, and the average test of the milk which they delivered during the season was 3.34. This was a trifle less than the previous year and the loss of fat in the whey was .25, or a little higher than the past year. It required 11.35 pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese in 1916, and the average price per pound was 18.2 cents. The price received in 1917 was