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A Pretty Lake Scene in B. C.

principle that unless the fertility of the soil is maintained it ceases to be productive; hence the dairy farmer whose produce is entirely removed from the farm replaces the fertilizing constituents which it contained by supplying his cows with purchased food and his soil with purchased manures.

I use the word "purchased" advisedly, because it relates to the import of fertility which is intended to replace the export. The dairy farmer as I know him—and I have the privilege of knowing hundreds—from the keeper of one cow to the owner of 250—does much more than repair the loss, for he buys more than he sells.

An Example.

Let us take an example case. A cow yielding 500 gallons of milk, which, small as it is, is a fair average yield for an average herd, produces 50 pounds of fertilizing matter in its three most important forms—nitrogen, purchased in nitrate of soda in which it is present to the extent of 15½ pounds per hundred; phosphoric acid, the most important con-

stituent of superphosphate and basic slag; and potash.

The nitrogen forms 15½ per cent. of the casein of the milk, while the minerals produced are present in the ash. The sugar and fat of milk have no manurial value, as they are produced from foods which are derived from the atmosphere.

Imagine it. Burn a lump of sugar and a tallow candle and prove the truth of it, for both vanish into the air. The nitrogen referred to is equal to 30 lbs., and the phosphoric acid and potash to 20 lbs. At sixpence a pound for the nitrogen and market price for the minerals, we barely reach twenty shillings, a sum which represents the vanished fertility present in 500 gallons of milk.

What, may I ask, does the dairy farmer spend on purchased foods? We can leave manures out of the question altogether. A quarter of a ton (560 lbs.) of decorticated cotton cake costing in an average season 35s.—it costs a little more today—would provide 34¼ lbs. of nitrogen, 17 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and 8¼ lbs. of potash.

This quantity of cake would represent about 1½ lbs. per day, whereas dairy farmers who know their business provide from 6 to 12 lbs. of cake and similarly concentrated foods during the period October to May, and a pound or two of cake daily on the pastures.

Thus, while the cake alone more than replaces the lost fertility, the ration as a whole immensely increases it. If, however, we were to deal with the subject of manure we should be able to place the matter in a still more brilliant light, for not only are the mangles, swedes, hay, and straw manured with artificial fertilizers in addition to the dung, but practically all the crops on the farm.

Butter-making stands on a different footing in this matter. Butter consists of the fat of milk and of the water which cannot be expelled in the process of manufacture. Fat contains no minerals, and nitrogen does not enter into its composition. For these reasons the production of butter is not attended with the loss of fertility. The whole of the materials which possess fertilizing value pass into the offal milk, and if this is supplied to stock there will be no loss to the land.

Learn to Make Repair.

A boy we know who hopes some day to be a farmer will sit 15 minutes on a rake mower, and call for someone to tighten a nut or adjust another bit of mechanism. If he succeeds he will have to learn to do these things himself, for every farmer must be a machinist. The man who can put a reaper together after he has seen it done will do well, but the man who can do it without having seen it done will do better. Time on the farm as anywhere else is money, and when a tongue breaks it is money in the pocket to be able to repair it without driving to the blacksmith.

A Heretofore Unnoted Benefit from the Growth of Legumes.

In a recent bulletin from Cornell University, Professors Lyon and Bizzell report some experiments in growing timothy with alfalfa, timothy with clover, and oats with peas, especially with regard to the effect of such companionship upon the non-legumes. Contiguous control plots, where the timothy and oats were grown alone, furnished opportunity for direct comparison, and in every case the timothy grown with alfalfa or clover, and the oats grown with peas, contained an appreciable higher per cent. of protein.

We append the summary prepared by the authors:—

Timothy grown with alfalfa contained a greater percentage of protein than did timothy grown alone. The same was true of timothy grown with red clover. Oats grown with peas had a higher

Are Your Walls In Style



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