

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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1. **FARM AND DAIRY** is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

ECONOMY IN FARM MACHINERY

The farm labor problem, which in many instances in recent years reached an acute stage, has worked its own solution. Fewer men are now employed than formerly on the average farm, and such men as are capable of handling several horses attached to fast working implements and machinery are the kind wanted. Men of such capabilities cost more to hire than do the average sort, but they are worthy of their hire, as Mr. Anson Grob ably points out in the article on page three of this issue.

That we as farmers generally are coming to a fuller realization of this idea is evidenced in the great and growing amount of machinery that we now believe to be necessary on any well equipped farm. Those of us today who are making the greatest headway and who are the strongest believers in the farm as affording an all-round life work are the men who adopt all reasonable labor saving machinery and devices which have been placed upon the market.

A man advanced the opinion recently to an editor of *Farm and Dairy* that farmers have been getting alto-

gether too much machinery. With the exception of only a few individuals, he was wrong. No better investment can be made than that of the recently invented labor saving machines which are now becoming common and the great value of which is attested by the very fact that so many of them are being bought by our conservative, hard-thinking farmers.

The aim to-day should be to transfer all the labor possible from the man or men to horses and to the various forms of labor saving devices and machinery. To do this is true economy. For this reason it often pays to look carefully through the catalogues of the manufacturers of farm machinery. They nearly all contain helpful suggestions. Why not write for the catalogues of some of the firms advertising in this issue of *Farm and Dairy*. They are furnished free and may prove of value to you.

CONDITIONS OF THE EGG TRADE

Seventeen per cent. of the eggs gathered by the largest produce firm in Canada are consigned to the dump. This represents a great waste. The loss, owing to transportation charges, labor, commissions of various middlemen and other similar causes, is much greater than the current market value of this quantity of eggs. Who bears this loss? It is not, as a rule, the produce firm.

The principles upon which our egg trade is conducted are radically wrong. The loss that results is caused by the neglect of many trifles which when summed up make a large aggregate. The producer is not the only one at fault. One illustration will serve to fix the responsibility for part of the trouble and loss elsewhere. A leading produce merchant in the city of Peterboro last week was making a specialty of fresh laid eggs. He put them in his window immediately behind the plate glass. Shortly after noon the sun was shining directly on these eggs. The temperature they were in must have ranged about 100 degrees for most of the afternoon. Under such conditions it would not be long before those eggs would be ruined. The merchant did not realize that the germs in the eggs were being started well on the way to incubation and that every moment they remained in the window they were rapidly deteriorating in quality.

How much fancy butter could that merchant have sold at the current market price had he put it in the window beside those eggs? The corners of the prints would soon have rounded off, and the quality be lost. No merchant would think of exhibiting eggs have shells, although their quality is as rapidly destroyed, they are frequently exposed in this way.

There is much to learn about the egg business by dealers and merchants as well as by the producers. A general campaign of education has long been due. In order to market eggs at the best possible price, the farmers in several districts near Peterboro are organizing into co-operative fresh egg circles.

Mention of this is made in the poultry department of this issue. The market for their produce is assured. The movement is worthy of hearty support. Farmers elsewhere will do well to follow the example being set by the farmers of Peterboro county.

NEGLECT THAT TENDS TOWARDS POVERTY

How long does some of our more expensive and most important farm machinery last? How long does a binder last? How much service can we get from a manure spreader, a side delivery rake, a hay loader? These are questions we all ought to ask. The answer would invariably be, "Not as long as they should." In many cases the failure of this machinery to last anywhere near the time it should helps to keep its owners poor.

How long does a binder last? From one to three months will take in its average life of usefulness! Ten days is time enough to cut the grain on the average farm each year. In six years this would amount to two months; in 12 years, four months; and there are few binders, speaking generally, that are not consigned to the scrap heap long ere that time.

This remarkably short life of the binder—the same is true of some other machines—is due almost wholly to neglect. Failure to house the machinery when not in use, failure to oil it well and often, failure to keep it in the best repair, these three work its ruin. Oil is the cheapest commodity that will help to preserve machinery we can buy; repairs are very expensive when done without, and a suitable implement shed in these days of much expensive machinery affords one of the best investments that can be made.

INTERESTING COMPARISONS

The results of experimental work based upon the value of the cow, milk, butter fat, calf and manure, and also upon the cost of feed, labor, depreciation on cow, interest, taxes, housing, etc., indicate that under ordinary farm conditions and with the product sold on the common market, a cow must produce approximately 4,000 lbs. of milk and 100 lbs. of fat to pay for the feed and labor. In other words, this is the dead line. Cows producing less than this are kept at a loss. For every 1,000 lbs. of milk produced above 4,000 lbs., the cow returns a profit of \$10.

These figures, which are advanced by Wilbur J. Fraser, Chief in Dairy Husbandry at the Agricultural Experimental Station, Urbana, Ill., afford a ready means whereby we can figure out the approximate profit from the milk of any cow under ordinary conditions. Valuing the milk at \$1.00 a 100 lbs. a cow that produces 10,000 lbs. of milk, returns a profit of \$90, or six times as much as the cow producing 5,000 lbs. of milk. A cow producing 5,000 lbs. of milk brings in a profit of \$10, while the cow producing 8,000 lbs. of milk returns a profit of \$40, or four times as much; or in other words, 10 cows producing 8,000 lbs. of milk would return as much profit as 40 cows producing 5,000 lbs. of milk,

and the former involves only one-quarter the labor.

It has been said, "The very strength of the dairy business is its weakness." Because it is so generally remunerative people have come to believe that money can be made at it no matter how conducted. It would seem that for the most part many are quite content to rest in this belief rather than take the necessary steps which are so simple and cost so little to find out just what profit each cow makes. In view of the plain facts that have been brought out in recent years relative to the possibilities of dairy herd improvement, there is small wonder that the cow testing movement is making headway; the great wonder is that it does not progress more rapidly.

CO-OPERATIVE OWNERSHIP OF FARM MACHINERY

Labor saving machinery helps us as farmers to reduce the cost of production of farm products. The inventive genius of man has provided machines to such an extent that now there is scarcely any operation ranging from hoeing to the more complete work of turning the sod or driving the threshing machine but what can be done with modern machinery. This machinery is expensive. So much of it is required nowadays that an outfit complete represents a tidy sum, often much more than can be afforded or what one would willingly expend. Many of these machines, although expensive, result ultimately in the trust of economy. Their utility cannot be gainsaid. Often it is only a question of time when some particular machine, or set of machines, will be installed; were these put to use at an earlier date they would result in good returns on the investment. In order to affect this earlier purchase it frequently is advisable to co-operate with neighbors in the purchase of machines and in this way make possible the profitable use of a full line of farm machinery.

The co-operative principle applied in this particular has its disadvantages, to be sure, and unless one's neighbors are of the right sort, he might well hesitate before purchasing farm machinery on a co-operative plan. Possibly the greatest difficulty lies in the fact that what is everybody's property is nobody's property, and the machines are given indifferent care, often abuse. This difficulty may be overcome in a small circle of three or four neighbors by each one being responsible for a given machine, it to be his property and his especial charge no matter on whose farm it is working.

In the case of such machinery as that specially designed for particular crops, such as potatoes and hay, silo-filling and threshing machines, or even the manure spreader or binder, co-operative ownership is possible, and such will often prove the most profitable. Some of these machines would pay, owing to small acreage, only when owned on the co-operative plan. In such cases it would be well worth while for farmers to give the question consideration.