# FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

Published by the Rura, Publishing Company, Limited.

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I. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairymen's Associations, and of the Cana-Ontario, and Betford District Quebec. Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein Cattle Breeders' Association. A. SUBSKUIPTION PRICES, 5.85s a year. Association and the control of the Cattle Breeders' Association and Section 19 postage. Notices of the expiration of subscriptions are sent to all the paper until they send notice of discontinuation. No subscription is continued for more than one year after date of the control of two new subscribers. 3 REMITTANCES should be made.

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3. REMITTANCES should be made by lost Office or Money Order, or Registered etter. Poetage stamps accepted for mounts less than \$1.00. On all checked dd 20 cents for exchange fee required at the control of the co

the banks.

4. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—When a change of address is ordered, both the old and new addresses must be given.

5. ADVERTISING RATES quoted on application. Copy received up to the Friday preceding the following week's issue.

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES STOCKWELL'S SPECIAL AGENCY Chicago Office—People's Gas Building. New York Office—236 5th Avenue.

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Sworn detailed statements of the circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by counties and provinces, will be
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FARM AND DAIRY PETERBORO. ONT.

# THE "TAIL ENDERS"

Fall fair prize lists along with lack of discrimination in placing the awards in live stock classes, afford a chance for a species of petty graft that is demoralizing to the fair visitor and cheapening to the reputation of the fair. We refer to the awarding of prizes to tail enders that are markedly inferior but nevertheless get the money because there is no other competition for third and fourth places.

In almost every district of Canada there are one or more dairy farmers who have herds of scrubby pure bred cattle, animals that would disgrace any breed. The owners of these herds know that the classes in their particular breed will be short. Accordingly, without giving their herds any extra feeding or fitting, they drive them into the fair ground, haul their entries out in their respective classes, generally with the active opposition

of the animals, and go away with third or fourth ribbons-because there was no one else there to get them.

We do not need to call attention to special instances. The case we have stated is true of at least some class in almost every fair in the country. It is true of our larger fairs. Even so prominent a fair as that of Sherbrooke, Que., had a lot of ragged animals, particularly in the Holstein, French-Canadian and Guernsey classes, walking away with honors that they did not deserve.

Such entries lower the standard of the fair. They give fair visitors a poor opinion of pure bred cattle in general and of the breed that the tail enders represent in particular. They go far to off-set the good work the fair is doing in educating in the people of the district a love for better live stock

If judges were allowed to use their discrimination in disqualifying markedly inferior animals this demoralizing graft would soon be done away with. Such action on the part of the judges would be of great advantage to the breed, to the fair goer and to the fair itself.

#### CONFORMATION OR PERFORMANCE on.

Another consideration in the placing of awards in dairy catle sections that frequently comes up for discussion when judges get together, is whether or not known performance at the pail should be taken into consideration in the show ring.

At the recent Canadian National Exhibition this discussion was given added interest by the presence in the ring of Mr. Frederickson, of Denmark. He praised many things that he had observed in Canadian dairying but saw little in our system of show ring judging to commend it to him. He explained that in his own country there were three classes of judging at the fall fairs. In the first place the cattle were judged on conformation as they are in this country and awards placed accordingly. Awards were then given in the female classes to the cows that in public test had made the largest amount of milk and butter in a certain time. In the third class the judge awarded to each entry so many points for conformation, so many points for known production and the cow scoring highest in the total was placed at the head of the list. "In this way," said Mr. Frederickson, "we endeavor to combine judging by external evidences of production with the truer test of performance at the pail."

We must admit that our system of judging cattle on external evidences of production alone, is not an ideal or a perfect system. Nor is the public dairy test such as is conducted at Guelph, Ottawa and Amherst much nearer the ideal. The ideal dairy cow is the one that combines both desirable conformation and great producing ability. The combination of these two systems of judging dairy cattle into one, would give us the ideal; but it presents many difficulties.

One of the greatest difficulties in the way of introducing a score card

system that would take account of both conformation and production is that all cows that are shown at our fairs have not been officially tested. A still greater objection is that the cows that have been tested have not all been tested under the most favorable conditions. For instance, one cow might have producing ability of a much higher standard than another cow, but her record, and consequently her score is not so high as is that of an inferior competitor because the latter was tested by a competent herdsmen. Other cows might freshen and be tested at more favorable seasons of the year than some of their competitors. Another objection that might be urged is that few judges at present are competent to use a score card in judging.

We have yet some distance to go before we find the ideal method of awarding the ribbons in dairy cattle classes. The subject is open for discussion

#### FOLLOWING NATURE

To "follow nature," may be a capital idea at times. When it comes to determining farm methods, however, nature is a poor guide to bank In a state of nature the cow gives enough milk to feed her calf and it is rather scanty feeding at Horses found in the wild places of the world are small and stunted creatures that would show up poorly in comparison with our modern Clydesdale, Shire Percheron. In fact, our very civilization depends on getting away from Nature

One thing we farmers in particular must not forget. Nature never lets up in her efforts to regain her lost control. There is always a tendency for the artificial creations of man, and these creations include all improved stock, to drop back to the standard that nature sets. Hence the truth of the saving that "a man must either go forward or backward for he cannot stand still." As soon as the breeder of dairy cattle is satisfied with the milk records of his herd or the breeder of heavy horses is satisfied with the conformation, quality and action of his animals and ceases trying to progress, just so soon does his stock begin to retrogress. Nature is still fighting for her own even if he is not

A never ceasing struggle for higher and higher standards must be the rule of him who would be a successful breeder of any class of live stock.

### ROBBERS AND ROBBERS

Bill Miner is dead. Who has not heard of Bill Miner? The number of trains he has held up and the banks he has robbed would make a list to fill a small volume. The newspaper stories of his exciting chases with the police would fill an encylopedia.

The chief difference between Bill Miner and the average bank denositor, however, is not that Bill took the money out of the bank at the dead of night after skillful use of the "jimmy" and dynamite, but that he drew from the bank without making

a commensurate deposit. We doubt if the police would have had so many exciting chases with Bill Miner had he left with the bank as much money as he took from it. It is this differ. ence that classes him as a robber

There are robbers and robbers We feel that in a mild sort of a way many farmers are imitators of Bill Miner They go to Nature's bank of stored up soil fertility and draw therefrom without ever a thought of making an qual return to the soil.

People are now beginning to give this latter style of robber a hot chase Governments are after him with their agricultural colleges, their extension divisions and their blue covered bulle tins. The Farmers' Institute is after him, the Farmers' Club is after him. the Conservation Commission is after him and last, but by no means least the agricultural press is after him The soil robber is going to be given a hotter and hotter chase and the sooner he is chased out of existeno the better it will be for the country

The management of the Western Fair at London deserve hearty con gratulations. They have shown real

pluck. With the moster Real their buildings burned Pluck to the ground just a couple of weeks before

their fair opened, they rallied to the work, erected what shelter they could for the expected exhibits and conducted a really successful fair, one that would compare well with any held heretofore. Every one of us car afford to take a lesson from the pluck they have displayed.

Land occupancy laws, and long time loans at low rates, that par both principal and interest, made only to men of high moral character. will, in time, be worked out. Farmers' credit systems will eventual lead to this end.

## A Tragedy in Our Town "Oh, papa, see that splendid nes

'Yes my son, it is very fine; he wil

"Why do you say that, papa?"
"Because son, here comes the asset

or. He will fine that man for improving his farm." "Oh papa, and will he fine the mat

who owns those ugly old barns on the next farm?"

next farm?"
"Not much my son."
"Why not papa?"
"Why not—Why—Because this i
Ourtown, the smartest country &
trict on earth. The man with & ugly barns has not committed an improvement. Why should he be in

"Oh papa, you are joking me"
"Am I son? Well just you put ma fine new barn on that old farm ours and see the assessor come af you with a big stick-I mean a big bill."

"Oh papa, what kind of people is the people of Ourtown?—to fine i man more for making a place profit they for making it ugly."

than for making it ugly."
"My dear boy, there are two kinds
of people in Ourtown—the assess
and the assessed."

Papa, that makes me feel bad" "Me too son. It drives me adrink; and from building that no barn we have been planning."
With Apologies to S. Miellika

SERVICE-T Busi

The ideal future will who intelliger vertising poli getting busin usiness thre the limit his whole founds and that up nends the nu dence of all

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