

**A Criticism.**

We recently received the following:

DEAR SIR,—I like your paper very much in the main, but regret your rabid hostility to the Government's endeavors to benefit us farmers, and also your enmity to the Durhams. It seems to me preposterous to boom up the Ayrshires; I suppose I have seen the best they have to show at the different Provincial shows, and a mean lot I have always thought them. Wishing you every success, I am yours truly,

N. H., Guelph, Ont.

We respect and admire N. H.'s criticism, and only wish every person, whether official or otherwise, would speak as candidly. At the same time, the public should consider that the locality whence this criticism comes is just where the Government money is being expended. We admit we have written in opposition to Government expenditures, because we have not believed and do not yet believe that the first and chief consideration has been the benefit of farmers, but for gaining power over them, to the injury of every private individual or enterprise that may have been conducted by any independent person; that truth has been perverted and suppressed; that secrecy has been enjoined, and that no plan or device has been allowed to go untried to exalt imaginary good and suppress all evil results from such expenditures. Anything to be of real or lasting benefit to the farmers or the country, must be founded on truth, or the farmers and the nation must suffer. Officials must support each other, and in this continual increase of offices, jobs and salaries, we fail to see good that has been done equal to what private enterprise has accomplished, or what might have been thus accomplished. We know of inestimable injury having been done from the introduction of Government agricultural expenditures, and if still persisted in, from this you may date the downfall of a contented yeomanry and the introduction of serfdom that must follow.

No one admires the Durhams more than we do; no one appreciates the good that our Shorthorn men have done for our country more than we have done; no one knows better the devices and plans that have been adopted by those advertising the use of and using Government money to force the Durhams into the hands of farmers whose lands are not suitable for that class of stock, and whose pockets are being depleted by the degeneracy of Durhams in size and the diminishing of the milking qualities of milk-producing animals. Our course has been guided by the conviction that we have been doing our duty to the farmers in condemning injurious practices. We are as strong an advocate of the Durhams in their place as any one, but other breeds have merits. The baneful manipulation supported by Government officials to the injury of the farmer is what we have objected to. We believe there have been many breeders injured or ruined by Shorthorns since the establishment of the Model Farm and their importations of stock. Our pages are and have always been open for fair discussion. We believe N. H. and every other honorable person only wishes for facts.

My opinion is that the way to save boys and girls and make them fine men and women is to give them something interesting and valuable to do. Young folks like experiments. There is nothing they like better. So you will do well to give them an experimental garden, and then help them over the difficult points. A mere knowledge of botany is of very little value, unless it is accompanied by a practical sympathy with vegetable life, and a cultured power to bring out of nature something new and better.—[E. P. Rowell, B. S. L. G. B. T.]

**Farmers' Clubs.****Dominion Farmers' Council.**

[This Council meets on the third Thursday of every month at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Macdonald, London, Ont. The Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, also pamphlets containing a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs. Lactoscopes sent free to amalgamated clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of this Council was held on the 21st ult., President Leitch in the chair.

After routine and reading of communications, the following motions were made:

Moved by Henry Anderson, and seconded by John Wheaton, that the Pittsburgh Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council—Carried.

Moved by John Kennedy, seconded by Henry Anderson, that the Walsh Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council—Carried.

Several other applications for amalgamation were read, but amalgamation was deferred until further information is received.

A motion was made and carried congratulating the Pittsburgh Farmers' Club (which is a central organization with several local clubs associated with it) for the efforts it is putting forth in securing better representation of farmers in parliament, and for the success of its delegate, Mr. Henry Bawden, in forming an association of the members of the Ontario Legislature who are engaged in agriculture.

The Secretary stated that out of the 90 members in the Ontario Legislature there were 20 farmers—besides a few others who did not make a specialty of agriculture. There were 15 lawyers and 10 doctors in the house. Seventy percent of our population were farmers, and only 22 percent were represented in parliament.

A MEMBER—How many farmers are there in the Dominion Parliament?

JAS. K. LITTLE—According to the Toronto News, there are 33 farmers against 63 lawyers, 36 merchants, 22 doctors, and about 22 lumbermen. There are altogether 215 members in the House.

**RAISING CALVES.**

The following paper, sent by the Secretary of the Granton Farmers' Club, was read. It was written by John J. Biggins, a young lad about 20 years old, who is a member of the club, and was read and discussed by the club before being sent to the Council:

In regard to raising calves, I had almost come to the conclusion to write these few remarks altogether on grade calves, but after thinking it over, there was a difficulty in the way, as we could not raise grade calves unless one kept the thoroughbred article, and I think the same method will do equally well for all kinds of calves. In the first place, if we intend to feed well and to lay the foundation for good heavy cattle, we should make it a special object to breed good calves to commence on; and I think the following is a very good method of feeding:—Give new milk from the cow, for the first month, in quantities as follows: about 1 quart morning and evening for the first week, and raise it up to 2 quarts during the second week, and up to 1 gallon morning and evening for the third and fourth weeks; then commence giving 6 quarts of sweet skim milk and a handful of linseed meal mixed in it twice a day for the next 5 months, and it is very beneficial when the calf is six or eight weeks old to learn it to eat a few dry or chopped oats.

If the calves are dropped in the fall they will be ready to go out to grass about the first of June, and if they are spring calves, put them in a small grass field with some old shed or covering in it,

to protect them from the hot sun and rain; be sure to take them in before the cold rains and frosty nights in the fall, and give the following rations daily to each calf: 1 pint of either corn or pea meal, 1 quart of chopped oats, 1 pint of bran, ½ pint of coarse ground oil cake, all mixed together, and a pailful of mangels, with clover hay twice a day and straw at night. Calves will do very well on unground oats, but as a general rule grinding renders all the cereal grains more digestible by reducing the size of the particles. To be a careful and successful feeder a man does not require to be a thorough physiologist, but he does require judgment and experience. It is sometimes said of a man that he is a good feeder because he slashes out meal to his cattle with the scoop shovel, but this does not entitle him to the name of a profitable feeder, and all good cattle feeding must have its start in calf feeding, for it is very seldom that a neglected calf makes a profitable beast. Now, Mr. President, a skilful and practical feeder will strive to keep his calves constantly growing in every part of the system, and I think it is very important to never let a calf lose what is termed its calf fat. But a calf at six months old might be fed up to 400 or 500 lbs. weight on milk alone, and only one part of its stomach would be brought into activity. The consequence would very likely be that when the food was changed the calf would get sick, as the other parts of its stomach would be entirely undeveloped and not in a condition for digesting fibrous food. That is the reason that I think it profitable to learn calves to eat a little chopped oats or something dry as soon as they will, to develop and enlarge the first stomach, because we can not get a good, healthy, full grown beast unless he has enough capacity for stowing away his dinner.

Coarse ground oil cake is very highly esteemed by the breeders of Great Britain as a food for calves, as they consider that it keeps their stomachs and blood in a good healthful condition, which is a very important object; and it is also very nitrogenous and has got some of the same properties as milk; ground oats are also an excellent food, as they are not only perfectly safe to feed, but also contain about 5 percent of fatty matter. Now, Mr. President, I think a nice layer of fat over a calf's body is something like an overcoat for a man, it prevents a good deal of shivering on a cold day. And whatever mode of feeding we practice, if we want to raise good cattle we should never stunt the calves.

Sometimes we allow our thoroughbred calves to suck the cows till they are 6 or 7 months old, and commence giving them a little chopped oats and bran as soon as they will eat it, but I don't think there is much advantage in letting them suck, only it saves the trouble of milking, and after a cow first calves she will have more milk than the calf will take and consequently needs milking at least once a day; and one great disadvantage in this system is that after a few months the cow decreases in milk as the calves older and requires more of it. I think the best way is to feed them by hand; then as the calf gets older and larger we can increase the quantity of milk to suit the requirements.

I must say a few words about the "scrubs," as I am called upon to write my essay on all kinds of calves, and I think the most effectual method of raising poor scrub calves would be to commence when they are very young with a few pounds of dynamite.

The paper elicited a good deal of attention, and the writer was highly complimented. The only point objected to was the small quantity of milk fed to the young calf, several members having stated that their young calves consumed more than two quarts a day for the first week.

Several members stated their experience in calf feeding, but it was unanimously agreed that the plan adopted by President Leitch was the best, which he described as follows:

I feed new milk for the first three or four weeks, and then I gradually change by feeding sweet whey, with ground linseed meal in it, and after each feeding I give dry bran, usually with some oats; but I like bran best, it being