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EDITORIAL

Hasten to complete the plowing.

The chill November days are about here.

Those who bought their feeders early are congratulating themselves.

High-priced corn is likely to tone up the quotations of the American hog market.

There are many low, heavy fields which could be worked earlier next spring if they were ridged up this fall.

They are growing corn in the West. Cattle and corn go together, and, as has always been the case, are crowding wheat westward.

Some buyers now predict that Canadian cattlemen will soon have to buy cattle in the United States. Trading seems to stimulate business.

The surest way to encourage the production of bacon hogs in Ireland, as anywhere else, is to make it steadily clear that there is a profit in doing so.

As the United States people become better acquainted with the toothsome of fine Canadian bacon, the popularity of the chunky, lard hog may slip down a notch.

Dairymen, producers and makers, should read two articles in this week's Dairy Department, dealing with butter-fat testing and over-run. Legislation is suggested. What do milk and cream sellers and butter makers think of this?

The steadily-growing absorption of whole milk for town consumption and manufacturing purposes reduces the supply of dairy by-products so useful in swine husbandry, and in not a few sections is already tending to reduce the hog market supplies. Moral: Keep up the price of bacon hogs.

The Ontario Highways Commission, now investigating roadmaking and maintenance in the United States, are going to give each county in Ontario, through its representatives, an opportunity to discuss road problems with them. It is the duty of every man called before the Commission to state his unbiased views, whatever they may be. This should prove a valuable investigation, leading to better roads in this Province.

The fields have been cleared and the trees stripped, and everywhere there is the bleakness of November coming on, but there is satisfaction in knowing that the silo, barns and root cellars are filled and the stables ready to comfortably house all the stock, while the house cellar gives off the aroma of ripening apples, and every corner is filled with delicious vegetables and canned fruits. No wonder winter is looked forward to with pleasure by the man on the soil.

Meat and Milk.

Meat and milk are two articles of diet which cannot well be substituted, and, now that the beef prices are stiffening, the cow which is able to produce a reasonable flow of milk and to raise a reasonably suitable beef type of calf is sure to be much in demand. Notwithstanding the fact that some specialists, breeders of the dairy breeds have maintained that no cow could be bred for milk and beef, the dual-purpose animal has grown in favor. For the specialist the extreme dairy type, as it is found in our recognized dairy breeds, is the cow. We do not dispute the fact that a dairy cow bred for generations with milk and butter-fat the goal is likely to produce more milk or more butter-fat than a dual-purpose cow, neither could anyone rightfully hold that the extreme beef animal produced after generations of breeding towards the square, blocky type, evenly and firmly covered with a mellow fleshing is the animal from which the very highest type of beef animal would come; but the average farmer is not a specialist. There are only a few men who would make successful specialists. By far the larger number of our stockmen are mixed farmers. True, many have a preference for a certain breed or class of stock and it is well that they have, but after all it is a mixed-farming country. Mixed farming means live stock, and, with market conditions as they are at present, the cow which returns profits on milk produced and at the same time raises a fairly thick calf, good enough to bring top prices as finished beef, looks like a safe and sure part of the farm stock. It has been said that such cows do not breed calves like themselves. It must be remembered that it took decades upon decades to develop the best breeds of live stock we have to-day. So with the dual-purpose cow. It requires time, and while variations are sure to occur, the breeder must pin his faith to the old standby, "like tends to produce like", and with the requirements of the heavy milker and the beef animal firmly fixed in his mind, breed to blend the two into a heavy-milking, easy-feeding type, producers from both ends of the business.

The Cattle Purge.

"More buyers than cattle here," was the laconic, long-distance message received the other day at "The Farmer's Advocate" office from a live-stock centre of repute. So much for the swift result of the peaceful American invasion seeking Canadian food supplies. In modern medical treatment doctors lay great reliance upon the virtue of the purge as a basic treatment of certain ailments. Nor is it without analogy in live-stock husbandry. A few years ago the South African War gave the light-horse stocks of the Province of Ontario such a cleaning out that the beneficial results may be felt to this day. And now we have it in another branch of live-stock rearing. Perhaps never before was there as speedy and complete a gathering up of miscellaneous Canadian feeding animals as during the past couple of months. Dairying superseded beef raising in Canada because people saw in it more money and the movement was accelerated by a hundred and one government-aided agencies. The advent of dairy breeds crowded the beef types and lowered the standard of the stockers, except in a few favored districts. For years, also dairy calves have been slaughtered at birth in thousands. Now we are face to face with depletion in both classes of stock, and the oppor-

tunity of a life time to build anew from the ground up. There is a dual-purpose cow, none too plentiful, that when mated with a like type of sire will produce good feeding progeny, and of her sort we may look for more and we may likewise witness a decided toning up of the liking for the special beef breeds, particularly in the grazing areas. That there will be any diminution in the popularity of the dairy breeds is inconceivable, because of the ever-increasing call for milk and its products. We look for a general revival all along the line as a result of the cattle purge.

Hog Market Fluctuations.

Breeders and feeders of pigs in this country have been much concerned about the marked decline in the market price of hogs from week to week during the past month. Well do they understand that it is not due to any very appreciable increase in the supplies in the pens of producers. There is, as far as we can ascertain, no great movement on foot to multiply the numbers of hogs bred annually in the country, neither has there been any such movement operating during the past summer. Hog-raising and dairying are sister industries, especially where that branch of dairying is specialized in which leaves the skim-milk or whey for pig-feeding on the farm. But during recent years the increased demand for whole milk for cities and powder plants has robbed the farm of the best and cheapest feed for young growing pigs, consequently pig-feeding in many sections has not increased as fast as the advancement of dairying would seem to indicate. It has been a different type of dairying to the old-time, home-dairy-butter-making period and the days of district cheese factories or creameries. Much of the milk has been diverted in its whole state into different channels. While the price of hogs has been high, developments at the feeding end of the business and the cost of feeds and labor have not favored increased pork production as much as some might have supposed, not that, properly handled, there has not been fair profit in making pork.

However, the marked October decline has this year occasioned more than usual comment. It may be that unusually heavy runs of cattle have affected the hog market, but of this we are not sure. Well do we remember the caution of a successful pig-feeder some years ago, "Never have pigs ready for market around October 1st or November 1st." The question is why not? From several years experience and market observation this feeder knew that October and early November was not a good market season for pork. The reason he advanced was that many farmers had notes and other monies to make up in October or early November, and consequently planned to sell their hogs then to raise money to meet these obligations. There does not seem to have been any great glut on the markets this fall, but still prices dropped. It looks as though the money factor as mentioned had something to do with it. Buyers on the market understand full well that many farmers must have money in the fall. Perhaps they do as indicated in a market report we recently read, "try hard to keep the price down," and for a time their efforts seem to be eminently successful.

To be sure that the statement that hogs go down in price in October is correct, we looked upon our market reports for the years 1908 to 1912 inclusive. The following table of quotations proves the point. The dates given are the dates upon which "The Farmer's Advocate" was