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Vol. XLII.

# **EDITORIAL**

## RAISERS.

" In view of the increase of immigration involving smaller farms of higher-priced acres, what is likely to be the relative standing of beef-raising and dairying thirty years hence?" The above question, submitted to us by a reflective reader, was referred to Prof. G. E. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, who, while not undertaking to answer it positively, sets forth in another column a very well-balanced consideration of the probabilities based upon available data. The impression he leaves is that, while the dairy cow is a far more economical converter of coarse farm products into human food than is the steer, and tends, therefore, to supersede the latter as population becomes dense, on the other hand, the Anglo-Saxon appetite for meat asserts itself and insists on beefsteak, even though it does cost more per meal than milk or cheese. Moreover, the fact that beef-making is more congenial than dairying to the general run of farmers, makes us willing to engage in it for less remuneration than we require in dairying, hence the tendency is to preserve a condition of narrower margins in beef-raising than in dairying. The latter is usually, therefore, the quickest and surest way for the poor man to get ahead. One marked feature of the situation is the foolish tendency of many to rush from one line to the other, snatching at momentarily high prices, and thereby retarding the progress of their bark by continual rocking. Sizing up the whole question, we are left with the writer's inference that there will for a long time to come be room in Canada for both dairving and beef-raising, though in sections where land values are highest the cow may be expected to continue ascendant over the steer, beef production (except perhaps the finishing process) being relegated more and more to cheaper lands, so long as such are to be found. In this connection we will be reminded that Great Britain is devoting a considerable part of her high-priced land to beef production. In reply, it may be said that Britain is raising a very superior quality of beef that outsells ours on the British market, yet, in spite of this fact, there are some clear thinkers who believe the British farmer would consult his best interests by going in more largely for dairying and leaving to the Colonies and the cornbelt States the filling of her butcher stalls. However that may be, in Canada it is found the dairy districts are the most progressive and prosperous we have, as a general rule. There is much encouragement all round in a contemplation of the future live-stock and dairy industry. There are also a few practical conclusions which present themselves. The first two of these are, improve quality and cheapen the cost of production. Fancy products always sell. An increasing number of consumers are willing to pay a fancy price for a top-notch article. Demand for finest is always ahead of the supply. It is for us, as producers, to make the most of our opportunities and demand and get for our wholesome food products an increasing amount of rich men's money that would otherwise be squandered on enervating luxury. There are splendid possibilities in catering to the gilt-edge trade, as well as more modest promise in supplying high-grade products to the larger volume of middle-class trade, which also may be educated to pay a much higher price than it now does, provided it is assured of a first-class article.

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### LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 6, 1907.

yet there is room in most cases for considerable saving here. The dairyman must make regular use of scales and Babcock test so as to increase care, and then weed out his unprofitable cows. Many a herd would yield more profit on feed consumed, with less labor, if half the cows were butchered. Both dairyman and beef-raiser must cation, but as an evidence of good faith. study system and economy of labor in crop production, thereby cheapening the raw material. The beef man also must learn the lesson of early maturity, and how to feed calves so as to keep them growing from birth to block. Baby-beef from steers not over two years old, should be the aim of those catering to our home demand, while the export bullock of the future will be not over thirty months, and probably not much over twenty-four. Labor will be reduced by feeding large numbers loose in cheaply-constructed pens or sheds. One mistake many of us have made is in thinking we must tie every bullock by the neck in a cellar. Economy of production is not accomplished by such methods, and keener competition will eventually compel us to forsake them. By doing so, the enterprising stockman will be lining his own pocket, while at the same time helping to solve what is bound to become at no distant date a very serious problem, namely, the world's food supply.

Since the foregoing was put in type we have received an article from our esteemed correspondent, Geo. Rice, who discusses the same subject submitted to Prof. Day. Substantially, their arguments agree. Mr. Rice is a man who has made a conspicuous success of dairying and dairy-stock breeding, and looks upon this line as much more profitable than beel-raising for the average farmer of to-day, especially when we consider the far greater opportunities for increasing the production per animal. His opinion is that many are blindly adhering to the business of beef-making who will change to dairying when they receive enough light on the subject to compare the two branches intelligently under the stress of keen competition for farms, with the inevitable advance in land values.

Of course, such a development would tend to increase the price of beef, hence those who studied the business of beef-making so as to shave down cost of production would be able to continue at a

on our list is not accepted. Before any question is considered, the editors are informed by the circulation department whether the inquirer is on our BRIGHT FUTURE FOR DAIRYMEN AND STOCK- production intelligently by better feed and subscription list at the point from which he writes. Our rule is simple enough, and we insist upon it. We require the full name and post-office address of every inquirer, not necessarily for publi-

No. 767.

### HOW TO UNDERDRAIN ROADS.

"How would you tile drain an earth road ?" was a question put recently to Mr. A. W. Campbell, Provincial Highways Commissioner. "Drain the road," was his terse response. Proceeding, he explained that you cannot drain all roads in the same way. Where a road skirts along a hillside-the natural drainage being, therefore, across the road-the proper place for tile is on the upper side of the driveway, so as to intercept the moisture as it soaks down the hill, and prevent it from reaching the roadbed. There are other cases where a line of tile in the center of the road is sufficient for best results, while again others require, for best results, two rows of tile, one on each side of the driveway.

Where should these two rows be placed, under the ditches or nearer the center ? Put them within the shoulder of the road. The idea is to keep the roadbed dry and firm. Tile at each side of it will not only carry away any moisture that may work down from the surface of the driveway, but will intercept the moisture that soaks in laterally. so that between the rows of tile will be a solid mass or wall of earth fit to bear the weight of traffic. The closer the rows of tile, the more quickly and more thoroughly will they drain the center of the road. Tile under the ditches would be more cheaply put in, perhaps, and would certainly do much good, but it stands to reason they would be charged during part of the time with water that would otherwise find its escape in the open ditch. To obtain the best and most economical results, Mr. Campbell's opinion is that the

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us feel we have already done our best to solve, and is a subscriber or not. His mere assurance that he is readers to offer further suggestions.

narrow margin of profit. The law of supply and demand is bound to determine the balance. Beefraising will always be the more congenial branch of husbandry to the majority of people, because less exacting in point of "chores," but by way of compensation, dairying will be found, as a rule, to show much the larger margin of profit.

#### CARELESS INQUIRERS.

A bad memory is an expensive failing. We are reminded of this day after day as questions are laid aside unanswered, because the inquirer has omitted to comply with our simple rules. One of these is that " Anonymous communications and questions will receive no attention. In every case the full name and address must be given." We have often explained that the name is not necessarily for publication. In our Questions and Answers Department we seldom print more than the inquirer's initials, or possibly some nom de plume, such as "Subscriber" or "Reader." Evidently some people infer from this that we do not mean what we say about requiring name and address. They find their mistake when they look in

drains are best placed within the shoulder, rather than beneath the open watercourses.

One other point is important to note. A road is different from a field. The latter is more or less porous, and, except in very stiff clays, water readily percolates down to the drain. On the other hand, a road, under the effect of traffic, becomes compact and more or less puddled, and water reaches the drains slowly, unless precaution is observed to fill the trenches over the tile with some loose foreign material. For this purpose, gravel is the proper thing, if obtainable, and it is safe to say that a thousand loads used in this way would give vastly better results than double the quantity dumped on the surface of an undrained road. Under no circumstances should the trenches be filled with the clay removed from them.

Size of tile is another point to consider. This will depend upon the character of the road, the length of drains and amount of fall, and it requires the exercise of judgment. A three-inch tile, however, if properly laid, with uniform grade, will carry a large amount of water, and for ordinary stretches of road will probably answer all probable requirements. It is not wise, however, to spoil the job by stinting the expenditure for tile.

A good deal more might be said on the method vain for the reply to their questions. We require the of underdraining roads, but with these salient Cost of production is a problem which many of name as a means of determining whether the writer principles we shall, for the present, at least, leave