

but one year in my life, then I bounced the job for good.

By arranging matters in this way, I can run a 100-acre farm with four horses, the best implements, the help of one boy of sixteen years, and a little extra help in haying and harvesting, doing all very nicely with pleasure and profit, and not let my land go idle or run to goose pasture. What I cannot put in with crop properly in good season, I fallow till about the 4th of July, then sow with buckwheat. I find that as profitable as anything else, seeding with timothy and clover, and have now as fine a catch of seed as I ever saw. There is more to be learned about farming to-day than there was fifty years ago, by far. I hope to see in "The Farmer's Advocate" many good ideas on solving the labor problem of the farm, and thank you for space in your valuable paper that has helped so many readers out of difficulties in the past.

RICHARD ATTRIDGE.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

[Note.—In a multitude of counsellors there is safety, and we trust the example of Mr. Attridge in relating how he is undertaking to deal with the lack of labor, will induce readers in other "banner" counties, of which there seem to be a great many, to state what plans they have found satisfactory. Later on, Mr. Attridge will be in a position to state more fully what the results have been in his case. In the meantime, the suggestion will naturally occur to many, if it proves profitable to men at a distance to lease and operate the orchard, and bear all the outlay of properly caring for it, why it would not pay the owner to do so himself?—Editor.]

### The Country Stamp.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Picking up an old "Farmer's Advocate" to-day, I read an article in which occurred the following paragraph:

"No, we would not give up the individuality of the country. The farmer is, pre-eminently, an independent man, and his individuality should reveal itself in his house and surroundings. These should be an expression of himself and family, as much as the clothes they wear, as well as the manners and dealings which tell what manner of men and women they are, etc."

It is a shame, a regrettable shame, that this rural individuality is yearly losing its identity. It was evidently not the purpose of the writer of the above paragraph to cast a slur on the "manners" of the country people as being of a lower or tougher type than those of their town-bred cousins. Ye gods! Would any man having in him those sterling qualities of honesty and integrity which prompted Bobby Burns, exchange the frank, open, natural, hospitable manner of an intelligent, prosperous farmer for the snarling, rapid, two-faced, cringing, artificial mannerisms of the town society devotee? No, for the love of honesty, of naturalness, of true worth, let the farmer maintain the frank, open-hearted individuality which environing Nature daily teaches him, and constitute himself and family an oasis in the desert of social striving ambition and soul-warping arrogance which is spreading over our country to its detriment. If farmers and farmers' wives would strive as hard to improve their homes and the productivity of their farms as they do to follow the extreme fashions and customs of the towns and cities, and be socially recognized by the fashionable set of the town, the country would be much more prosperous and there would be happier and more contented rural homes.

In the country, everything speaks of Nature, breathes of Nature, and, of necessity, the manners of the rustic should be such as show the natural man, and he should honor himself and be honored because of this, and not allow himself to be considered of a lower nature because of it. The vulgar pretence and artificiality of the town dweller are a great deal farther from ideal "manners" than the natural goodheartedness of the ordinary farmer. In the same way, the upright, look-you-in-the-face manner of the farmer is also a worthy result of his independent life, while the mock courtesy and superficial smirk of the urban dweller are as truly a mark of the training he has been compelled to obtain, in order to make himself popular and gather trade. We see many mannerisms and follies practiced by townspeople, and because of their artificial environment we take them as a matter of course, and look upon them as city individuality, unfortunate as they may be; but when we see a country woman dressed in hobble skirts, wearing extremely high-heeled shoes, running around making fashionable calls when she should be attending her household duties and teaching her children, a feeling of hot shame comes over us.

A rather melancholy instance is the history of a farmer's wife well known to the writer. When she came to her neighborhood, a decade since, by her ability and pleasing manner she became loved by all around her. Then, the ambition to get into the best (so-called) society of the near-by

town took possession of her. She left her own congregation, and became very zealous in the welfare of the fashionable town church. By such scheming she wormed herself into this empty life and society, until to-day she finds no time to cultivate her neighbors, but lots of leisure for bridge, whist and afternoon parties, living on the very froth of life and wasting hundreds of golden opportunities for the improvement of those of her community who so need it. And more than this, since she, a farmer's wife, has accomplished this, thus constituting herself a curse to those other farmers' wives who are making themselves and homes unhappy striving to follow in the footsteps of such as she exemplified. Only a few days ago I passed her on the street, without any hat on, a gray-haired old woman, childless by selfish preference, affecting the mannerisms of women many years younger, hugging her supposed glory—a ludicrous sight if it were not so pitiful.

Yes, by all means let the country people preserve their individuality distinct from the town people, so that in his life, manner, habits, dress, conveyance and customs the country man may always be easily distinguished from the resident of the city, so that the honest, true people of the world may always seek his society when they are tired of empty show. May there always be a distinction, but such an one as will always show the rural dweller in the best light.

Annapolis Co., N. S.

R. J. MESSENGER.

## THE DAIRY

### Dairy Farm Investigation.

That dairying is a profitable business, and that the dairymen who are producing milk and cream for city and town trade are an energetic and progressive class of people, is a fact brought vividly before one's eyes when calling at the fine houses of these men. Not only are the dwellings modern and up-to-date, but the outbuildings have received their share of attention, and the cows are comfortably housed in sanitary quarters, while the accompanying dairy buildings and cooling-rooms are scrupulously clean and wholesome. Everything possible is done for the comfort of the cow, the owners realizing that their bank accounts depend largely on how the cows are fed and housed, and how the milk is handled and disposed of.

In order to gather all the information possible with regard to the methods followed by various dairymen who are producing milk and cream, upwards of twenty Western Ontario dairy farms have been visited by an editorial representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," and the owners have discussed their methods for the benefit of readers of the paper generally.

#### NUMBER OF ACRES TO KEEP A COW.

The twenty-one farms which constitute the number called upon during this investigation comprise an area of 3438 acres, ranging in size from 75 acres up to 500 acres. The number of cows kept on this area is 541, or, in other words, it takes a little over six acres to keep a cow. Of course, most of these men were following mixed farming to a certain extent, and other stock and young cattle were kept by many of them, but the investigation covered a large area of country around four different towns, and therefore can be regarded as being fairly representative. When one thinks of Denmark's dairy farms, maintaining a cow to

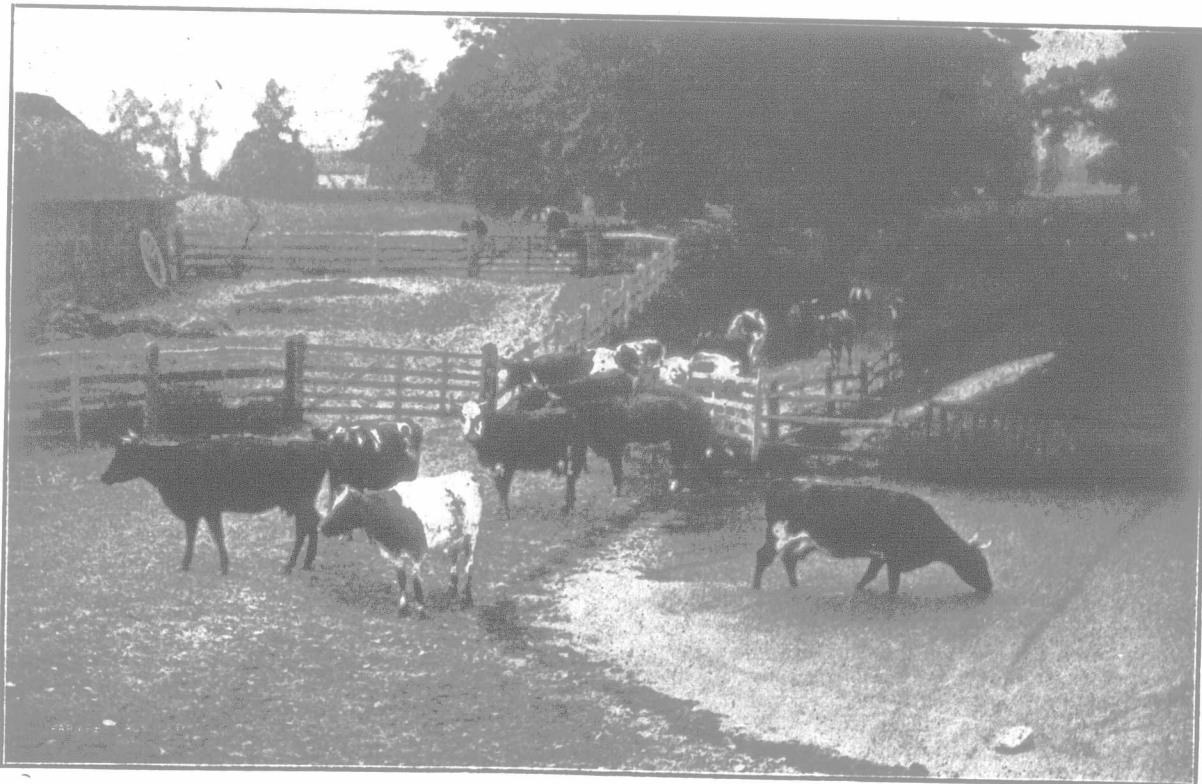
the acre, this seems to indicate that there is something wrong with the methods in this country. It must be remembered, however, that the Danes practice more intensive methods than are practiced here. A hundred-acre farm that is carrying from eighteen to twenty first-class dairy cows, together with the other necessary stock, is not badly stocked, and a fair-sized herd, well cared for, is much more profitable than a large herd of poor producers receiving poor care.

#### BREEDS KEPT.

Some interest may be taken in the breeding of the cattle kept on these farms. Of the twenty-one farms, nine were stocked with two hundred and thirty-one grade and pure-bred Holsteins, and nine others with two hundred and forty-three cows of mixed Holstein and Shorthorn breeding, three of these latter herds having also a little Ayrshire blood in them, while the three remaining herds were Shorthorn grades, and comprised seventy-one cows. The dairymen sell their cows to the butchers, because no one wishes to buy a cow from a milkman, it being understood that if a cow is not profitable for the milkman, she would likely be a bill of exorcism to anyone. Because the final destiny of the cows is the butcher's block, the cow most desired is a heavy milker, that is also a cow of large size. Some of those interviewed like the grade Holstein and Shorthorn combination very well, while others prefer the Holstein grade, and a few the Shorthorn grade. Very few registered cows are kept on the farms coming under this investigation, not more than a score, and they were registered Holsteins. The grade cow seems to be the dairyman's stand-by. A pure-bred bull is used in nearly every herd, and in some of them, where the heifer calves are kept for breeding purposes, very high-class, registered Holstein sires are being used. Many of the owners claim that they get much more satisfactory results from using a good bull and keeping the best of their heifer calves to fill the vacancies made by discarding the worn-out matrons, than they do by having to go out and buy the cows when they are needed. Both methods of replenishing the herds are followed, ten of the twenty-one herds being renewed by buying up cows, while eleven are kept up by raising the most promising heifers and selling the other calves, like the other ten owners, as soon as dropped, for from one to three dollars each. Where the calves are kept for breeding purposes, it is essential that the bull be a good one, and of a well-known milking strain, and if the individual is of satisfactory breeding this is the surest way of keeping up the herd. Very little vealing of calves is done. One man reported an income last year of ninety-six dollars from veal sold from one hard-milking cow, and another vealed all his own calves. This is a good method of handling the tough-milking cows.

#### VALUE OF THE COWS.

The value of the cows depends largely on the individuals and what they can do at the pail. Owners were unanimous in stating that the price had gone up greatly of late years. The lowest price quoted for a fair cow was sixty dollars, a few inferior ones being bought as low as forty-five, but the regular price was somewhere between sixty and one hundred dollars for good grade cows, according to quality. The price of pure-breds depended on their breeding and records. When we consider that a cow's period of usefulness is only a few years, at the most, often not more than two or three, and very rarely more than five



The Dairy Herd.