

come over the dairy business in the past half century. Everything this man did was done as carefully as if the most important results depended upon him. The cow was at that time being tested. While her milk was being drawn she was eating a mess of grain that had been most skillfully prepared—so much of this kind of food, so much of that. She was not to be disturbed in any way during the process of eating and milking. When the operator spoke to me in answer to my questions, it was in a low tone of voice, so that the cow might not be distracted from the one thing which was engaging her attention at the moment. It certainly was a great object lesson to me in modern methods of dairy farming, and I learned that this was only one feature of the care and the accuracy and the perfectly devised system that was being observed on that farm.

As I look back now from the vantage ground of fifty years, it almost seems to me that then it was not so much the quality of the cows we kept or the manner of their keeping that counted with the farmers of those days as it was the number. I remember the cows my father had. He was a good feeder and he took the best care of his stock that anybody in the neighborhood did. His cows were very carefully groomed every day. I can remember now how sleek they looked; every hair seemed to lie in the right direction. And he fed grain together with his hay. He liked to have his cows give a good mess of milk, and he wished the cream to be deep on the old-fashioned pans in which the milk was set.

But never was anything said about weighing the milk of the different cows; neither did the thought enter into the minds of any of us that there was a way of knowing just how rich was the milk given by any cow, aside from the gauge of thickness on the pan. All these things have come since. We did not stop to ask what breed a cow was. So long as she was a good looking cow, not too old, and gave a good mess of milk, that was enough to recommend her if she were in the market.

Now the question is, have we come to the best in estimating the worth of our cows? Fifty years ago we could have bought four cows, and perhaps five or six, for what we must now pay for one. The price of good cows at the present time is certainly encouraging—for the man who has them to sell. For the man who buys it seems often quite prohibitive. Last week a sale of pure-bred cows was held in the city of Binghamton, N.Y., at which cows brought prices that would have seemed fabulous to the men of a few years ago. But we are at the zenith now? Have we the best cow to-day? Will we ever know higher prices than we do now? In short, are there any finer points to be attained in the dairy cow? If so, what are they?

I want to confine myself to that one phase of the subject now: Can we bring out any finer points in the cow of tomorrow? It is a question every breeder of fine stock is asking himself, for it does seem to be a fact that the better cows we have, the better we would like to have. The moment we come to a place where we are satisfied with present attainments, that moment we begin to slip backward. We have got to go forward; if we do not, a thousand things attack us to pull us down.

#### Better Masters, Better Cows

It seems to me to be true that our best work for the future will be in the way of perfecting types we now have. If we have cows with superior points, we cannot do better than to lay every possible stress upon developing those points until little or nothing remains to be done before we can say, "I have the most perfect cow in this particular the world ever saw." This will call for more careful, more accurate, more carefully considered work than we have been giving our business in the past. In other words, the day of loose, poorly digested work is done.

What is this but saying that from now on, the best work done in this field will be done in the man himself? It is the man who must be developed, and educated, and perfected. The cow which has a master whose life is carried on according to slipshod, careless, and haphazard plans will never have a cow with better points than he has now. To attain better results in our cows we must put

more of ourselves into every particular of the work we are doing. If we are not willing to do this, we may as well abandon all idea of ever doing anything that will contribute to the advancement of the dairy farming of our day.

But is it worth while to place so much emphasis on a businesslike dairying? Is it a thing a man may be proud of to bring out a cow with better points and more of them than any other man has done? Just this may be the answer: The man who does not think it worth the very best there is in him is not worthy to be engaged in the great enterprise of dairy farming. It is a thing to be proud of. We may all of us feel that when we are putting the very best there is in us into the minutest details of our work, we are contributing to the betterment of the world and our fellow men.

#### Poultry Chat

H. E. Vialoux, Charleswood

THE Twenty-seventh Annual Poultry Show at the Industrial Bureau, which took place on February 13th to 17th, was a signal success from every point of view. A display of truly magnificent birds, hatched and bred in royal purple—real aristocrats of poultrydom; keen competition in all classes and record-breaking crowds of visitors each day of the show.

The energetic Secretary, G. H. Vowles, and the Directors of the Poultry Association were highly gratified with the great exhibition of nearly 2,500 birds, and look forward to securing a larger building and better housing facilities in 1918.

The many beautiful buff orpingtons and white wyandottes were an outstanding feature of the show. The orpingtons numbered 115 birds, 70 of them cocks and cockerels, and "not a poor bird in the lot." McArthur, Hoffman & Crundwell, G. H. Vowles and J. Yellowlees won many prizes in this class.

Art Serviss' "Champion of the West" captured many prizes in wyandottes—birds of splendid shape, large size and snowy plumage. Restrict and Smart and Johnstone were also prize winners in this showy class, which were very much admired.

The leghorns were a large class, also. The Maple Leaf Poultry Yards taking many prizes on the little white beauties shown, and W. L. Purdie won best pen in Mediterranean class.

The barred rocks were not so large an exhibit, as they should have been this year, but the veteran breeder, "Wood," of Holland, showed some grand birds, winning most of the prizes in the farmer's favorite breed and sweepstakes for best utility pen in show.

There were exhibits of all the fancy breeds, including one new breed shown for the first time in Winnipeg. "The Golden Buttercups." Jas. Eaton won three first prizes on this exhibit. Turkeys, ducks and geese were numerous and of good quality. R. D. Laing, of Stonewall, won many trophies in all three classes. His first prize gobbler, weighing 42 pounds, was a feature of the show. Lachance, of St. Eustache, and Mrs. Dumbrell also won prizes in turkeys. The display of pigeons and bantams was a splendid one. Five hundred were shown and drew forth much admiration. One hundred rabbits of all breeds and Belgian hares made an attractive exhibit for the children.

The new-laid eggs, brown and white, looked very tempting and were unusually large. One dozen weighed 26 ounces—sweepstakes won by A. M. Edgar for silver campine eggs.

Certainly the big show should stimulate the poultry industry and doubtless many of the visiting farmers made arrangements to secure some purebred stock for the coming spring.

Hatching will shortly be in full swing in the poultry yard, and a word in season in regard to the menace of lice and mites on the breeding stock will not be amiss. When real winter weather keeps the hens hustling to be comfortable, they are not very particular in making a daily toilet in the dust bath, and the vermin get numerous, therefore a good insect powder should be often used, and air-slaked lime freely sprinkled on and under the roosts. When the hen can bask in the rays of the spring sun she combs and brushes her feathers often. Sulphur in the dust boxes is a good insect-killer, mixed with wood ashes and soil. When lice and mites are done away with, both hens and chicks will flourish, in spite

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