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EDITORIAL.

Judging Dairy Cattle.

While the only absolutely reliable tests of a cow's capabilities as a producer of milk and butter are the scales and churn for a term of ten months or a year, there are certain general characteristics of form and other features, such as femininity of appearance, quality of skin and hair, and size and shape of the udder, which, taken together, serve as tolerably safe indications in selecting a cow for dairy work. There are exceptions to all rules, and a cow is occasionally found which, while measuring well up to the standard of excellence in appearance, proves disappointing in her work in the dairy; while, on the other hand, some cows failing to conform to the approved type in their outward make-up do surprisingly good work in milk and butter production. Since, therefore, there is no infallible rule apart from a prolonged milking test, judging by inspection can only be done on the basis of the indications above mentioned, the placing of the cows in the show-ring being determined by the standard of type for the breed, and the judge, who is expected to set the standard of type for the breed, being guided by his ideal, will favor the cow combining in the greatest degree approved conformation with the tokens of usefulness in dairy production. Speaking generally, a cow to fill this bill should have a decidedly feminine appearance, a fine, slim, moderately-long neck, a bright, prominent eye, a broad forehead, slightly dished face, broad muzzle, with large, spreading nostrils, strong lips, narrow withers, smoothly-fitting shoulders, a wide chest, with good thickness through the heart, a broad loin and strong back, ribs sprung well outward and downward from the spine, with good length and depth, long, level quarters, thin thighs and well-arched flank, fine bone, and, withal, a well-balanced udder of fair size, nearly level on the sole, running well forward on the belly and well out and up behind, not too fleshy, and with moderately large and long teats, placed well apart. The handling quality of the skin, which should be soft, pliable and not too thick or too thin, and the hair fine and furry, are indications of a good feeder, good digestion, and a quiet disposition, all of which are essential to the best dairy work. Fancy points, such as a fashionable color of hair or a rich yellow skin, are minor considerations, which should have little weight in judging as long as the color belongs to the breed. A yellow skin, as a matter of choice, is preferable to a white or bluish tint, but there is no evidence that it indicates the production of richer milk, and even yellow milk does not always show an excess of fat when tested in comparison with milk of a less pronounced color. The color of the skin, moreover, is a variable feature, changing with the feeding and condition of the animal. Even the size and prominence of the milk veins, to which so much importance is attached by some professional judges, is not an unvarying index of phenomenal milking capacity. There is no way of proving that many small and active veins are less potential in furnishing the udder with its product of milk than are fewer, more prominent and flabby ones, and as a matter of fact, some superior milkers have neither exceptionally large udders nor milk veins. The period of lactation, of course, has a great deal to do with the appearance of the udder, a fresh cow having a decided advantage in that regard over one that has

been milking several months, and the judge may make allowance for this difference, where other things are more than equal, but it is difficult to make allowance for a dry cow, in comparison with one that is fresh. Dairy bulls are much more difficult to judge than are bulls of the beef breed, as in the latter symmetry of form and thickness of flesh are principal factors in determining superiority, and these are features that would disqualify a bull of the dairy breeds, to which the standard for dairy cows applies generally, with the exception of the points allowed for udder development. Breed character and the evidences of forceful masculinity should be looked for in the bull. A strong, but not coarse, head and horn, a muscular neck, a broad chest and deep fore ribs, together with an active and spirited temperament, are signs of a robust constitution and a vigorous organization, qualities that are essential to a pre-potent sire.

Take an Advance Step.

Canada is this year receiving large numbers of pure-bred animals from Europe, which are calculated to make improvements upon the different classes of stock in this country. The numbers of pure-bred horses, cattle, sheep and swine imported in late years would seem immense if totalled up, and no doubt their impress is to be seen where they have been intelligently used, but our progress might be more rapid. Not fifty per cent. of the producers of live stock have any definite ideal in mind when selecting a sire to use upon their females. There always has been too little—shall we say intelligence, but that is excusable; at any rate, there has not been that persistency of purpose and that deliberate pursuit of the ideal in animal form that should characterize our operations in live-stock breeding. Indiscriminate co-mingling of the blood of different breeds has in many cases hampered the influence of really meritorious sires and produced types that are often no improvement upon the original stock. What might be done in the next few years if all breeders established ideals, and persistently pursued them, no one can estimate. In the building up of model studs, flocks and herds in the past, it has always required the use of many dollars or the spending of much time, associated with a natural zeal for the work in hand. As a rule, we are not a wealthy people, but time and enthusiasm are at our command, and, in many instances, money is also available for the assistance of both. Why, then, should there not be a marked movement toward the betterment of our stock? Why should every one not set himself to the work of making every colt better than its dam, every young cow a better performer than her mother, every lamb an easier feeder and a heavier wool-producer than its parents, and every hog a heavier mortgage-lifter than the one that ate at the trough before him. The doctrine of the perpetuity of the best and continuity of purpose toward a higher plane is one that should more loudly be proclaimed and more wholly adopted. In the fall and winter before us let there be some serious "stocktaking." If the animals on hand for breeding fall too far short of the model in mind, work them off to the butcher or consign them to other purposes. Endeavor to secure some of the best animals that might otherwise go for export or to the butchers. In fact, make a concentrated movement all down the line toward acquiring a better supply of breeding stock than the farm has carried before.

The Proposed Ontario School of Forestry.

In the course of an article on "Forest Restoration," the Toronto Globe estimates that of the 100,000,000 acres of forest land in the Province of Ontario, 40,000,000 acres is of such a character that it must remain permanently wild, being unsuited for agriculture. Examples of this kind are to be found in the rough and rocky timber limit areas of the Muskoka, Parry Sound and other districts. It is estimated that this area is capable, through conserving the existing timber and restoring by seeding and planting, of yielding an average annual revenue of \$40,000,000, or \$1 per acre. Owing to the length of time required for the growth of such timber as white pine, it is difficult to enlist private enterprise in the work of reforestation, particularly in the territory mentioned, hence the necessity for the Government undertaking such work. With more rapid growing timber, and by proper care of the wood lots in our older and first-rate agricultural sections, the farmer can secure a fairly certain and early return for his outlay, which the enhancement of the value of his property makes a good investment. In concluding its remarks upon this subject, the Globe says:

"A natural aid to systematic work in the United States has been the establishment of colleges of forestry, and that plan could be followed with advantage in Ontario. At Yale and Ann Arbor the colleges of forestry are for men who have already graduated, and the course is two years. This plan seems to be the most satisfactory. There are many young men willing to spend the additional two years for training and a special degree in forestry. As the graduates are generally thrown on their own resources when embarking in practical work, the plan of a special course after graduating secures a maturity of judgment that might be wanting in case the study of forestry were made a branch of undergraduate work. At Cornell the undergraduates take a course in forestry, but the balance of advantage seems to be with the special course for more mature minds. At present the demand for trained men is greater than the supply, and this condition is likely to continue for many years. There will certainly be a demand for them in Ontario in the protection service, in estimating timber limits, scaling for stumpage dues, determining the trees to be cut and to be preserved for seeding, and in enforcing the more stringent requirements that will be necessary regarding the burning of brush and the clearing away of the debris of lumbering operations. Ontario must maintain her lead, and to that end the scientific training of students and the systematic restoration of denuded land have now become necessary."

The "Farmer's Advocate" has already commended the proposal to establish a course or school for the training of foresters in the Province of Ontario, but we cannot endorse the scheme to make it an adjunct of Toronto University. The proper place for such an institution is in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, where closely related sciences are taken up in a practical way, and where we have an increasing supply of the right kind of material from which capable guardians of the future timber interests of the Province may be drawn. The greater proportion of the agricultural college students, after their courses, return to the regular pursuit of agriculture, but it is inevitable that a certain number, such as those who take the longer B.S.A. course, will gravitate into a variety of avocations in connection with educational or experimental institutions or enterprises, where special advanced training is required. Into this class prospective foresters would naturally fall. It is from the country that the virile and masterful manhood of Canada is largely recruited and