

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confuse, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

The New Year Champion

IN our issue of December 28th, 1916, we expressed the view that the high record of 48,772 lbs. of butter produced in seven days must be nearing the limit, but pointed out that the 50 lbs. cow was a possibility, even probably. Already she has arrived. A Holstein cow has produced 50.68 lbs. of butter (50c. basis) in seven days. The new honor goes to Sigis Fayne Johanna, owned by Mr. Oliver Cabana, Jr., Elms Centre, New York.

The rapid rate at which these records are being made is having a tendency to make many breeders even of Holsteins discount their value to some extent. One striking point about them is that they are made in most cases by men who have plenty of money to spend on feed and equipment to produce them. This is natural as ordinary men cannot spend either the time or money required for the preparation and development of big records. Their energies are spread over a larger field, and usually devoted for the most part to a commercial business. The making of big records is an art, and to be successful a man must have special qualifications and the right material to work with. It would be hard to determine just how much of the actual success of record making can be attributed to the men handling the animal, but that it is no small percentage all are willing to admit.

One other important point to be noted about many big record cows is the fact that they are not all bred by the man who develops them. Sigis Fayne Johanna was bred by Mr. A. A. Cortelyou, New Jersey. She was developed on the farm of Oliver Cabana. There is nothing to prevent the ordinary breeder of pure-bred cattle aspiring to the production of a champion. It may be possible that the crossing of some female in a rather obscure herd with a male animal of good blood, will be the exact combination to yield when developed, one of the champion kind. It is true

that the exceptional animals are usually found in families selected and bred for years upon their producing merits, yet there is nothing to prevent any breeder from introducing a new family of champions. This is ever the alluring point in the breeding business that fascinates and thus binds men of brains and means to the dairy cow.

Who Pays the Bills?

IN his address on the Dairy Standards Act, delivered at the recent convention of the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association, Deputy Minister Roadhouse, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, said in part, "We" (meaning the Government), "have arranged to have the dairy inspectors of the department conduct the testing of milk delivered at the cheese factories to determine its butter fat content. This will save the patrons the expense of having this work done in their factories." Commenting on this remark Mr. Paul, member of Parliament for Lennox and Addington, was applauded by some of those present when he commented on Mr. Roadhouse's remark by asking who Mr. Roadhouse meant by "we," and intimating that whether the farmers paid it through their factories or the government made but little difference as, even if the government paid it the government took it out of the people, and thus the farmers paid it in the end.

Was Mr. Paul correct in his contention? We maintain that he was not, and that Mr. Roadhouse was justified in making the remark he did. Were the revenue of the Province of Ontario raised by direct taxation, so that all citizens of the province paid proportionately the same, Mr. Paul would be justified in making the comment he did. As it is, however, the great bulk of the revenue of the province, practically all of it, in fact, except the recent war tax, is raised by special taxation, such as by mining royalties, inheritance taxes and in other similar ways. Thus the average farmer pays little in any form of provincial taxation. Had the factories to meet the expense of testing the milk the full expense would be borne by the farmers. Under the arrangement the Government proposes the expenses will be met out of the revenue provided by the special forms of revenue taxation referred to. Mr. Roadhouse, therefore, we hold was justified in using the expression he did, and Mr. Paul, instead of setting him right, was himself in error.

Shipping Rates

THE chairman of the Dominion Railway Board Sir Henry Dryden, whose official position is a guarantee that he is an authority on the subject of freight rates, has made the statement that the patriotism of ship owners has not prevented them from forming combinations with the object of advancing the cost of ocean carriage. That the return of peace will not prevent a continuation of this extortion, but that still further increases might be looked for, is also his expressed opinion. If German ships now interned in neutral ports are allowed to return to their Fatherland they will be able to capture a considerable portion of the world's trade while British ships are busy returning soldiers to their homes. German and neutral ships, says Sir Henry, would find in the absorption of British ships for this purpose, a great opportunity for making profits and ocean freight rates might soar to still greater heights.

The remedy proposed by Sir Henry is government regulation of ocean freight rates, so that the products of the Empire would be marketed without yielding such an enormous toll for ocean carriage. Since ships are free in normal times to sail from almost any port, there would be need of concerted action between governments of the various Maritime countries to bring the owners of ships to time. Now that there is such close cooperation between the allied governments, it is

probable that ere long this matter will be taken up by them. The menaces to trans-oceanic trade are not all of a submarine nature; nor are those who would assist in the process of starving Great Britain all to be found in the countries of her enemies.

Sheep on Broken Land

THE majority of farms have land from which the forest has been cleared that is unfit for cultivation. Fifty-seven per cent. of the farms visited by the Commission of Conservation in four counties of Ontario possess such land. The lowest average per farm for a county was fifteen acres and the highest 53 acres. Most of this land is well suited for sheep raising, yet of the farmers visited only fourteen per cent. kept sheep; while in one county only sixteen sheep were found on farms having a total of 1,000 acres of unutilized land.

The demonstration flocks that have been established in some of the more broken districts of Quebec by the animal husbandry department of Macdonald College, returned an average of \$9.11 a ewe with a maintenance cost of \$2.73, leaving a margin of \$6.38 a ewe. On the broken parts of Ontario farms they should give equally fair returns. Farm management experts claim that one of the factors of successful farming is a wise diversification by which one line of production fits in with another, and the total productive capacity of the farm is utilized. Sheep raising is one form of diversification which might be more widely practiced on the majority of farms without interfering with the established lines. It would increase the annual income out of all proportion to the increase in labor and money invested. One of the strongest points in favor of sheep is that they shift for themselves throughout the busy season, a big consideration in these days of labor shortage.

Public Opinion on the Dairy Act

IN passing a resolution favoring the postponement, for one year, of the date on which the Dairy Standards Act will take effect, the convention at Napanee did not voice the opinion of the majority of the dairymen of Eastern Ontario. That opinion was more truly reflected in the local conventions held throughout the district earlier in the winter. Less than one-quarter of these conventions went on record as opposing the Act, and at the majority of them any opposition to it disappeared when confronted with the demonstration cheese prepared by Messrs. Paul and Zeff. These meetings were truly representative. At least one of them was held within reach of practically every farmer throughout the district. The total attendance at all the meetings was many hundreds in excess of that at the Napanee convention. At them a full discussion of the Act was invited and encouraged. They are therefore the true criticism by which to judge the sentiment of the dairymen of Eastern Ontario regarding the new dairy legislation.

The passing of the resolution at Napanee shows the danger of a convention of this kind reflecting not the sentiment of the large district which it is supposed to represent, but the sentiment of the local district in which it happens to be held. Public opinion in the Napanee district is opposed to the Act. The opportunity was not lost of having this opinion registered at the convention. The danger is that the action of the convention will be taken as representative of Eastern Ontario. Such was not the case. Those districts that are out and out in support of the Act had scarcely any representation there. As far as the general vote on the resolution went, therefore, it should be taken as representing the opinion of the dairymen of Napanee district on the Act and not, as would appear, the opinion of the dairymen of Eastern Ontario.