

## The Feeders' Corner

### Cheap Production of Milk

"Feed is as cheap in winter as it is in summer," said Mr. Hy. Glenning, in addressing the district meeting of the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association held at Peterboro on Wednesday, November 4. "For dairying to be the most profitable, the cows must come in fresh for winter. We require a cheap production of milk. We must feed a bulky ration—not pea meal or oil cake or oat chaff. These are all right in their place, but the cow will not live on them alone; besides they are too expensive. The ration must be bulky. Corn silage fills this admirably. It is succulent like grass, and is easily digested. It requires more energy to digest dry food. The cost of digesting food is taken from the feed consumed. Therefore, it takes less power to run the 'machine' when succulent fodders are fed. The ration must be palatable, must be eaten up readily. It should be to the cows' liking."

"Many cows in the country just eat enough food to keep them alive. If the ration were palatable, they would eat more and hence produce more. Two-thirds of what a cow eats goes to maintain her. The other one-third the food consumed goes towards producing profit. Therefore, the more a cow eats, the more the profit. Prac-

tising economy of feeding a small ration to a cow is like practicing economy in firing a steam engine. It is like trying to run on 30 pounds of steam instead of on 100. Lots of cows in the country are being run on '30 pounds of steam.' We should feed half the number and feed full rations rather than feed many on partial rations. Many depend on silage alone. They get but little milk. Chemists have never succeeded in making milk from fodders. They must put it through the cow. She knows how to make it. One can not get milk without water. Therefore, we should give all the water she will take. When cold, she will not take enough to make much milk. A cow is 50 per cent of water. It always look give 40 lbs. of milk a day, she must drink many times that amount. Salt will induce the cow to drink more. To do her best, the cow must have an abundance of water."

"In order to produce milk, food must contain an abundance of protein. We cannot hope to produce milk without feeding protein. The fat content of the food is of minor consequence. We cannot feed fat into the milk. By feeding the cow better, we would get more cream, but it would be because we get more milk rather than increased fat in the milk. Therefore, in looking for feeding stuffs, we always look for the percentage of protein contained in those fodders."

"Fodders containing large amounts of protein, however, cost good money. Bran at from \$20 to \$24 a ton is costly feed. It is hard to make money out of milk made from bran at that price. Oats also contain protein. They too are expensive. Pea meal, linseed meal, and cottonseed, all contain large amounts of protein. But, again, they are very expensive. We must find some fodder with a high percentage of protein which can be bought or produced for less money. The farmer must be educated to produce a cheaper substitute for these, for, while the government are quite willing to tell him how to do it, they have no free feed to give away. The fodder which fills the bill and which can be produced cheaply, is alfalfa hay."

Alfalfa contains almost as much protein as does bran. In ordinary years, it can be produced for \$2 a ton. This season, being an exceptional one, and as only two cuttings were obtained, it would cost a little more, though by no means twice as much. Even if it did cost \$4 a ton, to produce, alfalfa would be much cheaper than bran. The protein content in 20 pounds of alfalfa hay equals that of

18½ pounds of bran. At \$34 a ton for bran, 18½ pounds would cost 22-15 cents. At \$4 a ton, 20 pounds of alfalfa would cost 4 cents, or a difference of over 18 cents in the cost of a day's feed to commence with."

"Does this work out in practice," was asked. Mr. Glenning assured the audience that he did not pretend to run an experimental farm but that he ran his farm for dollars and cents. He then quoted figures from an experiment which he conducted last winter. A three-year-old Jersey cow, which had been in but seven days, at the first of January, was fed 15 pounds of silage, which at \$2 a ton cost less than 2 cents (a light ration of silage was fed on account of its scarcity), 60 pounds of roots a day at a cost of 6 cents, or less, to produce, and 20 pounds of alfalfa hay at 2 cents (the cost last year). She did not consume the alfalfa hay, but the cows on either side of her obtained some. The cost of feed, then, was 9½ cents a day. In seven days, this cow produced 290.5 pounds of milk, testing 4 per cent. butterfat. This was equal to 11.62 pounds of butterfat, which is worth 28 cents a pound, or \$3.25-15. The cost of feed for seven days was 66½ cents, which left a clear profit of \$2.58-10 on a week's transaction. No grain or meal of any kind, except what little was contained in the 15 pounds of silage, was fed. Surely this ration was cheap enough."

### A Few Hints on Dairying

In addressing the district meeting held at Peterboro on Wednesday, November 4, Mr. R. G. Murphy, secretary of the Eastern Ontario Dairyman's Association, said:

"Three things go to make dairying profitable. The milk must be produced cheaply. It must make a finest quality of product, which product must sell for the highest price. Producers should look at both ends of the business. One-half-cent of a cent on sale should not be given for much when one can save one-half a cent or more on production. By allowing cows lay out in the evenings when one is busy with the house, the milk plowing much is being lost that could otherwise be saved. It pays to house the cows on cool evenings, even if they are fed nothing."

Mr. Murphy dwelt on the importance of having a first-class water supply. He cited an instance of where he had a spring in the pasture field in which the cattle ran, but yet those cows came to the barn to be milked and were thirsty. Even if there was a never-failing supply of water in the pasture, water should also be provided at the barn, where the cows were milked. "Some," said Mr. Murphy, "are inclined to think that if the cows are fools enough not to take water enough, they may go without. Such folly on the part of the farmer costs him hard cash. The cows should be given all the water they want and should even be induced to drink all they will. To make them drink more, give much of the salt they will eat; have salt before them at all times."

Some, if they wish a cow to step over in the stall, hit her with the stool or twist her tail. Be sure thing that such a practice never made the cow give any more milk." Mr. Murphy said that he had been a farmer for 40 years. He was familiar with all that the farmer had to contend with. He pointed out that the hope of reward was often what sweetened the labor on the farm. He recalled one instance where he was left on the 12th of July with 32 cows to milk, his men having gone off to the Orange walk. At that time, he felt that he earned all he got. These hints regarding dairying, would be found useful and meant dollars and cents to dairymen when practised."

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"If children got one-quarter of a spoonful of pure milk per day, they would get enough to poison them."

Such was the declaration of Dr. Charles O. Hastings, chairman of Milk Commission before the Progressive Club recently, in support of the statement that polluted milk was principally a Canadian problem, for the fact that 1,625 children under 5 years of age had died in Toronto last year.

The remark quoted above was delivered in reply to an interruption from one of the auditors, to the effect that those children may not have had the opportunity of drinking much milk. In further support of the assertion that a very meagre proportion of the milk produced nowadays was absolutely free from some poisonous germ. Dr. Hastings said that since civic inspection of milk had been reduced from 33 to 50 per cent., in districts supplied by pasteurized milk.

J. A. Anyot, M.B., bacteriologist of the provincial board of health, had previously delivered a lecture on "The Clean Milk Problem." He said that unless such time as "certified milk" could be assured to the consumer at a reasonable price and a reasonable profit to the farmer, the only safe method was to have the milk inspected, pasteurized and refrigerated. He described "certified milk" as—milk produced under ideal conditions—healthy cows, specially adapted sanitary stables, healthy, clean milkers, shipped in refrigerator cars and certified to by a commission.

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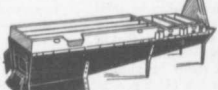
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