

farming. One-sided farming is dangerous to follow, and is seldom a lasting success.

"Your leader should be one that will attract the attention of your neighbors and set the pace along that line in the community. Not only will it set the pace of the community, but if you are made of the right stuff, it will mark the pace for the other lines you are following, and raise your standard along all lines."

Local Speakers at Farmers' Meetings.

The average man engaged in farm operations cares little for public speaking, and while he may understand his calling very well hesitates to get upon his feet and discuss it, especially with his own neighbors. One of the problems which has confronted Farmers' Institutes for years has been how to develop talent to such an extent as to place a large number of local speakers at the service of each farming community. Successful men there are in every section, and with them are to be found the less successful as well. If the status of our agriculture is to improve it is necessary that the unsuccessful get a firm hold of the methods of their more successful fellows, and adopt them in all their work. To do this they must be told and shown the successful man's methods. Farmers as a general thing are somewhat reserved and distant, and do not care to mix in conversation with strangers, neither do they care to discuss agricultural matters from the platform with their neighbors, perhaps fearing some unfavorable comment. Profitable discussion is always edifying, and much may be done for our agriculture if all the good farmers of the country could be prevailed upon to give their experience in their particular special lines for the benefit of others.

The local speaker has his advantages and disadvantages as matters stand. His strong point is his familiarity with local conditions. Here is where the outside speaker finds some difficulty. It is necessary for him to "feel" his audience or a few members thereof to ascertain the "lay of the land." The local man has no such troubles, but he is up against what often proves to be a far more difficult proposition, adverse criticism from a few "knockers," too familiar with his operations. The best of us make mistakes, and it ill behooves a listener to a good address to bring up some past trivial failure of a speaker who is imparting a fund of valuable information if rightly received. We believe much good could be done by a series of "round table" talks, as suggested by an Institute worker in Toronto, where audiences are small. In this way all get an opportunity of expressing themselves, and many are drawn out which otherwise would not have said a word. When the ice is once broken it is not so difficult to draw them out again.

It is more difficult for most speakers to address a home gathering than an audience of strangers, and yet the speaker should be fairly familiar with conditions in the locality in which he speaks. A suggestion was made at the recent convention of Farmers' Institutes and Farmers' Clubs in Toronto, which seems to have a distinct value. It was that speakers should be drawn, as far as possible, from the county in which they lived, but should speak in townships other than the one in which they farm—an interchange of speakers between townships. This looks like a good suggestion. The speaker would be sufficiently familiar with conditions and would not feel embarrassed by the presence of his immediate neighborhood. It is human nature to doubt statements made by men of the neighborhood, whereas a fluent man brought in from an outside point if making the same statements is seldom questioned. It is almost like the old saying "Familiarity breeds contempt."

The problem of where to get the speakers is almost on a par with that of where to train them. It has proven a difficult matter to maintain interest in a literary society in small villages or country districts, and without some experience at speaking the average man feels lost if called upon to express himself upon any subject no matter how well he may understand that subject. The few farmers who have had the privilege of a college training are usually more fluent, but they are very few. The Farmers' Club seems to be the solution at the present time. Working in conjunction with the Farmers' Institutes it should prove an excellent training ground for speaking material for Institute and other work. It has in most cases the advantage of the advice of a college trained man, and where the young and older men of the farms take an active interest in the club work, good speakers should become more numerous. There is a great necessity of more of these men, and all club members should avail themselves of the excellent opportunity to improve their platform ability. There are many who "know," but few can "tell." Local talent is a valuable asset in every community. Improve it wherever possible.

A Spreader Highly Profitable.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of November 14 an article entitled "Will a manure spreader pay?" appeared in your columns. We have been using a spreader for some time, and, for the benefit of those who have not, I might say that it is a very profitable piece of machinery. Since we have been spreading the manure with a spreader, the hay crop has been increasing steadily. When the ground is hard enough to permit we spread the manure on the meadow in the spring before the grass has had time to grow very high. If the ground is too soft, as it was last spring, we spread the manure as soon as the hay is taken off. We have also found that about five loads to the acre is sufficient to make the desired increase in the hay crop. Not only does the spreader enable the farmer to cover more ground, but it spreads the manure evenly, and no large clumps of straw are left lying on the meadows to be raked up with next year's crop. I have heard much discussion as to whether the spreader would pay on a farm of less than two hundred acres. I think it would pay any farmer on a farm large enough to keep ten cows and five horses. In a single field of fourteen acres, I am sure that the increase in hay caused by the manure more than covered the cost of the spreader.

HAROLD HORNING.

Frontenac Co., Ont.

THE DAIRY.

The Testing Time.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The time of year during which many owners of cows are thinking of having their cows tested is close at hand. It is also near the time when various public competitions for many prizes will take place. A few observations on these two phases of testing may not be out of place for readers of The Farmer's Advocate.

We frequently send official testers to farms, where the results are very disappointing to the owners of the cows tested. In nearly every case the disappointment is caused by over-feeding during the time of the test. If owners and feeders would bear in mind the fact that milk is made from blood, through the action of nervous force, is in fact elaborated blood, they would understand that the cow must have a large supply of pure blood in the body at the commencement of and during the test. It takes time to manufacture blood in the animal organism, therefore the heavy feeding should take place before the test begins, and not during the test. This is advisable also for another reason—heavy feeding is liable to cause digestive troubles, which react unfavorably on the nervous system and hence lessen milk secretion. A person suffering from indigestion can give pointers on the effects of poor digestion on the nerves and mental capacity of the owner of a bad stomach.

Our advice is, not to increase the amount of feed, particularly the meal, fed to a cow when commencing or during an official test. Do the heavy feeding for some time before hand, and, if anything, decrease rather than increase the concentrates during 7, 14 or 30 day tests.

This leads to a consideration of the value of short tests. Some condemn them entirely. This

is a mistaken view. Prof. F. W. Woll, of Madison, Wisconsin, who has had wide experience with cow-testing for the State of Wisconsin, says: "It will be noted that there is a close correspondence between the average results for the yearly and the seven-day records; if the former is high, the latter is also high, as a general rule, and vice versa. The average per cent. of fat is uniformly higher in a seven-day test than in a yearly test. . . . Brief tests may, therefore, be misleading . . . but it is, nevertheless, true that a cow which distinguishes herself in a seven-day or thirty-day test will, as a general rule, prove a good dairy cow, and may, in the large majority of cases, be depended upon to make good and economical yearly records as well." (Wisconsin Research Bulletin, No. 36, p. 82).

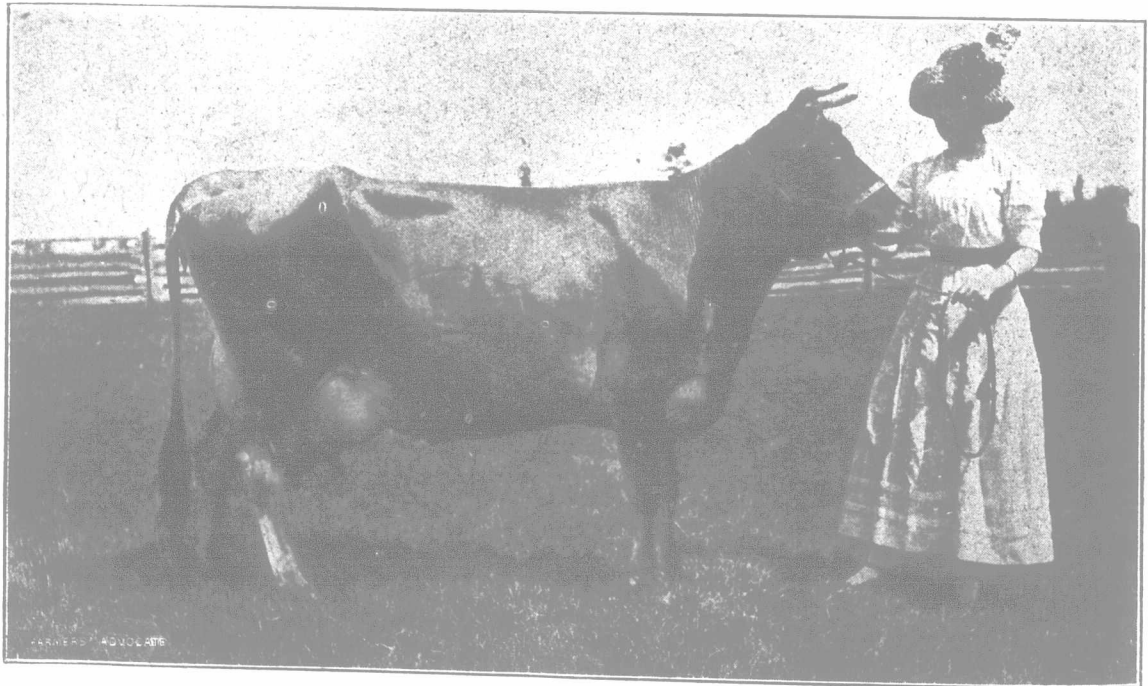
Those who believe in seven and thirty days have so good an authority as Prof. Woll backing up their faith in the value of short tests.

In connection with the long or yearly semi-official tests the same authority offers adverse criticism of the method now followed in both the United States and Canada of allowing the owners of cows to weigh the milk between the visits of inspectors. He says, p. 96, of the same bulletin: "The fact that minor errors in reporting milk yields cannot be avoided under the present system of yearly testing, and the suspicion among some breeders that milk records are sometimes manipulated in the interest of the owner, tend to vitiate the value of the method of yearly testing now in vogue, and no doubt keep some breeders from taking up this work, which is of greatest importance for the development of the dairy breeds and of the dairying industry."

Prof. Woll not only offers the criticism, but suggests a remedy, which we heartily endorse, and believe that it would induce a larger number of Canadian breeders to enter the cows in "Record of Performance" work. His suggestion is "to use the milk yields on the monthly official test days for the calculation of the yields of milk for the respective month, as is now done in the case of the average fat content of the milk for the month." This looks like a sensible suggestion. If it be correct for milk fat, why not for milk yield? and thus eliminate an owner's temptation to "pad" the weights of milk. Human nature is much the same in Canada as in Wisconsin. It would also relieve the owner of the necessity of weighing daily, and as Prof. Woll says: "It would make the agricultural colleges or other public institutions supervising the tests wholly responsible for the records made."

SCALES OF POINTS FOR PUBLIC TESTS OF DAIRY COWS.

In what we are about to say we have no desire to "knock" public tests or officials in connection with them who make the scales of points, but we have frequently referred to the fact that, in our judgment, present scales are too much one-sided. A scale which allows more than eight times the number of points for a pound of "fat" than are allowed for a pound of "solids not fat" is altogether too much lop-sided, except for butter production. Why not give prizes for the greatest production of milk fat (butter); for greatest production of milk fat and casein (cheese); total solids (condensery), and for milk used in direct consumption in pounds or gallons? This would allow competition in all four of the leading branches of commercial dairying in Canada. If it is not considered advisable to make



Sadie Mac of Pine Ridge Farm.

Jersey cow, age five years; breeder, Wm. Willis, Newmarket; owner, Hiram H. Gee, Hagersville, Ont. Official record, 13,049.85 lbs. of milk, and 625.191 lbs. of fat in 365 days; average per cent. fat, 4.71.