

# THE MARITIME AGRICULTURIST.

Devoted to the Interests of the Farmers, Stock Breeders and Horsemen of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

VOL. 3.

ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 15, 1891.

NO. 1

## The Maritime Agriculturist.

Published Semi-Monthly at St. John, N. B.

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1 per annum, strictly in advance  
SINGLE COPIES 5 cents. Specimen copies free.  
LIBERAL REDUCTION to Clubs.

ADVERTISING RATES made known on application.  
CORRESPONDENCE solicited from all parts of Nova  
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must be sent one week before the date of the  
issue in which it is to appear.

REMITTANCES may be made by registered letter or  
money order.

ALL communications should be addressed to "The  
Maritime Agriculturist," St. John, N. B.

JOHN A. BOWES, - - - PUBLISHER.

ROBT. JARVIS GILBERT, - MANAGER.

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### DAIRYMAN AND BREEDER.

#### Where one Leaves off the Other Begins.

If the average yield of a herd is as great now as when they were on good pasture the feeder feels that he has made a success, and unless he is bent on making some individual tests he will generally "do best to leave well enough alone" and not increase the ration of his herd with the idea of getting larger returns. He has obtained this average yield by the use of fodders and grains, or roots which combined make the ration, for his stock similar and equal in quality to pasture grasses. If he has imitated pasture grasses intentionally he understands the theory and practice of feeding, but if he has arrived at it simply by practice and chance he should lose no time in studying up the analysis of his ration so that he may be able to make other combinations to the same end. He may find that he can make a similar ration for his stock from other materials and thereby effect a saving in the cost of producing his milk and butter. The breeder of thoroughbred dairy stock will not be satisfied with such results, because his aim is to gain high water mark and outstrip all competitors, so as to make the strain of cattle in which he is breeding sought after by other breeders and consequently more valuable, for he depends largely for his profits upon the sales of his surplus stock. He will pick out his most promising cows and bestow upon them extra care and attention, and study to increase their yield. If a quart of cream a day is the average yield of his herd there are individuals among them giving more, and he must know them. He may not be able to make them give more cream, but he will endeavour to make them give richer cream. He will gradually train the cow to assimilate more butter producing food. All his spare moments this winter will be spent patiently, almost affectionately, watching and tending this specimen of his hobby, and when she goes out to pasture next summer her previous season's record will be broken. Were it not for this enthusiastic breeder with his specialty—or his "hobby"—there would be very little if any improvement

in our dairy stock, in fact it is a debatable question if there would not be a noticeable deterioration. Through them we find the best stock to breed from. Their experiments point out the best individuals. Their patient care in training cows to milk and butter keeps alive and intensifies the good qualities which for their want of use would otherwise die out altogether; and as "like begets like" the influence of the developed dairy cow is noticeable through generations of her progeny. Then to the dairyman who has so well imitated the pasture grasses in his winter feeding that his herd averages as well now as in summer I would say "be content," but the motto of the breeder of dairy should always be "Excelsior."

#### Dishorning Again.

The more one sees of mulies in herds the more favorable we look upon dishorning. It is a tedious task to breed a herd of polled cattle from horned stock unless we resort to dishorning, for the grown cattle and caustic potash for the calves. A herd of mulies can be kept and tended nearly so easily as a flock of sheep. They can be kept more cheaply than horned stock and the "boss cow" is no longer such a terror in the yard. It has been shown again and again that it is not a painful operation if done at all deftly. So general is it now becoming in the United States, among breeders and dairymen, that capable mechanics have invented and patented tools for the express purpose of cutting of horns easily and quickly.

Prof. Henry, of Wisconsin, U. S. A., Mr. Chas. Creswell, M. R. C. V. S., London, Mr. Thos. Graves, M. R. C. V. S., London, each justify the dishorning of cattle upon the grounds that there are always tyrants in every herd; that if the tyrants are dehorned there will be other tyrants rise amongst those that are not dishorned; that horned animals often gore, bruise, and cause great and lasting pain upon their fellows; but that the pain attending the cutting off of the horns lasts only about 15 seconds; that the wound does not inflame or show the common signs of pain; and that tenderness of the part cut does not last longer than a few days.

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The Maritime Agriculturist.

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