FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

Published by The Rural Publishing Company, Limited.

FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairymen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, $1.00 a year, strictly in advance. Great Britain, $1.20 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c for postage. A year's subscription free for a club of two new subscribers.

3. REMITTANCES should be made by Post Office or Money Order, or Registered Letter. Postage stamps accepted for amounts less than $1.00. On all checks add 20 cents for exchange fee required at the banks.

4. CHANGE OF ADDRESS. — When a change of address is ordered, both the old and new addresses must be given.

5. ADVERTISING RATES quoted on application. Copy received up to the Friday preceding the following week's issue.

6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The paid-in-advance subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 8,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 9,500 copies to 12,000 copies. Subscriptions, unless renewed, are discontinued as they expire. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

Sworn detailed statements of the circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by countries and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

OUR PROTECTIVE POLICY

We want the readers of Farm and Dairy to feel that they can deal with our advertisers with our assurance of our advertisers' reliability. We try to admit to our columns only the most reliable advertisers. Should any subscriber have cause to be dissatisfied with the treatment he receives from any of our advertisers, we will investigate the circumstances fully. Should we find reason to believe that any of our advertisers are unreliable even in the slightest degree, we will discontinue immediately the publication of their advertisements. Should the circumstances warrant, we will expose them through the columns of the paper. Thus we will not only protect our readers, but our reputable advertisers as well. All that is necessary to entitle you to the benefits of this Protective Policy is that you include in all your letters to advertisers the words, "I saw your ad. in Farm and Dairy." Complaints should be sent to us as soon as possible after reason for dissatisfaction has been found.

FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

TORONTO OFFICE:

Room 306 Manning Chambers, 73 Queen St., West, Toronto.

CHANGE THE METHOD

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has accomplished splendid work through the cow testing associations. The time has come, however, when the basis of conducting the work should be radically changed. At present the members of the cow testing associations are asked to take samples of the milk from their cows only once every 10 days. This is not frequent enough to interest a man in the work. A man who realizes the importance of cow testing will be willing to take samples of the cow's milk at least two days a week. Until the samples are taken that often the work of the associations will not be as accurate and valuable as it might be. When a farmer has to take a sample of milk only once every 10 days, he is apt to forget about it.

It is understood that the Department of Agriculture feels that the results of their work have not been such as to justify increased expenditures. One reason that the results have not been more satisfactory has been because too many have been interested in the work of the associations in a superficial manner. The results obtained would have been infinitely more valuable had only about one-third the number of associations been organized, the members being induced to weigh their milk more frequently.

Farm and Dairy believes that the Dominion Government should devote more attention to increasing the interest of those already in the association rather than to forming more associations, and that an effort should be made, by putting special men at the work,' to ascertain the cost of feeding, and the net profit per cow. The net profit per cow is the only thing that counts in the long run. Until the associations are so organized as to give more idea of the profit realized from the cows under test the associations will not accomplish the valuable work that they should.

SHELVING NECESSARY LEGISLATION

For several years there has been an agricultural committee of the Ontario Legislature. Until the present session this committee has been known largely in name only. A different policy has been adopted under the new Minister of Agriculture. The committee has been addressed this session by several deputations representing different branches of agriculture seeking legislation in their respective interests. The fruit growers, the horse-breeders and the sheep-breeders presented their claims for further recognition in the way of legislation. Nothing unreasonable was asked for, and yet the session closes without any of their requests being granted.

If the agricultural committee is to be used as a means of shelving necessary legislation in the interests of the farmer, then it had better be relegated to its former standing of being merely a nominal adjunct to the legislative machinery that could do little harm if it did not do any good. It is always well to weigh carefully all requests for legislation, but it would seem als if the agricultural committee this session was all "weigh" and no action. The results will be unfortunate as some of the legislation asked for should have been granted at this session.

For instance, there is no sufficient reason why the request of the fruitmen, that the San Jose Scale Act be enlarged to include certain other insect pests injurious to fruit, should not have been granted at this session. The situation is urgent. Codling moth and other pests besides the scale played sad havoc with many orchards last year. To postpone a matter of this kind for further consideration indicates that the members of the committee and the government do not grasp the seriousness of the situation and that the country is going to have to suffer on that account.

The request of the sheepmen should have been granted this session also. The amendments asked for in regard to the Act have been before the sheep breeders of the province for several years. The question has been discussed pro and con till it is almost worn threadbare. And yet the committee decided upon a postponement till next session under the plea that a fuller consideration of the question was necessary.

The licensing of stallions and legislation regulating the breeding of horses is a big question and there was some excuse for postponing action. And yet this is a matter that has been thoroughly threshed out by the Horse Breeders' Association and at the winter fairs as well as at meetings held all through the province, where all classes of farmers had an opportunity to have their say. Surely the information that the legislators have had at their disposal for many months past should have enabled them to have come to some decision on this important question at the present session. A draft bill at least might have been submitted to the legislature, and its final enactment postponed for another year. This would have brought the question forcibly before the people and given an opportunity to hear from those opposed to such legislation being enacted, in the interval.

Some of the legislation asked for was just as urgent as that granted to the dairymen and should have become law at this session of the legislature. This being the first session with Hon. Mr. Duff as Minister of Agriculture, some allowances will have to be made on that score. Lack of time to thoroughly acquaint himself with the details of much of the legislation asked for may be given with reason as an explanation for more not having been done. Better things will be expected at the next session of the legislature.

WEEDS IN FEEDING STUFFS

From recent analyses made by the seed branch at Ottawa of 35 samples of feeding stuffs collected from different parts of Ontario by the seed inspectors, it is indicated that feed stuffs are a strong factor to be reckoned with when combatting the weed evil. Out of 24 samples of bran, nine only were free from weed seeds, the other 15 samples averaged 23 per pound. The largest number of weed seeds in any one of the bran samples was 83 per pound. Wild oats, ball mustard, wild buckwheat, ragweed, stinkweed, chess, and lambs' quarters were the weed seeds most commonly found. A sample of shorts analysed contained darnel and wild buckwheat at the rate of 11 per pound.

In six samples of ground feed analysed, only one was free from weed seeds, the average being 200 per pound. A sample of chopped barley contained 1,021 weed seeds per pound. These were seeds of Canada thistle catchfly, false flax, perennial sow thistle and seven other species. Three samples of crushed oats analysed were all contaminated, the average being 1,785 weed seeds per pound. One sample contained 2,042 per pound. The seeds most commonly found in rolled oats were wild oats, Canada thistle, wild mustard, catchfly, perennial sow thistle and bladder campion.

The results of the analyses clearly indicate that there is great danger of weed contamination in feeding stuffs. Feeds should be examined carefully for purity before feeding. The grinding as ordinarily done is not sufficiently fine to destroy the vitality of even the larger weed seeds. Provision should be made for extracting weed seed from all grain before grinding. This can be done by careful cleaning with the fanning mill, or by a home-made contrivance such as is used by many farmers in Durham Co., Ont., and elsewhere, in connection with their choppers, which serves the same purpose as the fanning mill, onlyy that it requires no extra labor. Several Durham Co. farmers recently interviewed by an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy, assured us that it was astounding the amount of weed seed that was extracted from even their own grain, which they thought to be, at least, fairly pure. Take no chances on the grinder injuring the vitality of the weed seeds. Extract them from the grain before grinding.

LESSENING COST OF PRODUCTION

To lessen the cost of production is the aim of our most progressive dairymen. The price of finished products, such as butter and cheese, is practically wholly beyond our control. Fortunately this factor is one which all can regulate and upon its effectual solution depends the extent of the profits earned by the dairy and by the farm.

Corn and alfalfa are two crops that must figure in all calculations where it is sought to lessen the cost of the production of milk. The greater of these is corn. No better crop can be grown by our Canadian farmers, and no better feed can be fed to our dairy cows than that strong-growing nutritous and palatable crop, corn. No other crop permits of carrying a large stock on a small area as does corn. It may be fed in summer and as silage in all seasons. There are practically as many ways of utilizing corn as there are varieties of this crop. Long as corn has been known, it has not been adopted by dairymen as widely as its value merits, though our more progressive dairymen are loud in its praises at all times.

In seasons of drought and in times of shortage of other crops, the merits of corn stand out prominently. The possibilities of corn were brought home to many during the past year. In many parts, the crops during the year 1907 were insufficient to provide for the stock. Those once caught in this way turned to corn, which accounts for the greater area under this crop in 1908.

After many years' experience, one may safely assert that corn is never a complete failure. We have often seen it a bumper crop. The stockman who grows corn and devotes a sufficient acreage to this crop, need have no fear of shortage in his feed supply.