

Establishing a Dairy Herd.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

On looking over your valuable issue of 20th ult. my eye fell upon an article headed "How to Acquire Herds of Good Dairy Cows." Well, sir, perhaps a few of my experiences as a dairy farmer might not come amiss to many of your readers at this time. I started a herd of fifty Ayrshire cows on my farm in 1877, but as it was the only dairy in that part of the border of Scotland at that time, cows brought from the west to the east suffered a good deal from climatic change, so much so that for four or five years I was much troubled with felon and garget. However, after I got into animals bred and reared on the place I became pretty free from disease in my dairy. In fact, I had a dairyman who had charge of said cows for six years, and he had only one case of sickness on his byre during that period. I shall just in brief give you an outline of my mode of dealing with my animals. I culled out every spring ten of my oldest and worst cows, and supplied their places with three-year-old calving heifers bred on the place, and all selected from my best milking cows; the surplus I always sell off the place. There is another point to look at, however, and that is the rearing of the said heifer. Heifer calves ought always to be well kept, but not too well; by that I mean they ought never to be allowed to get fat, lest they show a predisposition to put on flesh (which I have often seen them do when so treated), but kept always just in what we call fair store order till they are once in calf. By the above order of things you always have a nice byre of not too old cows, as such often induce a pretty heavy loss to the owner. T. M. BELL, Mitford, N. W. T.

FARM.

My Experience in Mixed Farming.

I cannot say that I am making an independent fortune out of farming, neither do I expect to, but I am able to make a good living and have a surplus left for the improvement of my farm and stock. Some farmers have become successful by devoting their attention to some special line of farming. Dairying has been a source of great profit to some, fruit-growing to others; yet I think mixed farming indispensable on some farms and in some localities. In fact, farmers who practise a good system of mixed farming are as successful as those who devote their time and attention to one particular source of profit.

A farm of one hundred acres should carry from six to ten cows, and about the same number of young stock. In order to receive the best returns from cows they should calve about the 1st of September or October, thus allowing the fall and winter months for buttermaking; they should be well fed, so as to give a good flow of milk. This plan allows the cows to rest during the hottest weather, when the flies are troublesome and pasture poor.

Sheep should also occupy a prominent place on the farm. I would recommend a pure breed of some kind most adapted to the farm on which they are kept. About twenty-five head can be well taken care of, and will bring in returns twice a year, as well as keep down the weeds and enrich the soil. Well may they be spoken of as "the golden hoof."

One or two good sows would also be a means of profit. Pork weighing 125 pounds, which can easily be obtained at five months, will bring a good price at any season of the year. This will afford a means of consuming all coarse grains raised on the farm.

I would not forget the poultry. Sixty hens (say the Plymouth Rock), well cared for, will realize in one year for eggs and chickens a sum almost incredible to those who have neglected this part of farm work, which, if properly managed, will afford a means of pleasure as well as profit. Fresh eggs are always in demand, and if the chickens are hatched early, they will supply eggs during the winter months when prices are high. A nice sum can be realized at the end of the year by raising turkeys (say forty or fifty). They do not take much care except for the first few weeks, and are always saleable. Next comes the marketing. This should be done in a business-like way. In preparing produce for the market care should be taken to offer it in the most attractive form possible. If the quality of the butter, eggs and poultry offered is good and arranged in good shape, there will be no difficulty in disposing of a large quantity. I think if a farmer was the owner of a reasonable number of cows, sheep, pigs and poultry, and exercised care in feeding and other details, there would be fewer discouragements, and they could also find time to read some of the best papers on agriculture, and otherwise improve their minds, and make farming a pleasure and a profitable calling instead of a drudgery.

T. M.
[Perhaps T. M. will tell us how much land he works, and what his average profits are. Many of our readers are firm believers in mixed farming. Send us data of what you are doing and what your net profits are per year per acre or per hundred acres. Or, if you cannot do that, tell us the size of your farm. Will those who believe in and practice specialty farming give us the benefit of their experience? Let us compare notes.]

OUR PATRONS' EXPERIENCE.

What our Readers Say.

The "Carberry News," one of the *best* of our local newspapers, kindly refers to the *ADVOCATE* as "exceptionally bright and interesting, and brim full of interesting matter for the farmer and the home. Every home should have it."

"The Mirror" says:—"We receive regularly the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* and are pleased with its appearance. It is clean, bright and original. Much of the matter is written with the view of aiding the farmer in his everyday work. The illustrations, which are original, are first-class. The price of this excellent magazine is only \$1 per annum, in advance."

"The Regina Leader" says:—"The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* grows better year by year, and is always full of the most reliable articles, and from a scientific view is to the farmer most valuable."

The "Hamiota Hustler," in a late issue, refers in complimentary terms to the *ADVOCATE*.

Mr. Mortimer Levering, La Fayette, Ind., Secretary of American Shropshire Breeders' Association, writes:—"I assure you I appreciate the *ADVOCATE*. I am very highly pleased with it, and consider it one of the most practical and valuable stock journals published in America."

What our Advertisers Say.

SIRS.—The result of my ad. brought me more letters of enquiry than I care to answer. For anything farmers want, it is the best medium I have used.

H. D. BINKLEY,

Dundas, Ont.

SIRS.—Judging from the numerous letters of enquiry which I have received relating to the Ripper Feed Cutter, which I invented, I think that the brief ad. published in the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* must have attracted a good deal of attention.

L. M. BATTY,

St. Thomas, Ont.

SIRS.—I have been well pleased, and feel amply repaid for the money expended in advertising in the *ADVOCATE*. I believe it is a first-class medium to advertise in.

GEO. E. DECKER,

Pump and Wind-mill Manufacturer, Forest, Ont.

GENTLEMEN.—I am quite satisfied with the advertisement in September No. of the *ADVOCATE*, although it looked like a risk at the time. I intend to continue it.

W. H. VANTASSEL,

Bellefonte, Ont.

SIRS.—I have used the *ADVOCATE* for advertising my Stumpers and Saws for the last six years, and have found it one of the best papers to reach the most intelligent people in the Dominion.

S. S. KIMBALL,

Manufacturer of Saws, Stump and Stone Extractors, Cash Railways, etc., Montreal, P. Q.

GENTLEMEN.—Our opinion of the *ADVOCATE* as an advertising medium to reach the farming community, is that it stands second to none. Our experience with it has been very satisfactory.

CLARE BROS.,

Manufacturers of Hot Air Furnaces, Registers, Stoves, Hollow-ware, etc., Preston, Ont.

SIRS.—The results of my advertisements have been quite satisfactory, exceeding my most sanguine expectations. I am pleased also to inform you my machines are continuing to give perfect satisfaction, and justify your esteemed commendation.

JAS. W. PROVAN,

Manufacturer of that excellent implement, the Provan Carrier, Fork and Sling, Oshawa, Ont.

GENTLEMEN.—We are pleased to acknowledge the benefit to our business as a result of our frequent advertisement in the *ADVOCATE*. It has been a profitable investment to us, and at the same time a benefit to the trade and public, by lessening the expense of selling, and enabling us to place the best goods on the market at lowest prices.

THE GOWDY MFG. CO.,

Agricultural Implement Manufacturers, Guelph, Ont.

DEAR SIRS.—We have very great pleasure in stating that the results of advertising in your valuable paper have been most satisfactory. The enquiries and correspondence, together with the business resulting from our advertisements placed in your hands from time to time, fully justify us in saying that the money so invested has brought us good returns. Judging from the class of correspondence that we have had from these advertisements, we should say that you have a very intelligent and superior class of readers, and have much pleasure in recommending parties to a liberal patronage of your columns.

JOHN S. PEARCE & CO.,

Seed Merchants, London, Ont.

SIRS.—Of the many papers in which our firm advertised the last few seasons, none gave us as good returns as yours. We attribute our immense business, which extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to our high grade seeds, business energy, and care and a judicious use of printer's ink. We have always found our advertisements in the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* pay us well.

THE STEELE BROS. CO.,

Seedsman, Toronto.

SIRS.—The results of our advertising in your paper have proved thus far very satisfactory, having surpassed our expectations. Commencing, as you are aware, with a three inch space in your columns, we have found the money we have expended in advertising in the *ADVOCATE* a paying investment, and the prosperous and progressive farmer.

TOITON BROS.,

Manufacturers and dealers in all kinds of Agricultural Implements, Guelph.

GENTLEMEN.—We desire to express to you the great satisfaction we have had in advertising in the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. We have now been advertising for upwards of a quarter of a century in the different newspapers in this province and Ontario, and have never had, from the whole of them combined, in all that time, the number of enquiries we have had from the readers of your magazine for the past three years. We believe there is no better medium in the Dominion than the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* for reaching the class of customers we look for in our special line of business. Wishing you increased prosperity, we remain,

JOHN LARMONTH & CO.,

Manufacturers of Horse Tread Powers, Threshers, Sawing Machines, Ensilage Cutters and Carriers, Montreal.

SIRS.—Our firm has had an extensive experience in advertising, and without any hesitation whatever we cheerfully pronounce the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, of London, the most effective and the most far-reaching journal we ever made use of as an advertising medium to reach the farmers. Our style of advertising is not merely a send-for-catalogue system. We invariably quote the plain figure prices of our goods right in the advertisement, our terms being strictly cash with the order in all cases, and yet with this most rigid manner of doing business we have had hundreds and hundreds of answers to our advertisements in your well-known farm paper, nineteen-twentieths of which contained P. O. orders for money, or were registered letters. This speaks volumes. Of course it goes without saying that our prices were right, and yet the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* was the medium. Our \$15 single harness, our \$16 road carts, or one of our low priced scales may now be found doing duty on farms in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, N. W. Territories, clear through to British Columbia. The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* seems to go everywhere.

STANLEY MILLS & CO., Hamilton, Ont.

A Mixed Farmer's Ideas on Mixed Farming.

Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have noticed lately in the *Winnipeg Tribune* several letters urging farmers to grow less wheat and turn their attention more to mixed farming, and from the addresses attached to said letters I should judge that they were written by some of the many theoretical farmers who reside in Winnipeg, and who consider it their duty every now and again to enlighten the actual tillers of the soil on the way to farm. Now, as an actual farmer in Manitoba of some fifteen years' experience, I contend that the advice is bad, and before giving some of the many reasons why I believe it to be so, I might first point out that the growing of wheat at a profit is the old struggle of the survival of the fittest, and I maintain that there is not on the face of the globe a country where there are conditions so favorable to wheat growing as in Manitoba.

The fact of the price being low and the crop not a paying one this year should not lead us to conclude that we can never make it pay, or that other branches of farming will pay better. If the wheat grower here on land next to nothing in price, and a crop every year as the Red River Valley produces, finds it hard to make ends meet, what must be the position of the farmer of Ontario, with land from \$50 to \$100 per acre, and a crop only every second year? The price during the season of navigation has not ruled more than from five to eight cents per bushel in favor of the Ontario farmer, and the indications are that in a year or two wheat in Winnipeg will be worth as much as in the outlying districts of Ontario, so that the question of price should not be made an excuse to quit growing it.

Are the climatic conditions favorable for wheat growing?

Wheat is said to succeed best near its northern limit of production. If we are near the northern limit we are not beyond it.

I am confident that I am correct in saying that the country south and west from Winnipeg (in the Red River Valley) has not, in a period of fifteen years, lost as much as one whole crop by frost. There may have been partial losses, but taking it all in all the aggregate loss has not been as much as above stated. And I venture to say that in the same district any kind of stock raising will show a much larger percentage of loss in the same period. We will refer to the price of stock later on.

Now for a few figures. By the census of 1885—the last one not showing the figures, as far as I know, in the same way—we find that in the municipality of Portage la Prairie the average quantity of wheat raised per family was 1,661 bushels; in Oakland the average per family was 1,059, and in North Cypress 1,055. The three municipalities showing the largest number of cattle per family are Springfield with 21, Ste. Francois Xavier 19, and Macdonald 17. In the three first or wheat-growing municipalities the price of farm lands rules the very highest in the province, and in the three latter or stock raising ones the very lowest, notwithstanding their proximity to Winnipeg. This does not look as if wheat raising should be dropped. To urge a farmer to take to mixed farming to keep up the fertility of his land is not sound logic, when he can buy new and untouched prairie at from \$2.50 to \$5 per acre. With a hill of manure in every field, it would cost him more than that to spread it on the land. Pork raising, which at present yields a very fair return, I would advise every farmer to be wary of for some time at least, as there is a boom on in that particular branch, which, like all other booms, must burst, and if you are not out from under the collapse will be felt more than the rise. At the same time I would say, one year with another, if a farmer is bound to diversify his business, or to have an adjunct to grain raising, that pork raising will chime in better with it than any other branch he can take up, not excepting horse raising, cattle raising, dairying in all its branches, sheep or poultry raising. These may all be done in a limited way, not to make money from the sale of their products, but to prevent a farmer from being under the necessity of buying any of them, for, in my experience, there is a wide, wide gap between the buying and selling price of any article in this country, when you deal through a middleman; this should indicate the true course for the farmer to pursue. What, with excessive freight rates, unjust tariff laws, combine groceries and the profits of the retailer, he comes far short of getting value for the dollar he may have to expend in the purchase of such of the necessities of life he does not raise on the farm. If he has pork to sell he may get six cents per pound for it, but if he is short and has to buy, his grocer will charge him fifteen cents for it cured. If he has beef to sell, the price will be from three to four cents per pound by the side, when the retail dealer's price is from ten to fifteen cents when he buys. The dealer buys on an export basis, but sells according to the import value. With such a state of affairs to contend with, the farmer's only salvation is not to have any of the necessities to buy he can possibly raise on the farm. At the same time let him draw the line right there, and make his staple products the small grains—wheat, oats and barley, with wheat the sheet anchor of his business. Let him bend all his energies in that direction, and in the struggle for the "survival of the fittest" I am positive he will come out on top of the wheat raiser in any