

tention to a few weaknesses. The majority of the competitors were weak in horses, both as to type and breeding. In several excellent herds of dairy cattle we found bulls that were inferior to the cows. And yet the bull figures as more than half the herd. Another point that I noted was that pigs do not seem to be an important asset in out and dairy farming. Those farmers who follow dairying as practically their only source of income, as did Messrs. Ness and Gunn, had either no pigs at all or very few. Mr. Guan, for instance, informed us that after keeping most careful records of expenditures and receipts from his swine department for several years, he had at last gone out of them completely.

"The weed problem also is demanding attention. One of the first farms that we visited was polluted with perennial sow thistle. In this case it was the rotation that was at fault. The rotation was altogether too long and contained too little hoe crop to be effectual in keeping down weeds.

#### THE AIR OF PROGRESS

"A pleasing point was the air of progress that pervaded all the homes visited. For instance: If a man had a bathroom in the home he mentioned it immediately; those who hadn't, and they were few, felt the need of one, had an apology to offer for not having one, and in at least one case plans were under way to remodel the house to make room for an up-to-date bath. The shortening of rotations, the substitution of wire for rail fences, the painting of buildings and improvement of stock were other evidences that we noted of this progressive spirit.

"And speaking for both of the judges let me bear testimony through Farm and Dairy to the hospitality with which we were received everywhere. We have thoroughly enjoyed our trip. The kindness that we have received from the competing farmers and their wives account largely for the pleasure that we have gotten from the work of judging in the farms competition. Be sure and thank your readers for us."

"And just here Mr. Terrill came along with the remark, "There wasn't a place we visited but what the people endeavored themselves to us in some way or other."

An editor of Farm and Dairy accompanied the judges on their rounds of the competing farms taking notes on the farms and farm practice and photographs of the stock, buildings, etc. Each of the prize-winning farms will be fully described in future issues of Farm and Dairy.

#### Fall Cultivation to Kill Weeds

Jno. Fitzer, Ottawa, Ont.

If the land intended for corn next year is full of weeds and seeds, immediately after removing the hay crop, plow very shallow, roll, disc harrow and harrow sufficient to make a fine surface and keep down all growth. This can be accomplished by keeping the cultivator going at intervals on very warm, sunny days. Later in the autumn the land should be thoroughly plowed and well set up to the winter's frost.

Another and more profitable way of killing the weeds after the hay crop is removed is to plow the land, roll with a heavy roller, then disc harrow and harrow thoroughly. Then sow the field with rape or white turnips in rows sufficiently wide to cultivate thoroughly. Keep down all other growth between the plants by an occasional hoeing. By this method the land will be returning a handsome profit as well as cleaning the field for the corn crop. As soon as the turnips or rape are fed off, the land should be thoroughly plowed for the winter frost to do its part.

When I am to sell Holstein cattle at auction

I have them clipped one month before and kept blanketed. They then go up to the sale as sleek as a whistle.—Jno. Arfmann, Orange Co., N. Y.

#### The Length of the R. of P. Test

E. B. Mallory, Hastings Co., Ont.

Shall we test our cows for 10 months or 12 months? Mr. Houghton, of the American Hol-



Pioneer Days in Older Ontario

stein-Friesian Association, is voicing my sentiments completely when he advocates the 10-month test in official Record of Performance tests. I have many times stated this opinion to our supervisors of the Record of Performance test, and I believe when the arguments in favor of the 10-month test come to be well known it will meet with universal approval.

The first and all important reason for shortening the yearly test to 10 months is that the test as it stands interferes with systematic breeding. All good dairymen like to have their cows freshen each year. If it is winter dairying a man is following he wishes his cows to freshen early in the winter, say December or January. If he is interested in sending his milk to cheese factories he wishes all his cows to have freshened before the cheese factory season opens.

#### IT REPEALS THE SYSTEM

In the Record of Performance test as it is all animals entered to compete and do well will necessarily have to drop their calves two months later the following year. This might bring them eventually to freshen in the mid-summer months, which would be against any system that any dairymen would wish to follow.

Then, again, the yearly test, especially for high records where three times daily and sometimes four times daily milkings are practiced, is of a trying and confining nature on account of its length, and many of us would welcome the cutting off of two months. After the 10-month test was made official it would, as well as it does now, test the ability of the animal for long and continuous production.

I am with Mr. Houghton in what he says—that we are opposing nature in the dairy cow in forcing her to milk past the time she usually ceases her lactation period, and expects a much needed rest in order to feel fit for the next season's work.

Clover seed will be a good price this year!

#### Start to get Ready for the Show

By "Herdman"

As the fall show season approaches there are hundreds of farmers scattered over our country who are looking with critical eye on some choice cow, some growthy young heifer or a pure bred bull that they are particularly proud of, or perhaps a pure bred bull that they would like to show at the county or provincial fairs. But they hesitate.

From personal experience and the experiences of neighbors they feel that the amateur exhibitor does not stand much of a chance in competition with the professional showman.

I believe that the professional showman beats the amateur in the judging ring, not so much because he is more expert in the selecting of the right animals, but because he fits them from the start "go." In the show ring have often seen splendid animals pulling stumbles at one end of a rope with their owners pulling quite as hard at the other end, and both of the making such a bad display that they spoiled the chances for the place that the merit of the animal would indicate that the exhibit should have gotten.

I believe that could tell pretty accurately just what happened on that farmer's farm.

#### PRETTY SLACK PREPARATION

At the last minute the farmer decided that he would exhibit that calf. He sends his boy back to the woods to find the animal desired, and it comes to the farm yard wild, wooly and covered with burrs. These are hastily brushed and pulled off, and after a fight, which tries the strength of both owner and beast, the halter is finally put on; then away goes the candidate for home struggling, fighting and pulling back like a prize. In the show ring it goes through the same performance, fighting instead of posing and disgusting the judges, the other exhibitors and the visitors.

Contrast this animal with that shown by the professional showman. The professional's animal may not have been a bit better to start with but he started a month before the show to get ready. The animal leads easily by the halter, poses to perfection and shows all his good points to the judge. He has been brushed, carried, polished, until he shines from horn to tail. Moreover the animal with the superior fitting was.

I would advise all prospective amateur showmen to start at least four weeks in advance to get ready. Bring the animals into the stable and teach them to lead and to stand properly. In the case of cattle, with which I am most acquainted, the best advice I can give as to the proposition to teach the animal to take is to study the illustrations of show animals that appear in such farm papers as Farm and Dairy. These are generally about right. In a later issue will give some advice drawn from experience of the fitting of animals for the show ring and the final finishing off points. These preparations enhance one hundred fold the chances of the animal for honors in the show ring.

How about the corn crop? Are you enjoying?

#### Some Lessons

T. G. Ray

If ever a season of drought was experienced in the season. Even on moisture was shown good the soil in it, the crops on lighter soils.

Possibly in the fact that of the excessive and prevented them were in. Then to face to bake at moisture off like over the drains side could one a crop. Wherever used and worked could one see a especially where he crops.

#### VALUE OF DRAIN

Then again in of humus and we with great promise but there is some which gave promise seen anywhere the settlers of 30 or 40 is now a veritable rocks and partly which furnishes quantity it didn't weather, and yet to supply the need didn't steam off the soil because of the which prevented.

#### GRASS TEST

This has been many farmers. It couldn't be touched three weeks during rainy season. The of nearly all kind work, so that the such crowding work their conditions and then work had met with insufficient labor. Never in the history of quack grass did it flourish as it did on clay during the rainy season. Much of it to make excellent grain which to-day there are many knowledge its superiority indicated by the growing in it. Quack grass in some cases the crop with a little more and there the he styled the weeds. I believe quack grass is the worst weed for grain we have. It is very hard to weed I know, but I saw a trial Sow thistle, which is a weed of the worst quack grass. If the season dried, later the dry it, where cultivators were planted in and working of a corn situation in the corn was disappeared.