



FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideals

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

VOL. XXXVI

TORONTO, ONT., APRIL 5, 1917

No. 14

The Milking Machine—An Experience Meeting

Eighteen Months Experience

JAS. R. ANDERSON, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

WHEN I installed a Sharples Milker and used it about one year and a half before our barns burned. We found it quite satisfactory. We are installing a new Sharples Milker now. Possibly the Sharples costs more to install than any other make, but once you get it in you have an outfit that will cost you very little to keep in repair. We used ours one year and a half and the cost for repairs was practically nothing.

We had four single units and two men would milk 30 cows in about one hour. If we were milking by hand it would take five milkers to milk them in one hour. A man that keeps 10 cows or more would make no mistake in buying a mechanical milker. Any dairyman, however, who is not a good, clean milker by hand, and is inclined to be careless, should never have a mechanical milker; above everything else the machine must be kept perfectly clean and well looked after in every way.

When we installed our milker we had a contract with the Hullville Creamery to furnish sweet cream from the creamery for table use in their city trade. We never had a complaint after we installed the milker. But we took every precaution we possibly could to keep everything perfectly clean.

Machine Milked Champions

G. A. BRETHEN, Peterboro Co., Ont.

ALTHOUGH virtually compelled by present conditions to install a milker (or materially decrease my herd, a sacrifice I was loth to make after breeding, developing and specializing on a couple of families that were proving very promising), I did not do so without careful consideration of the possible injurious effects on a herd of valuable producers, the possibility of decreased production and the question of any material saving of time in an average herd of 12 to 20 cows. I therefore took every means available to not only learn something of milkers in general, but also of the virtues and defects of the different machines upon the market. After a careful can-

vass of the experience of several well known breeders in whom I had every confidence, who were using different types of machines, to my surprise I learned with but one exception every man was an enthusiast for the particular make of machine he was working with. It would seem that when properly operated, almost any of the different machines on the market will give a good account of themselves if the proper care and attention is given to keep the machine in proper working condition.

While our experience with milking machines is too limited to say that any particular machine can claim superiority over all others, we have found the one we are using, the Empire, doing the work as satisfactorily as we had hoped for, and, in our judgment, reaching a state of perfection in performing the work it is intended to do quite approaching that of our other farm machines that we have long looked to as an absolute necessity upon the farm. While 10 months' experience with the milker we believe to be rather short to go wildly enthusiastic over a machine, I may say that as several of our cows have now freshened for the second time after having been milked with the machine for a season, we are in a fair way to judge of effects upon the herd.

No Injurious Effects Whatever.

In the past year we have had no lost quarters or serious cases of garget, etc. On the contrary, we find the cows' udders in better shape than a year ago. While, with one or two exceptions, we

found the cows' production showing an increase after installing the milker, we have this season been getting splendid results as the first five we have had freshen in official test have averaged over 30 lbs. of butter each (three of them three-year-olds with second calf), and all have milked above 92 lbs. in best day. The five averaged over 96.5 lbs. in highest day. As some of these had been milked by hand as well we were in a good position to judge of the efficiency of the machine. Three of the five showed a marked increase over the hand milking, one three-year-old breaking the Canadian record for milk in one day, seven-day and 30-day period, and raising 30-day butter record from 125.24 lbs. to nearly 135 lbs., her best seven days for milk and butter being made by the milker. Somewhat similar results were obtained upon two more while No. 4 remained about the same and the other did not seem to respond quite as freely to the milker as to hand milking, although she is hardly as uniform in her milking as the others in any case.

Sacrifice Speed to Efficiency.

Some conclusions I have reached: It pays to sacrifice speed to efficiency. Time taken to set the cow's milk "down" before attaching the milker results in a more rapid flow of milk in the machine with, we believe, consequent ease on udder and greater production. A little moving up and down of the teat cups on the udder before attaching also serves to draw milk more cleanly and make a more perfect job of it. We haven't much faith as yet in the claims of any machine milker to do the work so perfectly that no stripping is required. In fact, the most serious objection I heard against any machine was from a user of one supposed to milk the cow dry. Again, I think if as in many cases there is only a cupful left, it is time well spent with valuable cows at least to push on machine to another cow a little earlier and draw the last by hand. While we have seen no injurious effect from milker being on a little longer than it should, still it is a waste of time and the hand milking proves a check on the machine, so you know exactly just the condition of your cows and can govern yourself accordingly.

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CHOICE HOLSTEINS—MECHANICALLY MILKED.

These three cows are descendants of "Rauwerd," the 29,000 pound cow. Above is a daughter of Rauwerd, with a record of 34.66 lbs. of butter as a sr. 3-yr.-old; to the left a daughter's daughter with 27.77 lbs. as a sr. 3-yr.-old, and to the right a daughter's daughter's daughter with 30.10 lbs. as a sr. 3-yr.-old. These cows are all owned by G. A. Brethen, Peterboro Co., Ont., who does not hesitate to use a mechanical milker on them. Other breeders of pure bred cattle testify in this issue of Farm and Dairy that the mechanical milker is now an approved success.

