

Winter in the Dairy

By Elmer P. Woodworth

ON the general farm winter is the time of ease. When the worthy proprietor has attended to his few chores and got his supply of wood in from the bush, he has much time to himself. On the dairy farm the winter months are a time of comparative ease only. There may be more time for neighborhood visiting, reading, or just plain loafing, which is good for any man at times, but the good dairyman will keep fairly busy giving his cows every attention. He will realize that the cold climate of Canada is not the natural environment of the cow, and that in return for being kept in this climate she must be given the best of housing conditions, along with the right kind of food, in cold weather. Good cow keepers do not "rough" their cattle through the winter.

Feeding is the winter work of most importance. Of all qualities in feeds I would put palatability as of most importance, and in palatability, juiciness or succulence is the most important element. Dry feeding seems to dry up the whole system of an animal. Their hair and hide become harsh and hard. Both young stock and mature cattle assume a thriftless look when succulence is lacking from the ration. Juiciness on the other hand seems to regulate the digestive system for finest health and maximum production. Roots take first place for imparting succulence to a ration. Ensilage is a good second. A combination of the two is the ideal succulent ration for dairy cows. Lacking these, palatability may be imparted to a certain extent by sprinkling the hay or straw feed with a mixture of cheap molasses and water. We dairy farmers have not yet come to realize the full value of molasses for feeding purposes when succulent feeds are absent. The first winter that I kept cows the basis of the ration was very dry clover hay. This was made quite acceptable when liberally sprinkled with molasses that was purchased at 19 cts. a gallon.

Winter Feeding of Short Milkers.

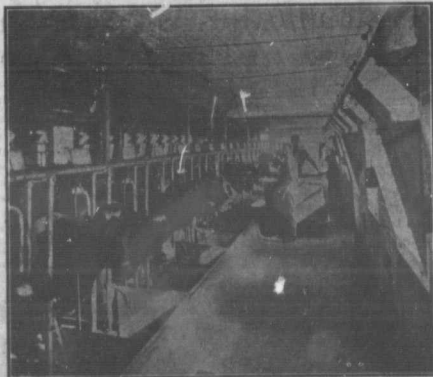
Summer dairying is still the system most commonly followed in Canada and most of the cows in our barns are either dry ready to freshen in March and April, or are giving very little milk. Will we feed a grain ration to cows such as these? Decidedly yes. For one thing it is surprising how well these cows supposed to be almost dry will milk if they are fed a fairly liberal ration of milk producing foods, such as bran, cotton seed, oil cake, gluten, or oatmeal. Even if the cows are entirely dry, however, liberal feeding is advisable. Through that feeding they are enabled to store up vitality and put on flesh, both of which will help them to do better on the pail than they have ever done before when finally they do freshen. In my experience, I have dealt with herds freshening in both thin and good flesh, and invariably the best results were obtained when the cow had been given a chance to store up vitality and nourishment through good feeding when she was thin and dry.

How shall the dairy cow be watered in winter? This is still a disputed point. I believe that the best system is inside watering. I am equally sure that cows are healthier and better able to resist disease when they are given daily outdoor exercise, and this they seldom get unless it is necessary to turn them out to water. It is decidedly beneficial for a dairy herd to be out in the fresh air, even if it is cold, on all but the

stormiest days. Of course, a windy yard is a poor place for this daily exercise. No better investment can be made on many dairy farms than the erection of a shelter fence, tightly boarded, 10 or 12 feet high. Better still it is to lay out the farm buildings around a sunny courtyard, which is the ideal exercise ground for dairy cows. I would not allow the cows to stand around long after filling up on icy water.

Stabling For Comfort and Health

Winter stabling should be designed for comfort and for health. The two do not necessarily go together. I would much prefer a well-ventilated, comparatively cool stable than one that was close and warm. The cows prefer the latter, but are healthier in the former. Light that reaches every corner of the dairy stable is the



A Stable Up-to-date in all its Appointments

In this stable is produced certified milk for Price & Sons, Toronto. The stable is designed to be sanitary and healthy. Notice how the windows are hinged to act as ventilators, the sanitary steel equipment and the permanent and cleanly cement mangers with their swinging partitions. Stables such as this are becoming more common as the importance of good stabling in profitable milk production becomes more fully understood.

best germicide and additional insurance of healthy dairy cattle. When we add to comparative warmth good ventilation and light, cleanliness and plenty of bedding, we have the ideal housing for the dairy herd in winter.

Shall we feed twice or three times a day? It depends on the cows. Where cows are milking heavily, it is advisable to feed three times a day. Cows giving a moderate quantity of milk to no milk at all will do equally well, better, I believe, on two feedings. If left to themselves through the middle of the day they will lie down, chew their cud contentedly, and make extra good use of two liberal feedings. The saving in labor is a considerable item.

Danger in Not Currying

Don't neglect to curry the cows regularly. Particularly is it important where we are producing city milk or cream, but it has significance from the standpoint of the cow herself. At certain times in the winter the hair on the body becomes very loose. This is licked off by the cow, and will form hair balls in the stomach, which greatly derange digestive processes. I never hear of this trouble, one that is well known to veterinarians, in any herd where the curry comb and brush are used at frequent intervals.

Winter is a most important season in the dairy barn, whether we practice winter dairying or not. If we practice winter dairying we will give our cows first attention for present results. He who is in summer dairying will see to their comfort and nourishment, knowing that the milk flow of the following summer will depend largely on the care given the herd now.

Advertise Your Live Stock

By E. L. McCoskey

THE modern business is started by advertising, kept going by advertising, and all real progress in it is made through advertising. The modern breeding business is almost as dependent on advertising as is the manufacturing business. Just stop for a minute and let us think of the five most prominent breeders of the particular breed that we favor. Almost instinctively the names that we see most frequently in the advertisement columns of our farm journals will come to our mind. This is true in at least nine out of 10 cases. The breeders who are best known are big advertisers. They do not advertise because they are prominent. They are prominent because they advertise.

The local market is the only market available to the man who depends on the casual buyer to get rid of his stock. By advertising, he can reach the national market, he can greatly increase the number of possible buyers, and hence his chances of selling at something more than a local price. Some breeders would never have received a decent price for the good stock they had to sell had they not made their needs known to national publications. Here are some cases in point.

A Calf For \$350.

A young farmer living 13 miles from a railway station had invested \$300 in a pure-bred Holstein cow. None of his neighbors were particularly interested in the Holstein breed, and locally he could not have sold the first bull calf that came from his pure-bred cow for more than \$50 or \$75. He decided to give advertising a trial. He got many inquiries, but did not realize a sale from the first ad. He persevered, and finally sold the calf for \$350. Altogether he did not spend over \$10 or \$12 in advertising.

Another young man somewhat similarly situated found himself last spring with three bull calves to dispose of. Locally they were worth little more than they would bring for beef. Through advertising they were all sold in a distant province, and all sold at remunerative prices.

The best results in advertising are not secured by intermittent advertising, but by the one who keeps his name before the public all the time. The grocer who boarded up his windows and locked his doors for several months in the season would obtain but little success in building up a trade. The breeder of live stock who places his name before the buying public for only a few weeks in the year will never build up the best kind of a connection. Better to run an ad. that you have nothing for sale at present, but telling about the fine stuff that you will have in the month of April. The medium to select for advertising is, of course, the one that seems to reach the largest number of people who naturally want the thing you have for sale. With the medium properly selected and an advertisement properly worded, the breeder is well on his way to realizing profitable prices for his surplus stock.

War is never justifiable in itself. It is the end that justifies the means. If the great struggle of the present results in disarmament and the end of autocratic authority in Germany, it may prove a blessing in disguise. But why should such a terrible means be required to attain such a desirable end among so-called Christian nations?