

Giving the Calf a Good Start.

To many, winter seems an off season in which to raise calves, but nevertheless, it is a fact, that most successful calf raisers find it to be the best season. In the first place the farmer has more time to give the proper attention to the details so important in calf feeding; second, there is usually a greater supply of skim-milk owing to the smaller number of pigs raised in the winter than in summer; lastly, the calf has not got the summer heat and flies to contend with and is just at a nice age to turn to pasture the following spring.

When the calf is dropped it should be allowed to remain with its dam until she has licked it clean and dry or else be removed to a separate stall and rubbed dry with wisps of straw or a piece of bagging. If at all possible the winter raised calf should have the brightest, driest and sunniest place in the stable for its winter quarters and it should be kept clean at all times, for comfortable quarters mean almost as much as good feeding. The calf should receive within twelve hours a feed of the colostrum or first milk from its dam. It is important the calf gets a feed of this milk as it has a beneficial effect on the bowels and ensures the calf getting the proper start. For the first few days the cow should be milked and the calf fed three times daily, the milk being fed while still at blood heat. Eight

to ten pounds per day should be sufficient for the average calf. Feed the calf whole milk for the first two to four weeks depending on its strength, a weak or puny calf being carried on whole milk for the longest period. Gradually change from whole milk to skim-milk making the period in which the change is made extend over about ten days as abrupt changes are apt to bring on digestive troubles. At this time the calf should be consuming about twelve pounds of skim-milk daily in two feeds. As the change is made from whole to skim-milk the fat removed from the milk should be replaced by adding a tablespoonful of finely ground scalded flaxseed jelly. The proportion of the flaxseed jelly and skim-milk can be increased gradually and at about three months of age add to the flaxseed jelly other constituents to make a calf meal composed of ground flax, 1 part, fine ground oats 2 parts, and ground corn 2 parts,—this mixture to be fed in the milk, similarly to the flaxseed jelly, at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per day at the start gradually increasing to one pound per day at four to five months. At this time the skim-milk ration may be cut off and the dry grain ration mentioned below increased proportionately.

It is well to start the calf eating a little dry and bulky feed as early as possible. With this end in view a small quantity of fine clover hay and whole oats should be kept before the calf after it is a month old. As the

calf grows older the whole oats may be replaced by a mixture of bran, rolled oats, and ground corn. This mixture should be fed at noon at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per day at start up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per day at time of reducing skim-milk and calf meal mixture, at which time the dry grain mixture may well be increased to 3 pounds per day and be fed in two feeds, morning and evening. Roots are a valuable feed for growing calves and may be introduced into the ration in small quantities when the calves are from two to three months of age. Silage should not be fed to very young calves and as it usually gets strong towards the latter part of the winter, only very small quantities should be fed if used at all. Feed salt in limited quantities regularly. Provide fresh water, but do not let the calves gorge themselves with it.

Strict attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the utensils and mangers in which the calves are fed, as well as to the box stalls in which they are quartered. The latter should be cleaned out at least once a week and preferably oftener.

The above ration may seem heavy and the feeding of it a matter of some detail, but it is attention to these points that ensures well grown calves capable of developing into profitable mature animals.

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What is Back of the Milk Situation.

Readers of this paper who are not vitally interested in dairy farming, may have wondered why, for the last few weeks, these columns have placed an unusual emphasis on condensed and city milk trade matters. The fundamental reason is a desire to keep our dairy readers as closely informed as possible as to every occurrence that is likely to effect the price of milk or to influence the dairy industry of Canada in any way, but the immediate reason is the utterly unwarranted action of the condensed and powder-milk manufacturers in suddenly cutting off the whole-milk market of hundreds of Canadian dairy farmers, or reducing the price without warning. There were, for instance, 1,500 powder factory patrons who, upon four days' notice from the Canadian Milk Products Company, Toronto, were forced to dispose of their milk as best they could, or allow the company to manufacture it into butter at a charge of five cents per pound; and, in many cases, lose most, if not all, of the value of the skim-milk, besides paying for hauling the cream to the manufacturing plant.

Rumors were rife for a long time that the condenseries would shut down too, on Oct. 1, but plant managers up to the last either did not know, or if they did they professed not to know anything of such a decision. As a matter of fact the condenseries did not all shut down, but the first move made was by the Borden Condensing Company who, instead of paying more for October than for September milk, dropped the price of 3.5 per cent. milk supplied by producers from \$2.85 to \$2.50 per 100 pounds. In addition they closed one receiving station without any warning.

When this occurred "The Farmer's Advocate" determined to investigate the matter as fully as possible in the interests of Canadian milk producers, whom we surmised—and still believe—are being made the victims of plans laid inconsiderately by American dairy manufacturers, including the Nestle's Food Company, the Borden Condensery Company and the Merrell-Soule Company. The latter company is the largest manufacturer of milk powder in America, and the patent rights possessed by the Canadian Milk Products Company in Canada were obtained from this larger American company. There is this further connection, too, which at least bears the ear-mark of significance, that although the Canadian company claimed to be only casually interested in the export trade (which for a year or more has been dull) and could scarcely take care of domestic business in spite of an extremely rapid development of

new producing territory, it was not until the president had paid a visit to New York State that he found the Company's manufactured products on hand so heavy a burden that an immediate cessation of manufacture could not be delayed more than 7 days. By the time word was taken to the company's patrons there were two or three days less to play on.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

Last week there were several further developments in the milk situation in Ontario and Quebec. The Borden Farm Products Company, with headquarters in the United States, is one of the largest milk distributors in the city of Montreal. This company is not the Borden Condensed Milk Company, but a very large fluid milk company, with, it may be imagined, a very direct connection with the Borden Condensed Milk Company. One of the developments of recent date in Canada, we are informed, was the fact that, acting upon orders received from New York, the Montreal branch of the Borden Farm Products Company, notified its patrons that the price paid for milk in October would be very considerably lowered below that previously paid.

In Western Ontario, too, another element has been added to the situation through the action of the Neilson Company, of Toronto, confectioners and ice-cream manufacturers. This company has a large plant at Beachville, near Woodstock, at which milk producers have been paid a price corresponding closely to city milk prices. Patrons of this company were notified on October 4 that they would be paid only \$2.40 per 100 pounds for October. Last Friday night a meeting of the patrons was held, at which the demand for \$3 per hundred was upheld, with the alternative of diverting the milk to the cream market. Patrons are now awaiting the report of a committee of two, one of whom is President E. H. Stonehouse, of the Ontario Milk and Cream Producers' Association, that was delegated to negotiate with the company.

The third new and outstanding element in the milk situation is the statement issued last week by the Board of Commerce practically admitting the justice of the Toronto milk prices on evidence established primarily by the report of the Ontario Milk Commission. The Board says, however,—and we know this to be a fact—that they have the assurance of the milk producers that the price will be brought down at the very earliest date. The extra supply of coarse grains and the recent tendency to decreased feed prices is some

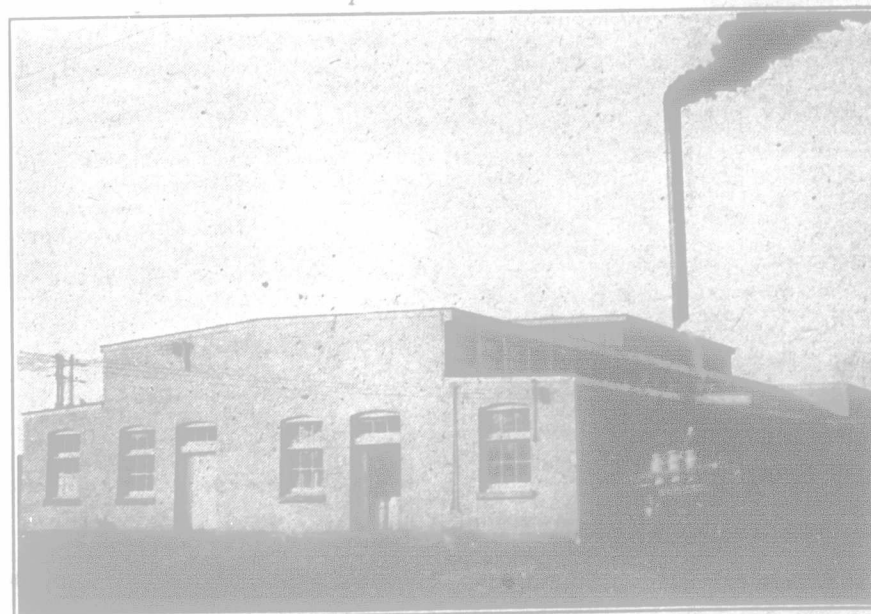
indication that producers will shortly be able to fulfil this undertaking. We read out of the statement of the Board of Commerce a probability that even if no modification is made in the Toronto price until the New Year the Board will not again interfere. We would like to say, however, that if it becomes possible to reduce the price in a month or six weeks time the producers should do so if only to justify the faith which the Board apparently has in their good intentions. The City of Toronto has now reached the point where it is going to investigate the matter of municipal milk distribution, and \$1,000 has been appropriated for this purpose. This is a very natural step for Toronto to take, bearing in mind its leaning toward Hydro-Electric power and the street railway question, and it would, moreover, be a very good thing for the producer if the City did undertake to distribute its own milk. We are not convinced, however, that it would be a good thing for the consumer, who should properly undertake the distribution of milk for his own consumption. It is interesting in this connection to recall the fact that in July, 1919, the City of Rochester, N. Y., authorized an investigation into the milk supply, and among other things an inquiry "as to the expediency of the purchase and distribution by the city of all milk used in the City; and as to the expediency and expense of any other method designed to secure the control by the City of the distribution of milk; and as to the expediency and expense of the production by the City on municipally-owned farms of all milk used in the City." A volume of 227 pages reports the result of this investigation, which was very complete. The committee reported in December, 1919, as follows regarding municipal ownership:

"Your committee finds and respectfully reports that it is not expedient for the city to attempt the purchase and distribution by the City of Rochester of all milk used within its limits at this time."

"It must be borne in mind that having once embarked upon such an enterprise which would involve the expenditure of upwards of a million dollars, the City could not abandon the project, but would be obliged to continue whether it succeeded or not. In other words, it is not a matter in which experiment is possible. Our investigation has disclosed that centralization of milk distribution will result in important economies which would accrue to the financial benefit of the consumers of milk by lowering the price to them. There is, however, no reason why such centralization



Conveniences which the average dairyman does not possess but which the city milk producer must have to care for his milk properly.



A dried milk factory in Prince Edward County that partially curtailed its operations.

H. H. DEAN.