

A Rudder to the Ship.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I have been keeping individual records for a period of three years, and am thoroughly convinced as to the importance of this work. I was first interested in it while attending the O. A. C., and started it as soon as I arrived home, and have never missed recording a milking since that time. The time that it takes to weigh the milk and set down the figures does not exceed one-half minute per day per cow, so you see the time does not amount to much. One can get so expert at it that with the glance of the eye he can readily tell the weight. We use the spring balance for weighing, and the record sheets that are supplied by the Department of Agriculture free.

There are several benefits to be derived from keeping such records. One is that it readily shows the loss that is incurred by irregularity of milking. It also enables you to use better judgment in feeding, when you have an eye to the records, which show very quickly when a cow is off feed or not feeling just right. It also shows that when a cow is frightened or excited there is a great loss in milk. Perhaps the most important point is that it enables us to weed out the poor cows, and thus build up the herd.

Of course—I would say, in answering your last question—if a man is really sure that his cows are all above the minimum of production, there is really no great need of his keeping records; but at the same time there is a great deal of satisfaction to be derived from other sources, if he does not begrudge the time.

I am very enthusiastic over this part of dairying, and would say that too much emphasis cannot be placed on it. I believe that it will do more for the upbuilding of the dairy industry in Canada than any other one factor. I think that, for a man to go into dairying without keeping milk records, would be just as foolish as for a captain to go to sea without a rudder to his ship. It is one of the factors that tend largely to bring success to the dairyman.

B. C.

P. L. MORSE.

A Glimpse of Life in New Iceland.

During the past twenty years the tide of emigration has steadily swept toward the fertile shores of fair Canada. Men and women from all parts of the great world have flocked to this land of promise. During the past few years the number of newcomers has steadily grown till now we find French and German, Chinese and Japanese, Galician and Russian, Icelandic and Scandinavian, all blended together with the stalwart sons of Canada—united in their ambition for wealth and satisfied to strike their tents under the far-reaching folds of the good old Union Jack.

Among all these arrivals from so many different climes, one of the most progressive and enterprising peoples that have chosen our fair Dominion as their home, are the Icelanders. Coming from the far off land of ice and snow, from the land of song and story, they landed in Canada some twenty years ago, and finally settled along the fertile banks of Lake Winnipeg and its sister water Lake Manitoba. Such a large and prosperous settlement soon arose on the

former lake that the patriotic sons of the north named it New Iceland, as a token of their remembrance of the land that gave them birth. Being men skilled in hard work and weather beaten from the bleak winds of northern waters, they made rapid progress, and the main point in this little settlement, Gimli by name, is the very definition of prosperity and progress.

The principal occupation is farming and all along the western lake-shore may be seen carefully kept fields, and barns and houses, which would do credit to any Old Ontario settlement. During the winter fishing is extensively carried on and this has so far proved a most profitable industry.

Public schools, manned for the most part by native teachers, are conducted, and the excellent standing of the Icelandic students at the Manitoba University year by year, amply testify to the wonderful talent and ability possessed by the younger generation.

Going north from Gimli we reach Hnausa after a drive of twenty miles. Here a large general store caters to the wants of the surrounding people, and during the summer season several boats call. Five miles further west is Geysei, where fine farms and active workmen are found. During the present summer a creamery has been built by the enterprising farmers, which reflects great credit upon them. An expert butter-maker has been employed and the factory will be largely patronized.

There are no English settlers in this district, and few of the older settlers speak much English, but the younger folk are all fairly well educated and are fast becoming Canadianized. We welcome them to Canada! For no braver, better race of people ever landed on our shores.

Horticulture and Forestry

Fruit Growing for Northern Alberta.

In reply to a request from us to Mr. Payne, who was recently appointed a Government fruit experimenter for Northern Alberta, that he send his photo for publication for the interest of our readers, we were favored with the photo, some suggestions on tree planting, and some intimations of his operations. The following is what he says:

"The fruit trees will not be planted here until next spring, so I am not able to give anything definite as to varieties that the Government purpose experimenting with. I feel confident that fruit trees will do well in this district. The soil is a deep black loam with clay subsoil. I hope to be able to write more fully on this at some later date.

"In connection with the planting of trees I would like to say that land should be summer-fallowed the year before the trees are planted. When setting them out dig the holes large so as not to crowd the roots; lay them out in their natural position, as careful planting goes a long way toward success.

"I would advise a shelter belt on all sides, say from eight to ten rows three or four feet apart. Otherwise if there is no shelter from high winds the fruit is quite likely to be blown off before it is fully matured. In my former experience I have noticed that the best sheltered orchards gave by far the best results."

Vegreville, Alta.

H. T. PAYNE.

Tobacco Growing in British Columbia.

At Kelowna, a large company to be called the International Land and Tobacco Co., Ltd., is at present being formed for the purpose of growing tobacco, mainly cigar leaf to supply the Canadian market. For this purpose the company, which is being capitalized at five million dollars, is securing 20,000 acres of land in the Okanagan valley. This summer the Kelowna district will have sixty-five acres in tobacco and next year it is expected that at least five thousand acres will be under crop. The cost of growing tobacco is from three to six cents per pound and the production is from 800 to 2,000 pounds per acre. The Okanagan valley seems well adapted to tobacco growing, so this undertaking should prove a success.

Revelstoke the Distributing Point.

On May 22nd the British Columbia fruit growers met in Revelstoke and decided upon that city as the distributing point for British Columbia fruit. Last year it was found that some places on the prairies had too much fruit on hand at certain times, while others had none. By erecting a cold storage plant at Revelstoke and distributing from there, a more even distribution will be the result.

A Hand-made Potato Planter.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I should like to make a suggestion to those who have much potato planting to do. Take the seat off a gang plow, leaving the stand; on this bolt a piece of plank about four feet long and eight inches wide. On the front end of the plank fasten a box with three sides and about six inches wider than the plank, to which it should be fastened. At the bottom of the box fasten a length of stove pipe to conduct the seed potatoes to the furrow just behind the first mouldboard. A man then sits outside the board behind the box and using both hands drops the potatoes into the box. The second plow covers the seed and a man following with a walking plow can make the rows farther apart. There is room to cultivate, however, where only a fourteen inch gang is used. This year I am planting with a sixteen-inch, one furrow sulky and dropping every second furrow. With a steady three-horse team one man can put in two acres a day.

J. G. MACDONALD.

Portage la Prairie Municipality.

Blackberries.

Among the many inquiries which have come to the writer regarding fruit growing in these provinces, a sprinkling have related to the blackberry. Generally speaking this question can be answered by the statement that the blackberry is not adapted to the prairie provinces of Western Canada. While some varieties of the blackberry are perhaps as hardy as many varieties of the raspberry, yet I have never heard of anyone succeeding in growing this fruit. The fruit is later in ripening than the raspberries, and will usually not mature here before fall frosts set in. These remarks apply to the upright form of the blackberry. There is a recumbent or trailing form of blackberry which ripens its fruit considerably earlier than the erect forms. As the vines trail naturally along the ground, they are easily covered, and should be well mulched for winter. These trailing forms, known generally as dewberries, are not nearly so largely cultivated as the upright varieties. They produce very fine, large fruit, but are not generally considered sufficiently productive to be profitably grown as a commercial crop. The fruit of the dewberries ripens here and they may be grown with good winter protection. The upright varieties require the same general treatment as the raspberry. Blackberries are sometimes confounded with black raspberries. They are closely related to the raspberry, botanically, but are a different species. Their manner of growth is the same



THE ARDAL CREAMERY  
In the Icelandic Settlement