

A Letter from Holland

from our Dutch Correspondent, Mr. D. Schoemaker

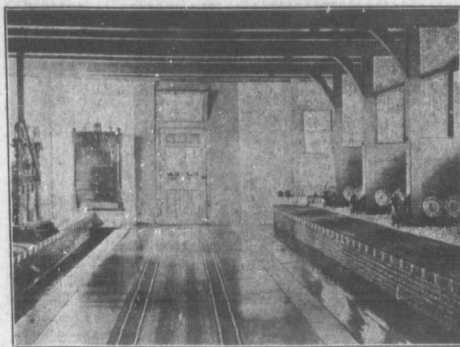
NOTICE by the issue of Farm and Dairy of Aug. 12, that you made use of my letter on "Drying a Cdw." I would like to add a few remarks on this subject, as my previous letter was too short.

Common cows which go dry themselves, we milk one day, and after that just examine the udder to see that she is drying well. When we are anxious of drying good milch cows who are still milking well, we stop milking on a certain day, then omit the milkings for three to four days as stated in my former letter, and milk once more. If her udder is in good condition, we do not milk again.

I am sending along a picture of an antique cow stable as it appears in the summer when not in use. I am sorry that the picture does not do justice to the conspicuous of colors. It will be noticed, however, that the floors of the stalls are covered with straw shavings.

Against the stanchions are placed ancient delf ware and porcelain and brass kettles, etc. The stanchions are painted deep blue, the same shade as the ceiling. On the floor is placed a black varnished wooden floor. The curb stone is painted yellow. The floor is varnished black, but is covered as well with carpet, a mixture of black, red and yellow. On the left wall is seen an ancient Edam cheese press.

The farmers who fit their stables up in this way, however, are now scarce. Earlier times every farmer did so, as being keen competition as to who could get the brightest effect in



Summer in a Dutch Dairy Stable.

Part of the floor is varnished. The rest is carpeted. The timbers above are painted in various hues. Our Dutch correspondent, D. Schoemaker, assures us that this method of decorating a dairy stable in summer is less common now than it once was.

a dark room. This picture is taken on the farm of Mr. Buurman, Westwood, Oudyk.

Boys as Stock Judges

If a boy gets training in judging good dairy cattle, he will not be content to breed poor, scrub cattle on his own farm when he reaches years of maturity. This fact makes the judging work at rural school fairs

of great future value to the Canadian live stock industry. G. R. Green, District Representative for Oxford Co., Ont., tells of one judging competition at Brownsville in his county as follows:

"In connection with the judging competition, we arranged to have two classes, one Ayrshire and one Holstein, including three pure-bred cows in each. Four teams were entered, three boys from each school. Previous

to the School Fair, I learned, quite by accident, that one of the men interested in the Brownsville School Fair had, on four different occasions, taken the boys out to neighboring farms. At one place he gave the boys a talk himself, at another time he secured the services of Mr. R. J. Kelly of Colluden, the third time Mr. Thompson of the Farmer's Advocate Winnipeg, and Mr. Empey, a pure bred Ayrshire breeder in the vicinity on the fourth occasion. The boys were given an opportunity of placing the animals and giving their reasons, and a record was kept accurately. Previous to the Fair, a team was picked out from the boys who had attended these classes. As a result, Brownsville had the winning team on the day of the Fair.

The school boys at Mt. Elgin were trained also by Mr. Frank Harris of Mt. Elgin, and the teacher at Ostrander School, who, by the way, is a stock man himself, took the boys to the nearest farm and gave them their initial instructions before Fair Day arrived. The teacher in question was a new one in the county, and saw the prize list for the first time only the day before the fair. On seeing the judging contest included in the list, he lost no time in taking steps towards having the boys receive some instructions before time. Had the competition been called to his attention sooner, I feel sure the boys in his school section would have made a better showing."

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