

Many towns and cities have voluntarily abolished market fees, much to the advantage of all except the market clerks.

If market fees are the proper thing why all these exemptions? If the man with a few turnips is taxed, why do they exempt the man with a fifty dollar load of dressed hogs?

Dressed hogs have too much influence. Shall all farm produce be taxed, or shall all farm produce be made free?

Shall we have discrimination or shall we have freedom?

The Dairyman's Anxious Time

Though winter dairying is now largely practised in many parts of Canada, dairymen as a rule have not adopted the practice of having the bulk of their cows drop their calves in the fall instead of the spring. Farmers who have tried this plan, and have had suitable winter conditions in the way of good stabling, feed, etc., claim that much more can be made out of the cows than by having them dropping their calves in the spring, as is the general rule. While we endorse this view in cases where the farmer has good cows, and has a warm, comfortable stable, with a liberal supply of good succulent food for his cows, we hardly think it wise for every farmer to do so. At any rate, it would be foolish to do so unless the proper conditions were provided for the care of the cow, as outlined above. However, as the large majority of our farmers have their cows calve in the spring of the year, a word of advice will be in season.

The dairyman's greatest anxiety is at calving time, and the better milkers he has the greater will be his anxiety. As a rule, a "scrub" cow that is good for almost nothing will come through the calving period without much difficulty. But a cow that gives a large flow of milk, and keeps up a good supply during most of the year, runs a far greater risk than the poor milker. The greatest danger will be from milk fever, a disease that once it takes root is hard to cure, but which can be prevented where rational methods are adopted. And here let us state that it would be wise to adopt preventive measures in all cases. When possible a cow should be dried off for a few weeks before the calving period. This can easily be done, except in cases where a cow is a very persistent milker, and gives a large flow of milk even up to near the time of calving. In such cases it might be injurious to check the flow of milk too suddenly, and a good cow might be spoiled. The average cow can be dried-off by reducing the grain feed, though not enough to cause any serious loss of flesh, and by gradually milking less thoroughly and less frequently.

After drying-off the grain food should be resumed, in small quantities at first, and of the right kind of food, so as not to starve the calf or prevent the cow from making bag. Bran in slop, oats, a little oil meal, and such like, are the kind of foods to give. Corn and all heating foods calculated to produce feverishness should be avoided. The cows should be watched to see that there is no constipation, and that the bowels move freely without scouring. Where necessary, some Epsom salts can advantageously be given a week before the calf is due. When calving time comes make the cow comfortable, with plenty of good bedding. Every farmer should have a box stall in which a cow may be put when she is about due to calve. If the weather is cold, chilling should be guarded against, and the drinking water should be warmed for two or three days after the calf is born. If there should be any symptoms of fever give a little acornite. As we have already stated, preventive measures are wise, and, if the cow has been properly prepared for the calving period, there is not likely to be any trouble.

Lonesome Without It

Glen Roy, Ont., March 12th, 1899

DEAR SIR,—I write to ask you to send FARMING to me for another year, as I am lonesome without it. It is a good paper, and I miss it. Enclosed find \$1 for my subscription.

ROBERT J. CAMPBELL.

Manures and Manuring

By T. C. Wallace, Before the Ontario Farmers' Institute

(Continued from last issue.)

Manuring is actually cultivation. Manure is labor. So working the soil as to set free some of the store of locked up fertility is rational work. Returning to the soil a portion at least of the material we remove by cropping and grazing is also rational work, but only a branch of the work. Treating the soil as a receptacle or storehouse into which we undertake to put a dollar's worth of stuff to get a dollar's worth out, and struggling in a bargain to obtain that first dollar's worth for fifty or seventy-five cents, so that we may score a profit on our labor, is neither rational or business like. Such lottery with nature is unworthy of the boasted agricultural intelligence of the closing days of the nineteenth century.

Let us, however, now look closely at the general result of stock feeding on our lands. We find the results are good up to a certain point. It was certainly better than grain growing as described. But, had we understood the true function of clover as a manure as we do to-day, we might have carried on the grain growing pretty successfully without stock, and perhaps more successfully than we have done it with stock. But we certainly obtained a better condition of the soil by having the animal manure for our lands. The animals fed on the farm return us most of the potash and most of the nitrogen which they take with their feed, but they return us actually none of the phosphoric acid they take except such portions as they fail to digest. They take it to build their bone, their nerve force, their ripening, and their powers of reproduction. And so like the grain and nearly every other living thing we have to deal with, except the birds, our domestic animals drain the phosphate from the soil. Do not deceive yourselves with the false theory that after their young bone is built they then return the phosphate. No such thing occurs, and in fact the actual necessity for phosphate becomes greater as ripening or age advances; of course within the limits of the producing period, after which animals are not usually kept. It is sometimes contended that this drain of phosphoric acid can be prevented by feeding concentrated foods to animals in much greater quantities than they require and so making them.

ANIMATED MANURE FACTORIES.

This is blind practice. It is a frantic endeavor to fit the animal to the land instead of adapting the land to our requirements. It is wasting energy, which can be more profitably applied to filling the pail or making beef, mutton or pork. It is this same blind practice which causes so much diversity of opinion and almost annually the changing of methods of cropping, cultivating and harvesting our crops, to try and fit them to the gradually, but surely, changing conditions of our lands. Throwing the blame on Providence and ascribing our difficulties to "climate changing" must stop somewhere, and the sooner the better. When farmers realize that they must study their soils and adopt means to restore them, at least to a condition of "virgin fertility," many of the ingenious plans and contrivances which make their lives miserable will pass into ancient history and the museum. I say that when farmers realize the true inwardness of manuring as the foundation of the whole agricultural structure we will not see the boys crowding to the cities and leaving the noblest and surest of all callings for the uncertainties of trade and commerce.

We may inquire now what indications there are of the waning fertility through the described denudation of the phosphatic heart in the land. If I seem to lay stress on this want of phosphate without good and sufficient reason I may well be condemned, but there are signs which he who runs may read, and those who desire to understand must throw away their smoked glasses and raise themselves to a higher plane of thought, and the egoist must lay aside his scepticisms. It gives me pleasure to be able to say that I