

Success Without a Mortgage.

HOGS AND CATTLE DID IT.

SEVENTH PRIZE ESSAY.

When 20 yrs old, I took a foolish notion, as many boys do, to leave home. My father being somewhat advanced in years, offered as an inducement to keep me at home to sell me an 80 a farm for \$500 in yearly payments of \$50 until paid. Perhaps this does not seem to be a very big undertaking, but if we consider that the beginning must be made without a dollar and the place brought up from a prairie grass sod to a cultivated and improved farm with good buildings, fencing, groves, orchard, etc., and the farm paid for at the same time, we readily see it required at least some economy.

About the first thing I did was to marry a girl with the same amount of capital as I possessed, but endowed with a large stock of energy and economy. We bought a span of colts and a plow from my father for \$100 on time, and a bill of lumber for \$100 with my father for security, making \$1000 in all. With such a debt overshadowing us we did not feel able to hire a carpenter at \$3 p day to build our modest home-nest, so I went bravely at it myself, accomplishing that and making all our improvements. Broke out a part of our 80 and farmed an 80 for my father, giving 1-3 crop rent. All of this required much work, and I accomplished it all myself, but hired a horse through the busy work. My wife's working capital consisted of eight hens, a hoe with which she raised the garden and two cows, which my father loaned us for their keep; with these she kept up the table and when fall came we were blessed with good crops and were able to meet the first payments in full and on time. Also had a small surplus to invest in fruit trees and the many other things necessary to the improvement of a new farm. After gathering my own crop, I husked corn for a neighbor, earning a sow and a heifer.

The next year was much the same as the first as to work, but meanwhile our hogs had increased by two litters to 15 head, part of which I sold and made another payment before it became due, thereby getting a 5 per cent discount on same. The crop finished paying for horses and lumber with a small surplus which I invested in three calves. The next year our crops were short and our hogs were long, consequently had no corn to sell and hogs were not fat when pay day came around, so I obtained 6 mos time, but was to make that payment and the next year's payment at the same time—when I sold my hogs. After making these two payments I had enough money to buy nine steer calves. I now began to feel my head above water.

At the end of the fifth year I sold over \$500 worth of hogs and steers for \$240 and beginning to want a deed for the farm, paid the full amount at this time. After this we had our surplus money for improvements, to invest in calves or sometimes loan a little to less provident neighbors. To-day or 12 yrs from the time of buying the first 80 a, we have a cozy home, large barns, hog-houses, etc., have added another 80 a to our farm, all is paid for and some money at interest.

We attribute our success to not reaching beyond our means, paying as we go, doing the work ourselves without hire, making a specialty of live stock rather than selling grain (being in the corn belt corn is of course the principal crop with only an occasional change), thus realizing the highest price and at the same time keeping up the fertility of the soil. Last year the principal money crop was centered in a fine, large herd of Berkshires. One mistake I made in the beginning was in fencing id cross-fencing with hedges. In spare time I am now cutting these out and replacing with woven wire, thereby making a large portion of the farm hog-tight. This fence does not encroach on neighbors or my own corn ground. Some may say this has been all work and no play. We freely admit that the first 5 yrs was all work, but since then have had our share of play as well; have made visits to the east and south. World's and other fairs, spent one winter in California and have not neglected to give liberally to church and charitable work and added music, books and current literature to our home attractions.—IO, McK., Marshall Co, Kan.

The Dairy.

SUMMER POINTERS.

Shade is almost as important in summer as shelter from cold in winter. See that the cow has plenty of feed and clean water while in pasture, so that she can fill her stomach in a short time and then lie down in the shade, chew her cud, enjoy herself, and make milk.

The cow must not have to travel a long distance for water. If she does, she will go without it until she gets very thirsty and feverish, and then drink until she is painfully uncomfortable. Both conditions are unfavorable for milk secretion.

If a cow has to travel over a large surface and take a good deal of time to fill her stomach, the extra time and energy expended will cause a corresponding reduction in the flow of milk.

Milking should always be done in a clean, airy place, free from all bad odors. If in a stable, it should be scrupulously clean, and have some deodorizer, such as dry earth, dry muck, land plaster, sand, etc., scattered over the floor. The best of all is the land plaster, which goes into the manure, and is applied to the soil in about as good a way as possible.

It is better to have cows confined in stanchions, or otherwise, for milking, to avoid their moving about, and to prevent accidents. It is also better to have some kind of shelter, especially when it rains.

Why a Silo Pays—Convenience in feeding more feed from a given amount of land, stock waste less, stock keep in better condition and give more milk. No husking, shelling, grinding or toll. The above offsets the cost of a good silo and its filling when other work is often pressing and extra help hard to secure.—[John Irvin, Va.]

Air Dried Swamp Muck has great value, both for its nitrogen and the power it has to absorb and retain liquid excrement. In those sections where it is readily obtained it should be used more generally about stables.

Bacterial Growth is favored by high temperature and dirty surroundings. They taint the butter. Bacteria may be killed by pasteurizing, heating to 160 degrees for two minutes and then cooling. Light and pure air are deadly to them.

Results of Feed Inspection by the Vt exper sta are interesting. Cottonseed, linseed or gluten products were not found to be adulterated, but varied greatly in value. Many brands of oat feeds, dairy feeds, corn and oat feeds, provenders and the like were found to contain a large quantity of oat hulls, more than they should carry were the goods made from pure grains ground together. Such feeds are of inferior quality and their purchase is of very doubtful advisability. The more highly concentrated feeds cost more, but for the purpose for which such materials are generally bought are much less expensive than low-grade goods.

Hereford Breeders are to secure a strong foothold in Mexico, as one of the best known breeders has secured a farm in one of the finest sections of the republic and will stock it with some of the choicest Hereford blood. This breeder, besides disposing of the local farm stock, will also act as agent of American breeders of Herefords. The name of the new company is the Mexican Hereford breeding and importing company. This farm is located in the province of Chihuahua, and is so high up that cattle are not subject to Texas fever, as it is not prevalent on account of the high altitude. It is claimed that the Mexican breeders will require 10,000 bulls a year for the next 10 yrs and that there is one of the finest opportunities in a long time for American breeders to dispose of surplus stock. Canada and South America are also buying largely of this popular beef breed.

Rye Straw in Bundles. If preserved straight and unbroken, brings the best price in market and at the mills. A special machine is required to thresh the rye from the straw and preserve the latter in a nice unbroken form. Ordinary threshers cannot do it, but Mr George D. Harder, at the Empire agri-

cultural works, Cobleskill, N Y, manufactures the standard Champion straw preserving machine, and does the leading business in this line. This is one of his specialties and he makes them of different styles suited to the needs of any class of buyers. Our rye growing readers will do well to consult Mr Harder when in need of any machinery of this description.

The Guernsey Herd Register, just issued by Sec'y W. H. Caldwell of Peterboro, N H, contains entries of bulls from No 6235 to 6370 and cows from 12,093 to 12,342. The Register also contains much valuable reading matter concerning the Guernsey breed.

The Holstein-Friesian ass'n holds its 15th annual meeting at Iroquois hotel, Buffalo, N Y, June 6.

On a ration of 30 lbs of silage, 4 lbs cottonseed meal, 4 lbs bran, 4 lbs corn meal, and 10 lbs mixed hay per 1000 lbs live weight, a good dairy cow ought to produce 20 lbs milk, and a steer should make 2 lbs of gain per day.—[Prof A. M. Soule, Tenn Exper Sta.]

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