EQUALLY GREAT CORN RESULTS.

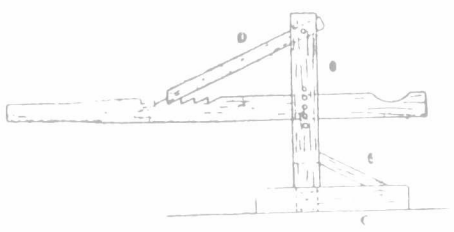
When one considers the work done with corn, it is hard to refrain from saying that this is the greatest of all things accomplished. What has been done? Starting four years ago with a variety called Quebec Yellow, obtained from the late W. L. Davidson, Bethel, Que., by solid, systematic work, there has been built up a kind of corn that has yielded as high as 114.77 bushels shelled corn per acre, and if Professor Klinck ever gets less than 80 bushels per acre from this corn, no one knows of it. In answer to the question if it would be ripe before frost, the reply was that it could be sowed May 24th, and would be ripe September 1st. It is a remarkably fast-growing corn in its early stages, does not run largely to stalk, and matures a splendid ear in plenty of time to be safe. Think of it, you men who are buying hog and cattle feed! Eighty bushels of shelled corn, and eight tons of alfalfa hay, per acre! Half the yield of each is easily in every man's reach (and why not the whole yield?), and what a boon they would be on most farms!

For ensiling, Howie and Lenocher's have proven splendid crops, yielding, respectively, 18 and 17 tons of fodder, and 4 and 4.09 tons of grain per acre, sowed 42 inches apart, three kernels to the hill. Quebec Yellow is not so suitable for silage, being lighter in fodder.

SMUT.

In experiments regarding smut, it was found that, while broadcasted barley had a little, the drilled barley had about 8½ times as much. Oderbrucker barley had but one smut-head for 343 heads in California Brewing barley, 50 in Chevalier, 364 in Duckbill, and 1 head in four varieties of Hulless. Of the wheats, Red Fife proved the most resistant to smut.

Figure-four Wagon-jack.



For lever (A) take a two-by-four, five and a half feet long. Shave out a place for axle, as illustrated, and bore hole for bolt fourteen inches from axle end. For upright (B), take a three-by-four, twenty-eight inches long. Cut a two-inch slot in it to within eight inches of the bottom. For C, use a four-by-four, two feet long. Set B into mortise, and nail or bolt it; the longer end of C goes out under axle. For D, use a two-by-two, two feet long. Brace E is bolted or nailed in. The lever is placed in the slot in B at any height suitable to the vehicle in hand, and supported by a bolt or iron pin. This jack, made of tough wood, is sufficiently strong to raise a heavy road wagon, and it will not allow the vehicle to run forward.—[Fred Glesenkamp, in Farm and Fireside.

Crimes of the Pure-seed Trade.

Not long ago, a merchant of Cookshire, Quebec, ordered 1,200 bushels of English Abundance oats, according to sample, at 45 cents a bushel, from a firm operating in Edmonton, Alta. When the oats arrived, it was evident that they were not according to sample, and the buyer sent a representative portion to the Seed Branch at Ottawa for examination, when it was found that they contained 45 weed seeds of seven different varieties to the pound. Upon following up the history of the shipment, it was found that the car had been filled according to the order of the above-mentioned seller by the Consolidated Elevator Co. at Fort William; that the grain had been screened in the usual way, and that no orders were received by the fillers of the car regarding any particular variety of oats.

So, if it had not been for the services of the Seed Branch, this purchaser would have been buying at 45 cents a bushel, mixed oats of no particular breeding, containing many obnoxious weed seeds, and the country round about have been polluted for years. A long term, with hard labor, within stone walls, would be a healthy corrective for such unscrupulous practice.

Buyers of seed must beware. As far as possible, know the man from whom you buy, and always take every precaution to know your seed.

The business side of farming has been so successful that the farmers have been able to move to town at fifty years of age, and so the country has been robbed of their influence in many ways—their farms have gone to tenants, and the social life has been broken up. Our state of civilization has not been successful in developing a type of country life that would wish to remain in its environment.—L. H. Bailey.

THE DAIRY.

Cost of Milk Production.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As a record of my herd appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" last winter, this must, of necessity, be to a certain extent a repetition; but as since January last the cream has been sold instead of being made into butter at home, I will give the figures for the nine months from January 1st to September 30th of this year. This, while not quite an average for individual cows, will be a fair average for the whole herd, as the time includes about equal periods of stabling and pasturing.

The herd consists of grade Shorthorns and Jerseys, and cross-breds. The winter feed, as in 1909, consisted of mixed straw and chaff, oat and barley chop, a little hay, and a few roots. In summer the cows are on pasture alone until July; peas and oats, green, are fed then until corn is ready, and corn is the main feed until late fall. No grain is fed in summer, but is commenced about October; the amount fed depending on the condition of the pasture.

Whatever success has been attained is mainly due to care in feeding and handling the cows, and paying attention to their individual needs. With better cows, and a silo, the cost of production could be still further reduced. But just here I would like to say that every farmer would get rid of his poor cows if he were certain of replacing them with better ones. So, since not one farmer in a hundred keeps records, I prefer to keep the cows I have and know, rather than buy on the chance of getting better ones. As for the silo, it is like many other good things, out of reach at present; and I, with thousands of other farmers, have to do the best I can without one; using whatever feed I have to the best advantage I can. However, no one need be without plenty of summer feed, though many say it is "too much trouble" to feed in summer; they are usually those who have never tried soiling. The chief thing is to get the habit, and then it is no trouble at all.

As regards the time in caring for the cows and the milk, I am more than ever convinced, after again working out the problem, that in most cases, my own in particular, the manure will pay for all the labor entailed. As some cows require more attention than others, and as such different values are placed on a ton of manure, it seems quite impossible to arrive at any conclusive figures for either.

During the nine months recorded, the cream has been shipped to Eaton's, Ltd., Toronto, who pay for the fat contained in the cream (not the butter produced from it); and also pay all express charges, and find the cans. The average net price during the period has been 25.12 cents per lb. fat; varying from 22 to 30 cents. As I naturally want to keep as much milk as possible at home, a fairly rich cream is skimmed, containing from 25 to 33 per cent. fat, which leaves about six-sevenths of the total quantity of milk as skim milk. This is fed to calves, pigs, and poultry, and is cheap feed at 20 cents per cwt. No credit is given for the calves, as they are valued at the cost of bull service only, except in the case of one cow, and she has not calved in the period under consideration. No doubt, in the case of pure-bred cows, the calves would add materially to the net profit; which, of course, is a strong argument in favor of keeping pure-breds.

The statement below shows the total amount of milk produced, food fed, cost, value and profit. Each milking is weighed and recorded; and all feed is weighed and recorded whenever a change is made. Good pasture can be had here for $6 per cow per season; so that $5 is a fair price until end of September. Soiling is valued at $5 per season, or $4 for the time stated. Costs of winter feeds are: Hay at $8 per ton, grain at $25 per ton, and roots at 10 cents per bushel; these being current prices last winter in this district.

Considering the "ordinariness" of my cows and feeds, I consider that the figures given are an encouragement to every farmer to keep as many cows as possible, as there is certainly no other line of farming which pays better and makes quicker and more dependable returns. The milk harvest never fails.

STATEMENT.

Lbs. milk, 6 cows, 9 months	22,355	
Cost of milk (feed for 6 cows)—		
3,808 lbs. grain	$47.60	
3,327 lbs. hay	13.30	
24 bushels roots	2.40	
Pasture	30.00	
Soiling	24.00	
		$117.30
Value of milk—		
9,129 lbs. fat	$230.38	
(Being 816 lbs. sold, and 4% fat from 2,400 lbs. milk fed calves and used in home.)		
19,162 lbs. skim milk	38.32	
		$268.70
Total profit		$151.40
Cost per cwt.		$ 0.53
Value per cwt.		1.20
Net profit per cwt.		$ 0.67

Waterloo Co., Ont. W. HARGRAVE.

How Much is Time Worth?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with much interest the prize essays on the cost of producing 100 pounds of milk. It is an old saying that figures do not lie, but it is very easy to figure out a profit when there is none. Take, for example, H. S. Austin's contribution: he figures out a profit of over $37 per cow. In the first place, he only allows one hour per day for caring for the cows, feeding, cleaning stables, and one hour for milking and caring for milk; it is too low. But, still worse, he values his time at only ten cents per hour, with the use of a cream separator thrown in. Even the editor's estimate of 12½ cents per hour is not much better. We pay our school teachers—little girls scarcely out of their 'teens—salaries which pan out to 40 or 50 cents per hour; even laborers in the city can command 25 cents per hour; and, again, while in Toronto, attending the exhibition, I had occasion to need the services of a professional man for less than one hour, and the fee demanded was $50. So, just imagine me turning the separator ten hours per day for fifty days, and board myself, to pay the bill! And still the wonder is why the boys leave the farm. Now, take the three veal calves which he sold for $24; it would be interesting to know what he fed them, since he credited the cows with all the skim milk at 25 cents per hundred. Worst of all is the way he arrives at the value of skim milk, by crediting the cows all the profit on feeding 12 hogs, less $30, which is as much as to say he would have only had $30 profit on 12 hogs without the milk, in spite of the high prices which hogs were bringing. Now, the last hogs I sold were a bunch of seven, seven months old, for which I received $150, and they never got any milk—nothing but barley and oat chop and water, and I estimate my profit on the hogs at about $75. So, where does the skim milk come in? It also disproves the statement of Owen Fonger, that you might as well feed sawdust as oat chop, as the drover who bought my hogs said they were the finest bunch of hogs he ever saw. I might say that I fed those hogs some alfalfa, which I cut green and fed in pen, and I might just as honestly credit the alfalfa for the profit on the hogs as Mr. Austin credits the profit on his hogs to the skim milk, which would be absurd, as I did not feed them as much as one ton of green alfalfa. For my own part, I never got down to figures as to what it cost me to produce one hundred pounds of milk, but had an idea that my cows just paid for feed and attendance, leaving the manure for profit, and I would not value the manure from five cows at $100, as H. S. Austin does, but $50 would be nearer the mark. I agree with Mr. Huffman, in the third-prize essay, where he backs up his statements with proof; and, while he appears to have the better herd, is only able to show a profit of $3 per cow for the best half of the year. And, if that profit is not wiped out during the remaining six months, I will lose my guess; and, in my humble opinion, A. F. Huffman should have had second prize. Not having first-prize essay by me, I make no comment on it. S. H.

Bruce Co., Ont.

[Note.—While we fully believe in placing a good fair value on time, and consider our own suggestion of 12½ cents an hour a minimum, rather than a maximum valuation, still we must dissent from the idea that the rate of farm wages per hour could be fairly compared to the rate per hour paid teachers or skilled professional men. The rate at which equally efficient labor may be hired is the rate at which a farmer should charge his own time. For his services as manager he may reasonably expect an extra reward, if he is competent. That should show in the profits. As for comparison of the second and third prize essays, we may remark that we considered them very close. In some respects, Mr. Huffman's is the superior. It will be noticed, however, that he did not figure out a direct answer to the question, "How much per cwt. does it cost to produce milk?" As a matter of fact, his estimates make the cost out to be about 10 cents per cwt. lower than do Mr. Austin's. The latter's estimate of the value of manure we consider not excessive; some thoughtful men place it even higher.—Editor.]