

liever that he can better afford to pay a long price for a good sire than to pay a medium price for good females to be bred to a scrub sire.

Remember that a sire is just as liable to decrease the milk producing capacity of the herd as he is to increase it. Breeding high producing females to scrub or beefy sires soon brings the standard of a herd to where it now stands on many farms, below the line where profits go into the pockets of the producer. Should it be beyond the purse of one farmer to pay the price necessary to procure a sire of the right type, several farmers might join together and buy one. "Where there is a will there is a way," and while a sire worth \$500 or even \$200 is not within the reach of many, it is often possible to secure the service of a good sire by going to some extra trouble and slight expense to do so.

Too often we find a good dairy sire being assigned to the butcher, not because he has outlived his usefulness, but because of in-breeding which would result should he be retained in the district. An exchange of dairy sires would do much to avoid useless expense. Oftentimes among beef farmers, who have herds near where a dairy sire is kept, is to be found offspring which may be procured at a reasonable rate. Remember, however, that it is only the female progeny of the right type of sire bred to sires of high producing dams that will in turn produce heifers which when mature are really worthy of the name of a dairy cow. The sire is more than half the herd.

The Culture of Ginseng

Wm. Gilgore, Peterboro County, Ont.

The conditions necessary for the successful culture of ginseng may be stated briefly as follows: A rich, cool, loamy, loose soil, natural or artificial shade, moisture and proper attention. Al-

My beds are five feet wide by 60 feet long. I put pine strips, six inches long by one inch wide, lengthwise of the bed and drive in a few small stakes to hold them in position. I then spread a coat of well-rotted horse manure, mixed with black muck, well pulverized, over the bed to a depth of three or four inches. I spade it a second time and rake the bed level. The bed is now in the right condition to receive the young roots. I plant the root, six inches apart with eight inches between the rows.

For shade, I set up cedar posts, twelve feet apart, across the beds and about the same distance apart lengthwise of the beds and nail scantlings across from post to post. I run wire along the top of the scantlings about 18 inches apart and fasten with staples. Over this, I put cedar boards.

The cultivation of ginseng is as certain and as easy as that of any other garden root. Attention to a few simple but necessary points such as shade, drainage, and so forth, is all that is necessary to accomplish what was twenty years ago thought to be impossible.

The ginseng root is at its best age for commercial purposes after five or six years from seed. It seems to be the general impression that nothing can be realized from the growing of this root till five or six years have passed. This is a mistake as the roots can be dried and sold in three or four years but the profit will be greater from larger roots. A very important point for the intending grower to consider is the securing of roots and seed from the same latitude in which he is located, if possible. Those from a few degrees farther south will not ripen the seed as well in cold seasons.

Profits depend upon the intelligence of the grower. Strict attention to details is as essential in this line as in any other. As an illustration, I

ceeds from the dried root all profit. Follow the process for ten years and I will venture to say there is a profit of 100 per cent. per annum at present prices.

Ginseng is lavish in the production of seed so that the grower is his own seedman and nurseryman after the first two years. In making the above estimate, I am well within the bounds of probability. I often have been asked why farmers do not take up the culture of ginseng and have said in reply that this is work for the small plot owner, the same as bee-keeping, mushroom growing or any other specialty. It is the most profitable of all, however, if the grower observes the rules for successful culture and has patience to wait for three or four years. A quarter of an acre will produce enough to send his boys to college if he plants in a small way and faithfully reproduces from his own plot. The artisan, clerk or laboring man who has a small garden can make a success of ginseng growing and money for himself.

A System of Crop Rotation Needed

The need of a more definite system of crop rotation in nearly every district visited is reported by the judges, who placed the awards in the standing field crops competition this past season. In eastern Ontario, it is a common practice to sow two and even three, crops of oats in succession before seeding to clover and grass. As a general thing, the effect of this system, when followed for any length of time, is seen in light crops of grain and considerable weed contamination. Where a larger portion of the farm is utilized for hoed crops and clover, the result is seen in better crops and fewer weeds. Discussing conditions in the part of Quebec visited by him, Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has the following to say.

"In my trip through Napierville County, judging standing crops, the peculiarity of the system of farming practised that struck me as most regrettable was the small area under hoed crops of different kinds. The injurious effect of following such a system showed itself in the prevalence of such weeds as sow thistle, Canada thistle, common rag weed and pig weed. Clover and grass seed had seldom been sown with the grain, indicating that it was a common practice to show at least two crops of grain in succession, an objectionable system in the writer's opinion.

"Although no treatment had been given the seed for smut, there was very little smutty grain. Rust was not met anywhere. Injurious insects seemed to be unknown. No particular rotation seemed to be followed, although some had hay two years, pasture two years and grain two years."

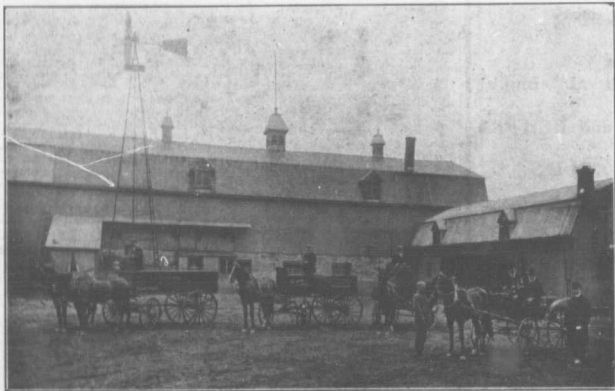
What is said of this district is true of a large portion of Quebec and the farmers in that province will undoubtedly profit greatly by devoting larger areas to the production of clover and hoed crops.

Caring for Dairy Cows

A. D. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

When making official tests of our cows, we give them the very best of care. From our experience, gained in these tests, it appears that it would pay to groom our cattle regularly when they are kept in continuously. After years of experience in stabling cows continuously in the winter, we find that turning them out for a short time every day is very beneficial, if the weather will permit.

When we commence stabling, we always clip the hair from the cows sides and flanks. We find it a great help in keeping them clean. Cows should always be liberally bedded. Water should be always before them, as the cows always seem to require a drink after eating. The more you do for a cow, the more she will do for you. At such times when they are running on the pasture, if they are given a little meal each time they come to the stable, there will soon be no trouble in getting them. They will come of their own accord.



The Barns on a Gold Medal Farm in Quebec

The farm on which this barn is built has been many times a prize winner in good farms competitions. It won first prize for best farm in the province in the sixties, the gold medal in the eighties, and has won prizes several times since as being the best managed farm in the County of Hochelaga. The farm is run for dairying, the milk being sold in Montreal. A large acreage of corn is grown, and stored in cement silos, which furnishes a large part of the rough feed. Nearly all the meal feed is bought. Water is pumped from an artesian well, drilled 300 feet in the rock. The farm is now owned by J. N. Drummond, Petite Cote, near Montreal.

though there are many ways of applying these principles, there can be little doubt of success if they are followed.

When starting a patch, select a cool, moist piece of ground, preferably level or nearly so where there is natural loam or where the soil is loose and rich. Well-rotted stable manure, mixed with an equal quantity of swamp muck, will bring garden soil to the proper condition. The ground must be fertile. Sandy soil, if rich and moist, is not objectionable. The drainage must be good.

Spade the ground to a depth of 12 or 14 inches.

may say that a plot of ground sixty-five feet long by five feet wide will hold 1,000 roots. At the end of four or five years, it will produce from 55 to 60 pounds of dried root. The present price ranges from \$6.00 to \$8.00 a pound, according to quality. Quality means large, clean roots. But that is not all. At the end of four years, you would have 1,500 seedlings and 8,000 seed in the ground, due to come up the following spring, and from 15,000 to 20,000 seed on hand,—the produce of the original 1,000 year-old roots. The revenue from the seed is enough to pay all expenses, leaving the pro-