

Farm and Dairy

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
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47

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to confuse nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

The Hog Situation

THE recent action of the Food Board in removing all restrictions on the domestic consumption of pork products lends the light in on an interesting situation. Last fall a serious meat famine threatened the allied countries of Europe. A cry for help was sent across the Atlantic and America's answer was a greater hog production campaign, which covered the entire continent. Those who were bold enough to ask questions as to the danger of overproduction were assured that Europe had been accustomed to such an excess in hogs that the utmost that America could do, both by greater production and conservation at home would hardly be sufficient to overtake the shortage in the allied countries of Europe. So the farmers of America got busy to produce the needed pork and that without the guarantee of a profitable market that producers in any other line of industry would have demanded.

And now it seems that the Food Controllers of Canada and the United States overestimated the needs of Europe and under estimated the productive power of the farmers of this country. Already the needs of Europe have been met and supplies are said to be accumulating in this country. The fall pig crop is yet to come, and this will aggravate an already difficult situation. The demand from Europe is, of course, still great, and it may be that the removal of restrictions in Canada will also tend to help out the situation. But there is still a danger that storage space on this side of the water will soon be filled to capacity, and if that is allowed to happen prices will drop rapidly.

It is just here that the government will be expected to take action. The unprecedented production of pork this year is not due to a normal increase in production. It is a production swollen out of normal proportions by government propaganda. It is patriotic production entered into on the assurances of the government that the pork was needed and the price almost certain to remain stable. Farm and Dairy does not criticize the government for its production campaign. It is better to have too much

food than too little. But the government owes it to the producers to protect their market and see to it that the farmers are not allowed to sell this year's pig crop at a loss. If pork during the coming fall would be sold at less than cost of production plus a fair profit, the confidence of the farmer in all appeals addressed to him will be severely shaken. It is a case where government and packer should get together to stabilize the market and ensure fair play all around.

Western Agriculture

THE Canadian West is a country big with promise. It is a land of magnificent distances and its agriculture is a record of great successes and disastrous failures. It is a land of tremendous booms and ruinous depressions. It is up and then down, but always advancing. The energies of its people and the resources of the country are guarantees of steady development and ultimate success. All that is now lacking in the basic industry of the west is stability,—the guarantee of profitable returns to the farmer every year.

This stability always flows in the wake of live stock development and in this line Western Canada is making tremendous strides. The prairie provinces are now meeting all of their domestic needs and are exporting ever increasing quantities of meat, dairy products, eggs and dressed poultry. At Western fairs this year the live stock sections were filled as never before. All of our principal breeds of live stock were well represented, and in many sections the western exhibits would compare favorably with the same sections at the largest fairs in the East.

When the settler becomes a stock man then farming will become more of a permanent industry and less of a gamble. Grain growing is always the instrument through which the pioneer gets his start but, at best, exclusive grain growing is merely one stage in the development of a diversified agriculture, and the west is quickly advancing to a well-rounded system of farming. The extremely short crops in some sections this year will retard live stock development to some extent, but this very adverse condition will but emphasize the need for more live stock and a different system of farming. The West realizes this need and in this, the third special Western Canada Number of Farm and Dairy, may be found many of the evidences of agricultural advancement west of the Great Lakes.

Price Fixing

THE demand for the fixing of maximum prices on all food products, or at least on all products in common use, is becoming steadily more insistent. The Canada Food Board demurs. The members of that Board have had some experience in price fixing. They know more of its difficulties than the rank and file of consumers. Probably, too, the Canada Food Board possesses more information on the subject than do the editors who voice the consumers' complaints through the press. In the long run, however, the Food Board will feel the influence of public opinion and may be forced to adopt price regulation as a settled policy.

The adoption of such a policy will give rise to many and vexatious questions. On what basis will food prices be fixed? It seems to be the settled policy in all countries to fix prices on food considerably below the price that would be fixed by supply and demand. This is equivalent to saying that prices are fixed at such a level that the farmer cannot compete in the open market for either capital or labor, and production, therefore, is imperiled. The farmer will also ask, with every show of reason, why his products should be singled out from all others for regulation. He will fall to understand just why the wages of labor and the price of machinery and supplies should not also be regulated in the same way. The men who till the land will do a little more from patriotic motives than any other class in the community, but they cannot carry on their operations at a financial loss, and will quickly resent anything that looks like unfair discrimination. From all standpoints the policy of general price fixing is a more difficult one to initiate than the critics of the Canada Food Board imagine.

Supplement the Pastures

AN Ontario dairy farmer recently furnished us with an example of the results that accompany liberal feeding at this time of the year. Our friend is a breeder of registered Holsteins. A few years ago, he tells us, one of his good young cows died to freshen during the winter was allowed to pull down on pasture with but little supplementary feeding. She freshened in due time, was entered in Record of Performance and made 14,000 lbs. of milk during the year. The second summer, being under official test, this cow was given a full grain ration along with pasture. When she freshened again she was entered a second time in Record of Performance and made 20,000 pounds of milk in that lactation period. "I began to wonder," our friend relates, "if the good feeding the second summer was not in large measure responsible for that extra 6,000 pounds of milk. I decided that it was. I changed my method of handling my dairy herd in July, August and September, and I have had a general and profitable increase in production."

This is a lesson we can all afford to learn. There is no time when dairy cows need liberal rations more than when pastures are short. Even if immediate returns do not seem to make supplementary feeding profitable the strength and vitality of the herd is being maintained at its maximum and the cows will go into winter quarters in better condition and able to produce a greater winter flow than would otherwise be possible. He who saves money by allowing cows to "pull through" on short pastures will spend as much and more when he attempts to bring them back to normal condition later in the season. This, of course, refers to good cows. Poor ones will not pay for grain at present prices, whether it is fed in summer or in winter.

Save the Clover Seed

A FAMINE in clover seed seems inevitable. In Canada the severe winter killed out much of last year's seedling of red clover and there are, comparatively speaking, few fields available for a seed crop this coming fall. Seed supplies, which are usually carried over in considerable quantities, are informed, were largely used up last spring in spite of the high prices that prevailed. In the United States, also, the available supplies of clover seed have been largely exhausted and, as in Canada, prospects are not promising for a large seed crop this year.

Farmers who have good fields of clover that were cut early for hay and are now showing a good second growth, should carefully consider the profits to be gained and the necessity of saving the second crop for seed. The clover seed crop is not a difficult one to secure and there are very few districts in its clover growing sections where clover seed is not available. Wherever there is a possibility of having the clover seed hulled, good profits will be made by saving the second crop clover for seed.

When there is enough dampness in hay or anything it will spoil. In the soil a process similar to the spoiling of the hay goes on when there is moisture in the soil, and when this goes on plant food is being made available so the crop can use it. When the soil is dry the making of plant food available is slowed up, if not stopped.

Unless properly used in combination with manure and legume crops, chemical fertilizers are a good deal like patent medicines; their effect is temporary, and their continued use is necessary to keep the patient well. We are not condemning the use of mixed fertilizers. Under certain conditions when the soil is "rich" or quick results are required for certain crops, mixed fertilizers may be used to advantage, but their use does not usually cure the disease, it only lessens it. Better adopt a plan of self fertilization and soil and crop management which shall make and keep the soil fertile.

Weeds use up moisture. When they grow in a crop they compete with the crop for the moisture and weeds usually keep on growing after the crop is cut, thus using moisture that should be saved up for next year's crop.

Prairie Crops

Succulent Feeds Are Ever Available

Killies

NEXT to the native crop that comes to the production of prairie, is the old stand-by for feed in the droughted areas, under the grain is ripe. The form is very satisfactory of roughage and contains a fair amount of protein palatability is first class of production and hands as low as can be reached reason why this feed is so fine to be an important ration of the dairy cow conditions.

Oats are also used for storage with good results. The oat is a very hardy crop they provide succulent pasture at the time when the grain is likely to be burned.

Oats are also being grown for silage. In dry years, when the crop is not successful, or a mixture of oats and a first class quality of corn make a good substitute crop.

Alfalfa has great possibilities as a profitable dairy crop. It is not as widely grown as it should be. Wherever it is grown its value as a fodder crop is passed, as its yield is less than that of ordinary crops. It has a special value for milk production of its high protein. Some failures have been experienced in the West owing to a lack of proper drainage, and the penetration of the water level where they can run water supply and drainage, and sometimes the propagation of soil-borne diseases. Alfalfa has succeeded and more general use is merited.

Corn has much to do for dairy farming, especially in the West. The number of acres in corn has increased from a little to about 100 in a few years, is still a very small acreage, but the yield is still increasing. The great increasing of silage fields. The silo is a necessary dairy farming, even in the West than in more moderate areas. Our winters have been so severe, the need winter feed is so much on that account. Corn for silage is being grown successfully in nearly all Manitoba and a considerable portion of Saskatchewan. 34,000 acres of corn were harvested last year and will certainly increase in the future. The three crops above are the most profitable for dairy farming in the West. Others of considerable which might be mentioned are bruce grass, western vetch, sweet clover, red clover, but space will not permit.

Saskatchewan Dairy Cows

THE Saskatchewan Dairy Association will this year conduct a dairy show similar to that conducted in Ontario for several years. The competition is open to all herds composed of one or more cows and heifers for the largest amount of milk delivered or shipped in creamery in Saskatchewan the 12 months ending Nov-