

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

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FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of
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LONDON, CANADA.

THE CEMENT-CONCRETE AGE.

Alarmists who predict the paralysis of indus-
tries and the stay of progress because of the in-
creasing scarcity and cost of certain products,
sometimes forget the undeveloped resources of
nature and the resourcefulness of man. Of
this truth, one of the best illustrations is
the substitution, in building, of cement-concrete
for natural stone or rock and wood. It is one
of the marvels of the times how science and
mechanism have harnessed up water, gravel and
cement. Our readers have been getting out ma-
terials for the improvements on the farm of an-
other building season. Judging from the hundreds
of inquiries reaching "The Farmer's Advocate,"
and because mistakes may easily be made in the
initial efforts with a new process, a comprehensive
article appears in the Farm Department of this
issue, discussing in detail the nature and uses of
concrete, based upon the personal experience of
members of our staff, of many of our readers, and
of experts on the subject, in a way which we
trust will prove helpful. Every farmer would do
well to preserve this article for future reference,
if not needed at once, as it may prove the means
of saving many inquiries and delays when the
actual work must be undertaken. While our aim
has been to make the article as generally prac-
ticable as possible, it is well to bear in mind that
conditions greatly vary, and the best success will
often depend upon individual care in the choice of
materials and skill in their use. By means of
the rules given, anyone can estimate approxima-
tely the quantities of cement and other materials
required for a given work.

I see your readers are still praising "The
Farmer's Advocate." We have read it for over
30 years, and now consider it a standard. Wish-
ing you success.
C. J. McFARLANE,
Cumberland Co., N. S.

THE SHORTHORN RECORD OF DAIRY PER- FORMANCE.

"I think it is a strong argument for the
adoption of a Record of Dairy Performance by
the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association,"
writes a thoughtful correspondent, prominently
identified with Canadian live-stock interests,
"that, when asked recently by a farmer where
he could get a good Shorthorn bull of a dual-
purpose strain, I could not be sure of a single
herd to recommend to him, and I think I know
the Shorthorn herds in Canada pretty well.
That there are such strains in the country, we are
well aware, but the point is, Where are they?
What are they? and, Who has them? A Record
of Performance, based on a system of officially
supervised yearly tests for milk and butter-fat
production, would discover the dual-purpose
strains, revealing just how fully certain individ-
uals, strains and herds were entitled to the claim,
dual-purpose. Had there been a Record of Dairy
Performance, I could have promptly directed my
inquirer where to look. In fact, he would not
have required to ask."

In this day and age, business farmers do not
take things too far on trust. It is easy for a
breeder to point to a few old matronly milkers
in his herd, and, on the strength of their udders
and appearance, found a claim to having a dual-
purpose herd. Such talk will not go. Purchasers
have been fooled too often by form and high-
sounding pedigree, not only in Shorthorns, but
in the special dairy breeds as well. Nowadays
men are not ashamed to acknowledge themselves
"from Missouri." They "want to be shown."
Recognizing the call of the times, the enterpris-
ing breeders of dairy cattle are going in whole-
sale for official testing and records of perform-
ance, and breeders of Shorthorns must do the
same or suffer their claims to be discredited. It
will not be enough to enter two or three ani-
mals from a herd. The logical conclusion will be
for breeders of special dairy or dual-purpose stock
to enter every female, not only for one, but for
several successive lactation periods, and for one
generation after another. Thus, in time, we
shall build up long pedigrees based on perform-
ance, which will be a reasonable guarantee of
dairy capacity in the progeny. Pedigree based
merely on the results of show-yard comparison is
more liable to be misleading than otherwise. It
is not form, but capacity to perform, that we are
after to-day.

While on this subject again, let us once more
emphasize that the call is not to sacrifice beef
type and turn undivided attention to milk, but
rather to retain the beef type and the beefing pro-
clivities, and to develop in cattle of this type a
liberal degree of milking capacity. As has been
reiterated by our correspondents, this is largely
a matter of management. How long would a
family of Ayrshires or Holsteins retain their milk-
ing function if handled for a few generations as
many of our Shorthorns have been? That the
Shorthorn breed possesses as much milking ca-
pacity as it does, considering the system of man-
agement that has been practiced, is a wonderful
tribute to the original dairy quality of the breed,
and, at the same time, a most encouraging augury
of the feasibility of restoring this function under
a judicious system of development, breeding and
selection. The heifers must be bred at a reason-
ably early age, and milked as punctiliously as
those of the dairy breeds. This, by preventing
the accumulation of excessive fat, will improve
their milking capabilities and procreative facul-
ties, lessening the proportion of barren and
inferior breeding individuals, which are na-
ture's signs of rebellion against the unna-
tural system now followed. The Shorthorn breed
has everything to gain and nothing to lose by
taking this forward step.

Once more, also, let it be made as plain as
words can state that the dual-purpose cow is not
advocated to supplant the dairy breeds. The
dairy industry bulks large in Canada, and where
it flourishes the special dairy breeds quite prop-
erly have the call. In profit-making, they can hold
their own with the best dual-purpose strains like-
ly to be developed, and generally afford a few

points to spare. But the dual-purpose cow must
occupy the field which certain dairy authorities
have been kind enough to reserve for the special-
purpose beef cow. The latter, divested of pedi-
gree and show-ring-bolstered valuations, and re-
duced to a matter-of-fact commercial basis, is
not a paying proposition in this country, except
in very limited sections. It is a very bold beef-
making experimenter who will claim that the
average beef-bred male calf could be purchased at
birth for over five dollars and reared for beef, to
show a living profit over cost of food
consumed. Many assume that, to make a profit
out of raising the calf, it should be assumed as a
free gift to start with. But value it at \$5.00.
If a cow has to be kept for a year in order to
produce a five-dollar calf (saying nothing about
blanks or mischances), and yield merely enough
milk to suckle the calf for a few months, how in
the name of reason can she be maintained at a
profit on the increasingly valuable farm lands of
this country, having regard for present or pro-
spective prices of beef? The dual-purpose cow
is needed in Canada in order to insure the
economical production of a supply of good beef.
To this end, she must milk liberally. The three-
or-four-thousand-pound milker will not do. It
is the five, six, eight, ten and twelve-thousand
pound dual-purpose cow that we need, and that
our breeders must set about it to produce. Such
cows there have been in goodly numbers; such we
have yet in occasional instances, and such there
can and must be as a general proposition.

In another column will be found a copy of a
notice of motion which had been sent to the Sec-
retary of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' As-
sociation by W. E. Shean, who, unfortunately,
was unable to attend the annual meeting to
espouse it, and it was, therefore, not brought up,
though a general resolution approving the idea
was introduced by Dr. Hopkins, and laid on the
table. In Mr. Shean's motion is incorporated a
proposed minimum standard of milk and butter-
fat production for two-year-old heifers, three-year-
olds, four-year-olds, and mature cows. That is
to say, all those regular-breeding, registered cows
or heifers which, in officially-supervised yearly
test, gave an amount of milk and butter-fat equal
to or exceeding the standards specified for their
respective ages, would have their names, numbers
and milk and butter-fat records published in a
special department of the herdbook, while, of
course, their names would also occur in their
proper order in the regular pages. The standard
proposed corresponds, we believe, to that adopted
by the Ayrshire breeders, and should answer very
nicely. There is no use in making a standard
too low, else admission to it will not stand for
anything. On the other hand, it must not be too
high. A moderate standard, with a large num-
ber of animals entered, is desirable, seeing that
the object is not merely to publish a few impres-
sive records, but to develop the dual-purpose func-
tion generally within the breed. Any cows mak-
ing good records will, of course, have these stand-
ing to their credit. A large number of good per-
formers of proper beef type are every way pre-
ferable to a few phenomenal hat-racks.

The Record of Performance is needed (1) to
demonstrate the dual-purpose attributes of the
breed; (2) to induce and enable Shorthorn breed-
ers to breed and develop a larger number of more
useful dual-purpose cattle; (3) to keep tab on
and ear-mark those herds, strains and individuals
which have been or are being bred and developed
along dual-purpose lines.

When we are enabled to select dual-purpose cattle
by the eye for constitution and beef type, and by
authenticated milk and butter-fat records for
dairy performance and heredity, the breeding of
dual-purpose cattle will be in a fair way to being
placed upon a workable scientific and commercial
basis.

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Enclosed please find a postal note for \$2.50,
for renewal of my subscription. I may say that
I could not farm without your valuable paper.
Any young man in agriculture needs it. Hoping
your success will continue.

WALTER McLEOD,
Bucks Co., Pa. Man. Bewley Farm.