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EDITORIAL.

Stabling the Stock.

Bright sunshine and balmy breezes have mainly characterized the October month in most sections of the Dominion, and sufficient showers have kept the pastures plentifully furnished with grass for farm stock, causing the cows to give milk generously, and other animals to take on flesh steadily, which, if conserved by judicious treatment during the next two months, will go far towards carrying them through the winter, not only without loss of weight, but with a steady gain. It is a trite saying that "Well wintered is half summered," and it is quite as correct a conclusion that well summered is half wintered. To realize the best results of this principle, we must not regard the Christmas-time as the commencement of winter, but rather, especially in the case of cows, to draw the line at Halloween by housing them at night, if, indeed, the prevalence of frosty nights has not driven us to the adoption of this precaution before that date. The discreet dairyman need not be reminded of how the milk supply shrinks when cold nights come, but will make provision for sheltering his cows before that point is reached. It is the thoughtless and careless ones whose attention we would call to the fact that they are not rich enough, however well fortified by a flush bank account, to be able to afford to let their cows fall off in their flow of milk at this season owing to indifference in this regard. The kindness and care bestowed upon a milking cow brings a sure compensation every day, the cow being practically a machine which gives out in proportion to what is put in. A moderate ration of meal and bran, fed on chaff or ensilage, or even hay or fodder corn, when the pastures fail to furnish a good bite, will be paid for through the pail, with reasonable certainty, and generally with interest on the outlay. While it is the part of wisdom to stable the cows at night in these late fall months, it is well to guard against keeping the stables unduly warm during this time, as an atmosphere heated by the breath of cattle, without sufficient ventilation, is unwholesome, besides making the animals so tender that they feel more keenly the effects of cold winds while at pasture during the day, and are liable to contract lung troubles, owing to these extremes, if left out long. Let the windows and the upper half of stable doors on at least one side of the building be left open until real winter weather comes, always avoiding cold drafts.

Young cattle and other stock may possibly be as well left out for a month later, provided they have some shelter from storms, and good pasture, or, failing this, are fed some fodder in the open to supplement the pasture and keep up their stock of flesh, as there are no healthier conditions than those found in the open air, as long as it is dry and the temperature is not too low; while nature provides for the climatic change by adding to the length and thickness of the coat of fur or wool. It is a question worthy of consideration whether our modern basement stables, imperfectly or insufficiently ventilated, as many are, may not be chargeable with a declension in the robustness of our farm stock, and whether it is not as true economy to provide for the health of our cattle as for the saving of fuel in the form of food in keeping up the animal heat. The important point to be observed in the changing period from summer to winter conditions is to guard against extremes and to see that the change in feeding and housing is made gradually, so that unnecessary loss of milk or flesh is avoided, and constitutional vigor maintained. Weight of flesh lost through lack of nutritious food at this critical period can only be regained at considerable cost, as every pound that has been lost must be first made up before any substantial gain

can be made, and the restoration is liable to be rendered slower of attainment by the depletion of blood and strength resulting from exposure or insufficient nourishment. The abrupt change from green to wholly dry food is not infrequently the cause of impaction, constipation, and other disorders of the digestive organs, ending in serious trouble and loss, which might have been prevented by feeding a small proportion of roots, ensilage, or other succulent or loosening food from the first when the animals are taken into winter quarters. The motto, "What we have we'll hold," is a good one for adoption by the farmer in the care of his stock if they are in good condition, and if they are not in as good flesh as he would like, it is surely to his interest to see that they do not lose any of what they have, but rather that they make some gain. There is pleasure as well as profit in keeping them in thriving condition, and as more and more it becomes apparent that to live stock must the great majority of Canadian farmers look for their best returns for their labor and the maintenance of the fertility of the land, too much attention cannot be given to the breeding, quality, and care of our farm animals of every class.

Opportunities in Canadian Farming.

In a recent issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, Hon. James Wilson, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, discussed farming as a business for young men. In the main, his observations are as applicable to the Dominion of Canada as to the Republic, barring the raising of a few such specialties as oranges, pineapples, rice and cotton. From fruit-raising on the one hand to animal husbandry on the other, farming is becoming more and more a highly specialized industry, though the majority of farms in Eastern Canada are yet run on a general-purpose plan; and under the conditions which have prevailed, it has been the natural and safer course; but the tendency is now in the other direction.

Throughout the Great West, the specialty is wheat, and horses, cattle and sheep on the ranges. Here and there dairying has a foothold, and it is truly a specialty of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces. It is subdivided into the sale of whole milk in cities and towns, milk for cheese and condensing factories and creameries, and the sale of cream, said to be one of the most profitable of all the ways of handling milk, where the conditions are right. As a running mate with cheese, the specialty that has given Canada as great and as substantial fame throughout the world as any, has been that of her studs, herds and flocks of pure-bred animals, established and maintained for the rearing of improved animals for breeding purposes. This is a specialty demanding for its successful prosecution a high degree of intelligence and skill, foresight and business enterprise. Its outlook was never so favorable as at the present time.

Feeding beef cattle for the home or British market is a special line on many farms, and one deserving of greater attention than it has been receiving of recent years. In conjunction especially with dairying, the bacon-hog industry has rapidly come to the front as one of the most profitable branches of Canadian agriculture.

In the Maritime Provinces, portions of Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, fruit-raising has become a most flourishing specialty, the natural conditions being so favorable for developing the finest quality of all the staple and more fancy fruits of the temperate zone. Refrigeration and cold storage are solving the problems of transportation and markets. In conjunction with this industry has grown up the nursery business, which must supply the young fruit trees and plants and stock for ornamental purposes, evergreen and shade

trees. Another and a most fascinating branch of horticulture is the growing of flowers for sale, which the advancing taste of civilization demands in greater quantities and more beautiful forms. Truck farming or market gardening is another rapidly-developing industry that is absorbing large areas near cities and towns, and by means of indoor culture, and irrigation, is being spread over all the year to meet the ever-increasing demands of the fastidious tables of our prosperous cities and towns.

In several sections, bean-growing is a specialty, and tobacco with a few others. Sugar-beet culture is in the experimental stage, but will probably push itself successfully to the front. The growing of fruits, vegetables and poultry for canning factories has become in recent years a most important industry, owing to the great modern demand for foods in these convenient forms. Especially in parts of Nova Scotia, cranberry culture on low-lying lands is a profitable specialty.

Poultry-rearing for flesh and eggs is making wonderful strides on farms all over Canada, and it has given a great impetus to the raising and sale of pure-bred fowls for breeding purposes, the needs of the day having sealed the doom of the mongrel-bred rooster and his scrub mate.

Beekeeping flourishes from one end of Canada to the other with those who have given it the necessary care and attention, and its value arises not only from its direct and handsome return for honey and wax, but indirectly as an aid to horticulture by pollenization.

From the foregoing, which is but an incomplete list of branches of farming successfully carried on in Canada—some as true specialties, others as part of a system of general farming—it is quite apparent that our young men can find ample scope for a variety of tastes and all the energy they have at command, and they cannot find upon the old globe a land where the general conditions are as favorable as they are here. Some persons will say that there are failures among Canadian farmers. Granted; but the probabilities are that they would have succeeded no better in any other calling, and it is unquestionably true that the percentage of failures among farmers is very small, compared with the failures among merchants. Among the reasons for want of success has been the lack of observing ordinary business principles in farming, and another, the failure to maintain a uniformly high standard of animals or products sold. In no occupation is a well-directed education more important than in farming, not only as an aid in the purely commercial side, but in knowledge of the soil and methods of cultivation, maintenance and restoration of fertility, breeds of live stock, and feeding, knowledge of plants and insects and their enemies, along with scores of other technical points which are all the time becoming more essential in order to success. Unfortunately, very many farmers do not hold their own business in sufficiently high esteem. Familiarity has bred for it a sort of easy contempt. They are inclining to trust to luck, and instead of seizing every reasonable aid to rear high-class animals and products at a profit, are content to jog along in the old rut and learn by slow experience. Experience is doubtless a good teacher, but it may be dear bought and involve the waste of precious years. In these days, when knowledge on all these subjects and its dissemination have so wonderfully increased, the wise man will keep an eye on the future, and profit by the experience of others who have been or are still operating in the same sphere of labor.

Exceedingly fine and mild was the weather record for October, as applied to nearly the whole of Eastern Canada, and largely the Western Provinces as well, a condition that has been very favorable to farmers and stockmen, enabling them to get on well with the fall work, and making but light demands on the winter supply of fodder.