

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

The agitation of the scarcity of beef has resulted largely because of the advancing prices. More people are talking beef production than there were a short time ago when so many were drawn into the current of milk producers. This in time is bound to have an effect. Legislation is not the remedy for the beef shortage, but more economic production due to better farming methods and the keeping of a higher class of cattle, together with a higher market price to make the business yield a greater net profit is the sure cure. Let the farmer kill or raise his calves as his own good judgment warrants. Educate him to better methods by which cost of production may be lowered and leave the matter in his own hands.

Dual-Purpose Shorthorns.

"I hope the plan recently adopted by our Association providing for the official testing of Shorthorn cows and heifers and the publication of the milk and butterfat records of those exceeding the stipulated minimum for each respective age in an appendix of the herd book will not lead to a cleavage in the breeders of Shorthorn cattle, one group going in for dairying and the other for beef." Thus, in substance, spoke Harry Smith, President of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, to a member of the "Farmers Advocate" staff last month. "What we want to do," he added "is to develop Shorthorns as a dual-purpose breed. I also hope we won't have a new fad worked up for English Shorthorns. I have heard the phrase, Scotch Shorthorns, till I am sick of it. It is Shorthorns we want to breed—not English Shorthorns nor Scotch but good cattle. There is need for judgment in mating and selection."

While scarcely sharing Mr. Smith's fear of a troublesome cleavage in the ranks of Shorthorn breeders we heartily commend the caution he throws out. Shorthorns are an immensely numerous breed and comprise many strains as they probably always will. Some breeders will emphasize beefing tendencies more strongly than others, while some will place relatively

more importance upon milking function, just as they did in the days of Booth and Bates. This is possible without the necessity for any sharp differentiation of blood lines. But the great common aim should be to retain in large measure the adaptability of the breed for beef production while developing the milk-giving function at the same time, thus improving the females as breeders and guaranteeing their ability to at least raise their own calves. Mr. Smith's own county of Huron bears eloquent testimony to the need for such effort on the part of Shorthorn breeders. Notwithstanding that the farmers of South Huron have been strongly in favor of the dual-purpose cow, which fits in admirably with their system of farming, they have of late been gradually adding one or more Holstein or Jersey heifers because they could not keep up the milking quality of their grade Shorthorn herds with the class of beef-bred Shorthorns available, these being mostly raised on dams never hand-milked or in some cases on foster mothers. That class of Shorthorn is not the kind Canadian farmers want. Neither would it be constructive breeding to evolve a race of red, white and roan Holsteins. That field is already occupied by the special-purpose dairy breeds, which will not be ousted from it. We hope no Shorthorn breeder will ever undertake to breed "rakes" for milk. Even the special-purpose dairy breeders have been warned against sacrificing everything on the altar of milk records. Not less but more important will it be to consider these things in breeding Shorthorns. Mr. Smith's ideal is right. There is real need in this country for dual-purpose Shorthorns and this without displacing the recognized dairy breeds, which also have a large place to fill. There is room and demand for all. What suits one locality will not best suit another, and the same is true of individual cases within those localities.

Back to the Land.

Mr. Kettle, junior partner,
In the firm of Scott & Scott,
Having made a little money
Purchased a suburban lot,
Very nicely situated,
Half an acre—rather more,
Trolley car in twenty minutes
Took him right into his store.

"Now, my dear" said Mr. Kettle
To his young, admiring wife,
"We can leave the noisy city
And begin the Simple Life.
We shall grow our own potatoes,
Keep some chickens, perhaps a cow,
That is, if you'd like to milk her—
Don't ask me—I don't know how!"

So next day they sought the office
Of a careful architect,
Gave him very full instructions
As to what they would expect:
Country house with south-east aspect,
Modern plumbing, bedrooms four,
Hardwood finish, concrete cellar,
Little greenhouse—and much more.

We omit the painful details
Of the wearisome delays,
Caused by strikes of builder's workmen,
Wasted days, and days, and days.
In the meantime, Mr. Kettle,
Soaked his mind in literature,
How to make a kitchen garden,
And the value of manure,

Got some books on chicken raising,
And the care of an estate,
Even sent a year's subscription
To the "Farmers Advocate."
Said he knew a cow and chickens
Would reduce at least one-half
The outrageous cost of living.
Read up how to raise a calf.

Thus, one evening, at supper,
Talking of his country home,
(Nearly finished)—took a helping
Of new honey in the comb,
"That," he said "is most nutritious,
And the first we've had this year,
I was always fond of honey,
How much does it cost, my dear?"

"Well," she said, "that little section
Costs exactly twenty cents."
Mr. Kettle smiled serenely,
"That's one item of expense
We may save when in the country,
I must write the O. A. C.
For the latest information,
Happy thought—we'll keep a bee!"

WILLIAM Q. PHILLIPS

Beholden for the Baby's Milk.

Moralizing on the expected change in the army of office-holders consequent upon the election of a new administration in the United States, "The Khan" in his column of the Toronto Star, offers some wise suggestions for the consideration of ambitious youth. Any Canadian election would afford an equally good test. The eagerness with which so many thousands snatch at the sour grapes of government office is pitiable to those who realize by observation how blighting to ambition and initiative it generally proves, how dependent it makes those who rely upon regular salary, spending it often before it is earned, and how it unfits men for aggressive creative work. Perhaps the saddest feature of the spoils system is its effect upon the spoilsmen. Go to Washington or Ottawa, visit among the homes of the civil servants, converse with them, get their point of view, enquire confidentially of the merchants and tradesmen with whom they deal, then draw your own conclusions and agree that the Khan is right.

We quote in part: "When one realizes that there are millions and millions of rich wheat, fruit, and grass lands still unclaimed on this great continent, one wonders why an intelligent youth would prefer an office to a farm. Thrones and administrations may crumble and fall in hideous ruin, but the farm stays on."

"The title 'independent farmer' is no misnomer. He is his own master. The man who holds office, whether it be a country post office at an obscure cross-roads or a seat in the Cabinet, is not his own master. He who is not his own master is more or less of a slave. The farmer is the only man who is free. His farm may be rocky and thin, but if he have any brains at all he can make a good living. One thing is sure; he always has an abundance of good milk for the baby. If he is any manager at all, he can set aside a healthy and wholesome young cow to cater to the baby. How many young men and women in vast and crowded centres would consider this the greatest luxury of life! They can have their autos and their player-pianos and their first nights at the opera and the play-houses, but they haven't got a cow behind the garage that caters to the baby. Baby's milk may come a hundred—three hundred miles; the farmer gets it right at home, and gets the pure quill, the real thing, undiluted, sweet and warm—and all of it she wants. The clever ladies who write about the nursery and the home tell us that a baby that gets all the fresh, sweet, pure milk she can surround won't die—she can't die! "But some of these fellows in offices have not only one master; they have a dozen or more. And there is always someone looking for their job. And they are likely to get into trouble. They are charged with offensive partisanship. Can you blame them? Their bread and butter and the baby's pint bottle of milk depend on the "administration" remaining in power. Self-preservation is the first law of nature. No wonder some of these poor fellows work frantically to maintain the Government."

Grip the Real Bull by the Horns.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

With your permission I desire to add a few words in commendation of the article in your issue of February 27th, entitled "Mr. Farmer, Get Busy." It must be apparent to everyone that if farming, as an industry, is not keeping up the food supplies of the nation fast enough, it is not for want of advice handed out in resolution and speech by nearly every other organized industry in the country. I am of opinion, however, if some of these strong and worthy bodies, like the Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario, would lend a hand in bringing about reforms set forth in "The Farmer's Advocate," it would be much more to the point than telling us to convert skinny, dairy dekin calves into choice beefs, which simply cannot be done at a profit. The position taken in your columns is absolutely sound in regard to the part shared by the school system, and various conditions tending to rural depopulation, and consequently non-tillage of the land. If the cost of living is high it is not because we as farmers are not busy, but too few, and because of the cost of the distribution of food products. Your editorial might well have gone a step further and touched on the question of transport. If the Board of Trade men want to get the real bull by the horns, let them tackle the transportation (freight and express) problem, and give the "veal calf" a rest. As a member of the government that has to do with the control of the giant corporation of transport and finance, Hon. Martin Burrell, the Minister of Agriculture, will appreciate the most vigorous backing that can be given him by those engaged in trade and commerce. He is too astute not to discern the causes at work driving population cityward. When public revenues are buoyant it is comparatively easy to dispense a million a year in a useful agricultural instruction