

make good full normal records, but to do something phenomenal and trade on it. Make as good a record as you can, but don't sacrifice the cow and your own interests in doing it.

DISAPPOINTING RECORD MAKERS

Last week I visited a number of farms with reputations and where I expected to see something. The owners in case after case pointed with pride to cows and heifers with such and such records, all big, and official. In many cases I would not have bought the cow at any price, record or no record, but I could not help but feel had I been compelled to buy these cows I should have much preferred them without their record experience.

The scales and the test are not to be denied their place of first importance, but the man whose ambition runs only to them and who blindly adheres to their evidence is not necessarily a progressive breeder or dairy man. I would urge every man to make the most out of his herd, and do it in a business way by keeping records, but I would emphasize at the same time that his business is not a temporary one.

Certainly Ayrshires are not without records, and they have already demonstrated that phenomenal work is quite possible with them. The last report of official yearly records bears splendid testimony to the business capabilities of the breed. It is gratifying to note as well that Ayrshire men are now realizing and appreciating the value of an authentic report from the Government officials at Ottawa for the performance of their breed. This is sound practice and we can't have too much of it.

RATIONAL BREEDING MOST PROFITABLE

Occasionally men make money out of trading and speculating in pure bred cattle, but in nine times out of 10 the man who is making returns for his labor and capital is the man who is breeding in a quiet, rational and sensible way, measuring his cows honestly under normal conditions, working them well but carefully and within their maximum capacity.

My own ambition is to have a herd of Ayrshire cows that will average 10,000 lbs. of good milk yearly and to do this under normal conditions, and if every Ayrshire breeder could reach this stage I would vouch for the future of Ayrshires.

BREED DEFECTS—THEIR IMPORTANCE

We never fail to come in touch with the merits of various breeds. For instance your worthy secretary has just issued a pamphlet proclaiming the excellences of the Ayrshire. I don't say that this is not quite the proper thing, so long as he does not become too extravagant in his claims, but as breeders it will pay us not to forget that the breed, like all breeds has its defects and it is our business to know these. The young breeder is likely to know less about this side of the case than the other, and a man who will frankly admit them and strive honestly to steer himself and the other follow clear of them is the best friend the breed can have. In actual type the Ayrshire men will do well to emphasize a little more size. Choice of type will do something in this regard, but full development will do much more.

Here again I must emphasize my idea with which some of you are already familiar. Feed better and don't breed too early. The Ayrshire in Eastern Ontario and Quebec has suffered seriously in the average man's hands through too early breeding.

ATTRACTIVENESS A CAUSE OF TROUBLE

The Ayrshire claims much in attractiveness. Character, beauty and refinement in a high degree characterize the breed. This feature is dear to the heart of every Ayrshire man, myself among the number. I think we must admit, however, that too often we are carried too far by it. It makes our standard very difficult to fix and agree upon if we let it interfere with business.

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Farm Labor in Ontario

Chas. C. Nizon, Brant Co., Ont.

How would you like to tackle the work on an average fair-sized Ontario farm with one slight-bodied son, 14 years of age, and a little gaffer of an English boy like this chap as shown in the illustration? One of the weediest, poor looking farms I have seen in a long while was the farm in Durham County, Ont., where this photo was snapped a while ago. The farmer himself had



The Only "Hired Help" Available

The farmer whose "help" troubles are described in the adjoining article was attempting to run a fair-sized farm with a 14-year-old son and this little English chap. Isn't this enough to discourage any man?

seen his most active days. His son was a mere stripling, and, though active and keen, was physically quite unequal to hard continuous manual work, such as is required on any general farm to keep it in good shape and prosperous. Although barely big enough to control the heavy machine he was driving the binder. His father and the wee little man, here shown, were shocking up or stooking the grain.

Do you wonder that under those conditions of labor the farm was alive with thistles, that crops were poor, and everything about the place was far from being as attractive as it might have been? And yet these same conditions of labor supply are to be seen on many an Ontario farm to-day!

THE SILVER LINING

Dark as the cloud has been the situation is not without hope—the silver lining has appeared. Ontario farmers have come to see that the situation is, partly at least, of their own making. They have been wont to hire their labor for eight months or a part only of the year. Then when the harvest was over the men, cut adrift, flocked into the towns and cities where they took on steady jobs and were most naturally forever lost to farm life as a hired laborer again.

Now our better Ontario farmers hire their men by the year. They furnish comfortable houses or cottages for their men, and employ married men. The farm work is so planned and added to by stock raising and dairying that the men can be given profitable employment all the year round and their services thus be retained on the farm.

RECOGNIZE MEN AS HUMAN

As our farmers come to recognize that hired men are human, even as they themselves are; that they crave and will have the good things of life, including something in the way of social intercourse; that they must eat even though they work not the whole year through; that a married man cannot so well pick up and leave—like a single man—at any old time as suits his fancy; and that it is not so much a matter of

how much the hired man must be paid as how much one can make out of his labor,—then may we expect the farm labor problem in Ontario to largely solve itself.

There is no farm labor problem with many of our best Ontario farmers because they have given thought to and have taken action on these things since years ago. They have good homes for their hired men, who are married and live by themselves, and are glad to work on a good farm and have many advantages they could not possibly have were they living in the cities with their families.

The Kind of Corn to Select

It seems natural for everyone to like to select large ears of corn. It is, of course, more desirable to grow large corn than small corn, but the desire to get large corn has resulted in much loss due to the failure of such corn to mature. Really the first consideration that should be given to ear of corn that is selected for seed is whether or not it is likely to mature in the locality in which it is to be grown. If it will not mature, it has no value for seed.

The fact that corn has matured in the neighborhood, while a desirable fact, is not sufficient assurance that it will mature every year, because the seasons vary greatly in their test on the quality of early maturity in corn. During favorable years the plants with the later maturing qualities are likely to develop and produce the largest and best ears. Deferring selection until all of the corn is ripe results usually in the selection of the later maturing ears, because they are larger and better. On this account, Agricultural Colleges urge the selection of corn at a date represented by the expected first killing frost. Corn selected at this time one year may reasonably be expected to mature at that time the following year. Likewise, corn that has matured 10 or 20 days later than this time, because of unfavorable conditions, is likely to be caught by frost the following year 10 or 20 days before it is mature.

The determining factor in the yield of a good variety of corn is not the size of the ear, but



A Partial Solution of the Problem

The farm help question would present fewer difficulties in its solution were conditions in the country and the city more favorable. A neat cottage, and commodious as the one shown herewith, is a great inducement to the married man in search of employment rather than the strength of the whole plant and the percentage of stand secured. Three fourteen-foot ears of corn a hill in corn planted three feet eight inches each way will yield 67 bushels of corn an acre, which is twice the average yield of corn in the best corn states.

Selection of corn at about the time of the expected first killing frost is the best advice that the best corn-breeders can give. Two or three times as much corn should be selected as is needed. Then the following spring a careful re-selection may be made.

Cheap money may be a great thing for the farmer. Organization for marketing may be a greater thing. But I doubt if either or both will put in my pocket as much as the protective tariff takes out.—J. B., Oxford Co., Ont.

Has City Attitude?

By Dr. J.

Perhaps the most serious life which, since the development of commercial agriculture has been general to the subordination of agriculture to the head and feet of a position in which the most unthinking men in some cases bordering on the modern conditions of agriculture have largely lost sight of human affairs, is the many different ways.

Among these may be the constant and growing citywardness, as shown by the growing preponderance of rural population; the attitude of the farmer's son to agriculture for commercial purposes; the attitude of one or other of the higher professions and the attitude unwarrantably many city dwellers to country cousins. Even in the eastern provinces, where there is and will always be the leading industry, the urban communities lack of proper perspective regard.

This is shown by the build up and development through artificial means, the other centres of population any apparent regard for the welfare or the tillers of the soil in the tributary to these centres, of necessity depend of the In the busy-burly of the world would appear to be a social although, without him and of commerce would not be while, if farming operations were suspended for but on special and industrial basis it is best not to think of the so-called giants of finance.

Mr. Gisdale's Dairy

B. H. C. B., Peterborough.

Last year, at the Centre, he sent \$12,000 worth of dairy cows," said address delivered before the association in Peterboro.

These products are valued in prices, and not at the price received." Mr. Gisdale then outlined his dairy herds and gave the first place," he said, "to any dairy breed. No dairy that it be pure bred, would do better. In fact, we are intending to go in and say, go at it gradually have been due to too much pure bred stock that was not

THE SAFEST

"Get a good pure bred bull require your pure bred men degree of an animal is not considered. The animal may be addressed delivered by J. Superintendent of Agriculture, Alberta Pacific Railway, before the Western Canada Fair, Calgary, Alta., August 5th, 1913.