

was taken in from a well 25 feet away, by laying a 1½-inch galvanized pipe 4 feet under ground and brought into the kitchen over the sink. The water forced up by a small hand pump attached to the wall which works beautifully. The soft water cistern on the second floor receives the water from the roof and feeds the tank on the stove, supplies the kitchen, bath-room, etc., with both hot and cold water. The system seemed to me to be very complete and inexpensive; no windmill, gasoline engine or other machine to be kept in repair.

Lanark Co., Ont.

R. G. BOURNE.

[Note.—We know of several houses where the soft-water cistern is placed on the second floor, and no pumping is necessary. In one house with which we are familiar a nineteen-barrel galvanized cistern is placed over the kitchen, and a fifteen-barrel cistern is placed in one end of the bath-room. The water leads to them from the roof of the house, the overflow going out the drain. This is undoubtedly the best method for soft water. The second tank may be placed in the cellar if desired but we prefer them both above, and soft water may be drawn off anywhere desired in the house.—Editor.]

Calves and the Tariff.

By Peter McArthur.

I do not like to correct the Editor of the Advocate publicly, but last week there was an editorial note that lacked the up-to-dateness we usually find in those crisp paragraphs. Speaking of the advice that is being given to farmers by city sages, the editor observed, "It would be very interesting to see some of them try the old test for a successful farmer: to teach a lusty sucking calf to drink milk out of a pail." Of course I realize that I am somewhat to blame for this slip on the part of the editor for I do not keep him fully informed about my farming operations and he does not know that I am developing a strain of cattle that among their other good qualities have that of producing calves that drink from a pail, the first time it is put under their noses. A calf that arrived last week drank from a pail a couple of hours after it was born, without offering a protest of any kind. It did not even hunt and last night I found it chewing the leaves off a cornstalk. From this you can see that a new test for a successful farmer must be devised. Before dismissing the subject, I wish to say that the descendants of Fenceviewer I—the red cow that tests all the fences for me on the first day of pasturing so that I fix them up for the season—have other remarkable qualities. Out of eleven calves born on the place ten were heifers, and we needed the other one for beef anyway. Those whose milk has been tested show a yield of over four per cent. of butter-fat, so I think the strain is entirely admirable. Cows that produce heifer calves that drink from a pail at the first feeding and then grow up to help the farmer keep his fences in order and at the same time yield a plentiful flow of milk rich in butter-fat should find favor with the farming community. But I am not offering them for sale as yet. I am waiting to see if I cannot perfect the strain so that they will eat the butts of the cornstalks as well as the leaves and make silos unnecessary.

This week a correspondent propounds a poser. He writes:—"In regard to the soldiers' shoes you say that any man who would try to profit by cheating the Government in this crisis is a traitor. Now just think for a moment. Has the Government ever cheated the people?" Most assuredly it has. If it did not the great game of politics would not be what it is. At every election, no matter what party is in power, the country is clamorous with the cry, "Turn the rascals out." But you know that in a democratic country like Canada the people are the government and the way the thing works out is that we are all the time cheating ourselves through our representatives in parliament. But it seems to me that the less we say about it the better for all we could prove is that we are so foolish that we cannot be honest with ourselves. On the other hand the man who cheats the government—that is, cheats us—in time of war is a traitor because he is aiding the enemy by reducing the efficiency of our defenders. Fighting men must be in the best of trim if they are to do their best. You could not expect to see much spirit in a man who was slopping about in wet trenches with his feet breaking through his boots. Besides, exposure of that kind causes many men to die or be disabled by disease and in that way the enemy is aided and comforted. It is no defence of the men who cheat the government that in the ordinary business of the country we are silly enough to cheat ourselves. But I do not think my correspondent really meant to defend them.

I am seriously considering the advisability of wearing cotton bathing in my ears for the next few months. The tariff argument promises to be of a kind that "wad deave a miller." Of course

I have decided opinions on the subject but I doubt if it is advisable to set them forth fully. Among my personal friends are two men who take opposite sides on the question. One can argue me to a standstill when he undertakes to prove that a high tariff is the salvation of the country. The other can make me feel as helpless as a child when he undertakes to expand the merits of free trade. After listening to both of them I feel like the Witch-Finder General in the comic opera—The Puritan. After he had been contradicted and suppressed by everyone he went into a corner and muttered to himself: "Well, I know sumpin!" I know that if we are to have a high tariff it should not be framed so as to give special privileges to anyone. It seems that in the present state of the world tariffs are necessary under special conditions, but I would not have those tariffs imposed by men who are subject to political pulls or liable to feel campaign fund gratitude. I would have a commission composed of professors of political economy and chartered accountants—men skilled in working out the fundamental laws that govern business and trade—and have them develop a scientific tariff that would protect with the least amount of special privilege. At heart I am a free trader though I recognize the fact that in a new country a limited amount of protection is necessary in order to develop the natural industries of the country that might be stifled by the competition of more advanced and thoroughly established countries. But at all times there is a tendency to let protection foster special privilege and its beneficiaries are constantly becoming so powerful that they cling to their privileges by corrupt methods. They organize to stop the corrective force of home competition and in that way plunder the country. If we are to have a tariff it should be handled with scientific skill and be removed as quickly as possible. As a means of raising a revenue I regard a tariff as the most unjust, wasteful and foolish method that could possibly be devised. It is an attempt to fool people into paying their just taxes. The politicians try to convince the city consumers that the country producers or foreigners are paying the tariff and the country producers that it is paid by the consumers and everyone else except the farmers. The truth is that everyone pays twice as much as should be paid because of the expensive and irritating custom houses and custom officials. Direct taxation is the only form of taxation that lets the voter know exactly what he is paying and the only form that can be figured out with any approach to scientific accuracy. But people would make such a roar about direct taxation that no government dares to adopt it. My correspondent will note that here is a case where we want to be cheated. We insist that the government cheat us about our taxes. We want to believe that someone else is paying them—even though we may have to pay much more than our share as a result of trying to get out of paying our rightful share. Neither the Conservative nor Liberal Party dares to advocate absolutely direct taxation.

The present tariff has been developed for the purpose of increasing the revenue of the country, and while we are so foolishly opposed to direct taxation no Government would have dared to try any other plan. Until it has been tried no man can tell to what extent it will increase special privileges, and argument on the point will be windy and inconsequent. The feature of it to which I am most inclined to raise objection is the increased duty on British goods. If we keep on buying these goods it will yield the desired revenue without hampering the home countries, but if it causes a falling off in British exports to this country it will do harm where we should be trying to help. Anything that deals a blow to British trade at this time weakens the Empire. It may do no harm, but it looks to me like mighty risky legislation at the present time. In closing my comments on the new tariff I wish to put on record a deep-rooted conviction that the wit of man can devise few forms of taxation, direct or otherwise, that cannot be finally shifted to the shoulders of the laboring men and farmers. Except in the case of taxes on goods collected from bequeathed estates and a tax on fixed incomes, the business world can pass on its taxes to the productive workers. But cheer up, the worst is yet to come. When the actual expenses of the war have to be paid we shall probably have taxes worth talking about.

Clean Up Pastures.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Our plan in the interest of "Patriotism and Production," short-handed as we are and expect to be, is to clear up the pastures. If every cow in Canada gives 100 pounds more milk in the summer of 1915, on account of fewer bushes and more grass, it will amount to quite a respectable increase in the total dairy production of the country. Plenty of time now for this.

N. S.

A. OWEN PRICE.

Some Potash in America.

From a small bulletin compiled by Dr. Frank T. Shutt, Dominion Chemist, it appears that we are not altogether destitute of potash for the season of 1915. The writer opines that three-eighths of the yearly supply was landed in America before or shortly after the war began, but this is probably in the hands of fertilizer companies who will put it out in the form of complete fertilizers rather than as the muriate or sulphate of potash. The consequences will be that mixed fertilizers testing probably two or three per cent. in potash will be sold in place of those testing eight and ten. Dr. Shutt is furthermore of the opinion that fertilizers testing high in potash are not generally profitably used, and cites the results of the Experimental Farm system in corroboration of this opinion. Barnyard manure and wood ashes are the other two sources of potash upon which agriculture must depend. There are many other sources mentioned, but at present they have little significance.

THE DAIRY.

Prefers Outdoor Calves.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read with interest Prof. H. H. Dean's article upon rearing dairy calves, and in the main I agree with him. In his ration for the calf he recommends ground oats where I would advise whole oats for the first few months along with the bran and oil cake as he suggests. Whole oats requiring the extra work of masticating will produce more saliva, which is beneficial to the calf than will chop. I do not agree with the idea of keeping the calf stabled for the first six months. No doubt the stabled calf, under good care, would look better and perhaps be fatter than its mate which was exposed to all outdoor conditions, but the outdoor calf should be fussed with sufficient to develop it well. I think the farther away we keep from the hot-house plan of raising calves the smaller will be the number that will yield to disease (the most to be dreaded being tuberculosis). The calf that is raised out of doors should have reasonable protection from storm, heat, flies, etc., but the one that has the free run of the orchard and good food will grow up with more muscle and stronger bone and better developed vital organs than the one that has not the chance to exercise freely. It seems to me that health in our dairy heifers, which are to supply our present and future generations with milk, is of greater importance than almost anything else. Upon good health we must depend largely for our great milk producers. Let us breed and care for our dairy calves not theoretically but practically. Where do we find the children that grow up the most rugged? I think you will agree with me they are not the ones that are coddled and fussed with, but rather that they are the ones who spend most of their time (up to school age) out in the open, making mud pies or digging in the earth and sand or building snow men, etc., providing that they are sufficiently protected and nourished, even though they may not always look so clean and prim. Another point that should not be lost sight of, viz., the importance of having calves dropped in the fall. They will develop into much better stock than average spring calves, as they receive usually better care the first six months, then go to pasture and grow like weeds, while the spring calf, whether it spends the first six months inside or outside, has to be kept in on dry feed the second six months of its life, which is against it constitutionally.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

R. H. HARDING.

A Period of Rest.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the fall of 1914 many dairy cows dried off somewhat earlier than usual on account of scarcity of feed. Others stopped milking because their owners have let them get the habit of putting up their shutters at the same time that the cheese factory boarded up its windows. However long the period of rest may have been, six weeks or four months, cows will soon be ready for "business as usual" during 1915. Now the point arises, can the period of work be extended? That means careful preparation in a variety of ways. One item may well be noted by the dairyman who has not yet endeavored to shorten that rest period. It does not follow that a cow giving 1,200 pounds of milk or so during her first months will give as much during the whole season as the cow that gives only 800 pounds the first month. The first one may be dry in a little over seven months and then settle down to extended repose, while the second cow will be producing for ten months, enabling her owner to take advantage of good prices in fall and winter. Obviously, therefore, correct judgment as to a cow's production is to be based on a knowledge of the total weight for the season, not for the

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Editor "The The slogan particularly not only in years. The of producing little more a Only two w difficulty, n conditions a the farmers The increas from patrio points, but a vation. A this subject parent atten more profi statistics sh thirty-three ducing milk partly to th and partly the part of

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