

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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6. **WE INVITE FARMERS** to write us on any agricultural subject. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

A GALA DAY FOR DAIRY CATTLE

Dairy cattle are coming well into their own. Recent auction sales have witnessed record prices being paid for dairy stock. Two weeks ago at the Robt. Hunter & Sons dispersion sale of Ayrshire cattle several new records were established.

High prices are being paid not alone for any particular breed of dairy cattle. At recent sales on the other side of the line, among which might be mentioned the Guernsey sale at Villa Nova, Pa., the prices paid for animals were record breakers. The same is true of the auction sale of Messrs. T. S. Cooper & Son, noted American breeders of Jersey cattle. Holsteins have sold well and for record prices; now the Hunter sale of Ayrshires, where an animal, as reported in Farm and Dairy last week, sold for \$2,000,

and 117 animals of all ages sold for \$30,215, or an average of over \$343.50 each, cannot help but renew courage in the hearts of dairy cattle breeders and cause an increased interest in dairy animals.

Great inspiration was afforded those breeders who attended the Hunter sale. Some present were heard to avow their intention of getting more strongly into the business and importing some of the best stock from Scotland. Far as the reports of this and similar events are read will the influence for better dairy stock be carried.

A gala day has dawned for dairying. Greater advance yet may be expected. The path has been blazed, the limit not yet reached, and there is every encouragement for those who admire and breed the good individuals of any of the leading dairy breeds. Let's all unite in a grand boost for dairying!

MUST FEED EXTRA TILL NEXT MAY

Again owing to unfavorable weather conditions, common, though differing in degree, to every summer season, we dairymen if we would maintain the milk flow must resort to supplementary feeding. Happy are we if, in the light of former experience, we made provision last spring for supplementary feeding and now have suitable fodder where to supplement the pastures and maintain the money-bringing milk flow.

In some parts of Western Ontario, notably Brant county, the situation is unusually severe this season. Pastures have become hard and brown even where they are not short and the milk cows must be fed. Spring seedlings of clover has been almost a total failure, and there is but very little old clover meadow to provide a second growth; hence no matter what the weather conditions may be from this time forward short pastures even in late summer and fall are bound to prevail. Mr. H. R. Nixon, a dairy farmer at St. George, told one of our editors who was at his place on Dominion Day that he would be obliged to feed his dairy cows from now on until late next May. He, like many other dairymen in this district, has provided for such a contingency, and now with ensilage, oats and peas, alfalfa and later on with green fodder corn, and again with ensilage, will be able to cope successfully with periods of drought, short pasture, and partially failing hay crops.

Good dairymen take no chances from this time forward with their cows not getting the feed they need to produce a profit. As pastures fail they know that it pays and pays well to provide other feed for the cows rather than to suffer them to slacken off in their flow, which, once it slackens, can hardly, if at all, ever be regained during that lactation period. Dairymen everywhere are well advised in falling in with the modern practice in this respect and attending to the wants and comforts of their cows, thereby giving them the opportunity to do what they surely will under these essential conditions—produce a steady and profitable income.

LAND-SEEKERS—TAKE HEED

As the harvest season again approaches people in the west are developing their characteristic uneasiness about garnering the crop. This year with the prospect of a bumper crop and little labor to handle it, the usual concern is being evinced in the labor problem and the call has been sent forth for laborers for the harvest fields. The harvest extensions will shortly be announced, and much of the good blood of Ontario and the eastern provinces will "trook" west, and take advantage of the call for harvesters as an opportunity of seeing the country.

Those who go west to help with the harvest and to see the country, possibly with a view ultimately of homesteading free land and settling in the western country, should not forget that in the great clay belt in Northern Ontario are opportunities surpassing those of the west for the homesteader. On this point Mr. Frank Moberly, C.E., of Barrie, who has recently returned from the west, where he has been this year to see how the homesteaders were getting on, states that he is more than ever convinced that the settler in the clay belt has in many things an equal chance with the prairie settler and in others a great advantage. In the matter of fuel and water, the Greater Ontario settler is away ahead. He has as good and a more lasting soil; his land is timbered, which gives him shelter and a marketable crop while clearing the land; he has a ready cash market at hand in supplying the railways, mining camps and lumber camps and he is 1,500 miles nearer the markets of the world, which gives a great advantage in freight rates. Railways now traverse the clay belt east and west, and north and south, besides which it is cut in all directions by great waterways.

The intending settler of small means may well look towards Greater Ontario with its many advantages over the west. He should think long and soberly, in the light of all the evidence, before risking his all on the uncertain homestead land of the prairies. Ye who are going west, take heed!

MAKE DITCHERS DUTY FREE

Traction ditchers are not made in Canada, yet they are dutiable at 17 1-2 per cent. This duty adds approximately \$250 to the cost of the ditcher to Canadians.

Protection of home industries and the collection of revenue are said to be the objects of our customs tariff. The tariff on ditchers does not come under either class. Since they are not made in Canada, there is no home industry to be protected. It can not be that the duty is maintained for revenue purposes because this added cost makes the number of ditching machines imported practically nil. The only reason apparent why a duty is imposed on ditchers at all is that it happens to come under a general classification in the tariff schedules that reads as follows: "Portable engines 'with boilers in combination, horse 'power and traction engines for

"Farm purposes, 17 1-2 per cent." An exception should have been made from the general classification for traction ditchers.

Tile draining if installed here needed would result in an increase of millions of dollars to Canada. In Ontario alone there are over 5,000,000 acres of land in need of tile draining. Investigations carried on by the Ontario Agricultural College demonstrate that crops from tile drained land yield an average increase in annual value of \$23.65 over crops on similar land, not tile drained. Even were the average increase in value of the crops only \$10 an acre, a complete system of tile draining on the farms of Ontario would mean \$50,000,000 of annual added value; hence it is important that the drainage should be encouraged.

The future of tile draining depends largely on the traction ditcher. The scarcity and high price of labor renders manual labor too expensive for digging the ditches. We must have machine ditchers.

With the price of the ditching machine increased by \$200 or \$300 through the workings of a tariff, which does not protect home industry, and is so high that it shuts out the importation of the machine almost completely, progress in tile draining must perforce be very slow. The removal of the duty on ditching machines would be of great value to the farmers of Canada. An amendment to the tariff schedule already quoted should be made whereby traction ditchers could be imported free of duty.

If there is any secret about getting a good corn crop after it is once planted—a suitable variety having been sown—sown on well prepared

A Corn and fertilized soil—it is **Crop Secret** that the corn be not too thick and that it receive frequent cultivation, thereby conserving the moisture necessary for the growth of the crop. The cultivator needs to be kept on the move from this time forward and each time it is sent through the corn rows stirring the surface soil and leaving a light earth mulch a considerable amount is being added to the ultimate yield, this increase being much in excess of what it costs to obtain.

Pork Packing Profits

(Hamilton Times.)

Mr. J. W. Flavell, Toronto, is one of the men who pretend to believe that Canadian industries stand to suffer from the effects of the reciprocity agreement. Mr. Flavell's particular case is the William Davies Pork Packing Company, and as that company is now issuing a million and quarter of bonds at 6 per cent., the company's official statement may help us to judge as to whether it is really suffering infamously.

It is stated that the net profits of the company have been \$268,000 per annum. The further information is afforded that for the past five years the earnings have averaged over 10 per cent. on the common stock of the company, and sufficient to pay the bond interest over three times and a half. The people of Canada will not shed many tears over the hardships of such "infants."

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