

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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1. **FARM AND DAIRY** is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, Bedford, District, Quebec, Dairy-men's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

WHAT ARE WE AIMING AT?

Aiming at nothing and hitting it. This expresses accurately the position of many of us in the journey of life. We start with the old homestead, the old methods, the old ideas, and we end just there; or even lower down in the scale. We have aimed at nothing. And we have hit it.

The man who gets on in the world, whatever his occupation may be, is the man who has some ideal, who is aiming at something and who is directing all his energies towards its consummation. Now at the end of the old year and the beginning of the new is a good time for introspection, for looking into ourselves and seeing if we have any clear and definite ideals; or have we been aiming at nothing and hitting it?

If we are not altogether satisfied with the results of our introspection, what are we going to do in the new year? Are we going to drift along in the same old manner, or are we go-

ing to set some higher ideal and strive with might and main to accomplish it?

It is not well to determine to change our methods completely at the new year. Such a resolution is apt to be forgotten by the second day of January. But let us take at least one thing that we have not been doing but that we know it would be to our advantage to do, and aim to apply that improved practice to our farming during the year.

Those of us who have not adopted cow testing might determine that from the first of January next every cow in our herd has to prove that she can pay for her keep, a profit to her feeder and interest on capital invested or go to the butcher.

If we have not tried alfalfa we might pick out some field on our farm that we know is just suited to that crop and order the seed right away.

The man who has not a silo can make no better new year's resolution than to determine that before the 31st of December, 1912, he will have added this money-making structure to his farm buildings.

A resolution that many of us might make with great big financial results to ourselves would be that from now on we will break away from the old habit of believing that a cow is a cow and start right in for better stock through the use of pure bred and well bred sires.

And have we been making the most of life itself? Or have we gotten into a groove there also and got past the point where we can really enjoy ourselves? Those of us whose interests are bounded by the line fence in our own farms are worse than useless as citizens of the country and are not getting the satisfaction out of life that it was intended that we should.

Let us all determine on the eve of this new year to aim at something—and hit it.

WILL DR. RUTHERFORD REMAIN?

When Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner and Veterinary Director General, assumed the duties of Chief Veterinary Inspector nine years ago, the veterinary sanitary service of the Dominion was of a decidedly rudimentary character. In fact it might almost be said that we in Canada had no properly conducted veterinary department. Dr. Rutherford immediately began to lay the foundations of what is now the Health of Animals Branch of the Department of Agriculture. In the perfection of quarantine regulations and in the establishment of an efficient veterinary sanitary service for the control of diseases already existing in Canada, Dr. Rutherford has done for the live stock interests of this country a service, the value of which it would be hard to estimate. In carrying out the internal inspection work, Dr. Rutherford was largely instrumental in formulating the provisions of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act.

The efficient work of Dr. Rutherford as Veterinary Director-General is only one portion of the valuable work that he has done in connection with the

Department of Agriculture. There is not in the Department of Agriculture a more valuable public servant than the Live Stock Commissioner.

It has been rumored for some months now that Dr. Rutherford was resigning owing to friction in the Department. With the promised reorganization of the Department of Agriculture under the new Conservative administration, it may be expected that the present Deputy Minister will sever his active connection with the Department of Agriculture, and that a man more thoroughly versed in agriculture will be given his position.

If under the changed conditions it is at all possible to retain the services of Dr. Rutherford, this should be done. The live stock interests of the country cannot afford to suffer the loss of such a valuable commissioner. Should Hon. Mr. Burrell succeed in retaining Dr. Rutherford's services, his action will be appreciated by the live stock men of the Dominion who understand the value of the services he has rendered.

ABOUT DEMONSTRATION FARMS

About a year ago the Farmers' Advocate, published at London, Ont., purchased a farm near that city, and are planning to run it, not as a model farm, but rather as a demonstration farm, to show the good results that can be obtained from a farm conducted on up-to-date business farming principles. This farm has not yet been in operation one year under the present management. Already it has produced interesting results. Our contemporary is quite optimistic as to the final financial success of the venture. Farm and Dairy congratulates the "Advocate" on the good work they are doing at "Weldwood." They are operating on the practical basis that governments have frequently been asked to attempt, but which they have always declined to undertake.

There is one respect in which, valuable as they will be, the results that will be obtained on the Farmers' Advocate demonstration farm cannot be obtained by farmers generally through the application of equally efficient methods. The Farmers' Advocate farm is on rich land. Most farmers are working land that is only of medium quality. Were the government to take over and operate a farm of only medium quality and attempt to run it under the conditions many farmers have to contend with as regards labor shortage, a mortgage indebtedness and similar drawbacks, we venture to say that the small margin of profit they would secure under even the best of management would be an eye-opener as to the small profits that are possible from farming under present conditions. Such an experiment would show more clearly than can be shown in any other way the necessity of a rearrangement of the economic laws that are rendering farming on our medium and poorer lands relatively unprofitable by depriving the farmer indirectly of much of the wealth that he creates.

A good farmer has just as much to be proud of as a senator.

Fat cattle, hogs and sheep are all selling at lower levels than at this date last year. Dairy cattle, however, are in keen demand and at high prices. On December 1st, 1910, choice milk cows were quoted at \$50 to \$70 on the Toronto market. On December 1st, 1911, they were quoted at \$60 to \$90 on the same market. Our farmers are coming to realize that when feeds are high and scarce, the dairy cow will make better use of the raw products of the farm fed to her than will any other animal, and she alone will pay a good profit on that feed. Dairy cattle are the most profitable to feed. They are now also the most profitable to raise for sale.

Several Ontario dairymen that Farm and Dairy has heard from are saving themselves and their neighbors money by buying feed in carload lots and thus saving the middleman's profit. The plan of operation most commonly followed is for one farmer who buys considerable feed to go around among his neighbors and take their orders also, and thus be able to send away for a carload at a time. In one case of which we have heard, eight dollars a ton was saved on gluten meal by purchasing it in this manner. This system of cooperative buying can be adopted with money-saving, and therefore money-making, results in many of the dairy sections of Ontario.

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Have you ever noticed how a kindly word will light up the beclouded face and make the sun to shine in the home even if the clouds are heavy in the sky?

Words of Appreciation outside? Too many of us are very chary of expressing our appreciation of the help that we receive from our mothers, wives, daughters or sons. Many a boy who is wearing out his life in a city factory would be on the farm to-day had he received more words of appreciation from his parents at home. Words of appreciation and kindly sympathy do not cost much, but they may mean everything in making life worth while. Let us not be backward in expressing our appreciation of those who share our joys and sorrows.

At their last annual session in Toronto, the Ontario Fruit Growers requested that courses of instruction in box packing of fruit be instructed in established in all the Apple Packing fruit growing districts of the province of Ontario. The adoption of this request would mean much for the furtherance of the fruit industry in Ontario. Ontario fruit growers have proven that they can produce a class of fruit that cannot be excelled. At present they are somewhat handicapped in some markets by not being able to offer the pack that sells in the very highest class market; that is, the fancy box pack. In Western Canada particularly, where people are acquainted with the box pack of fruit from the Pacific