

Briefly stated, the principal arguments in favor of the present rules are as follows:

The Argument for 365 Days.

1. A 365-day test is now recognized as the standard by all our dairy breed associations. For one association to institute a 300-day test would mean that members of that association would be always on the defence explaining it. The ordinary dairy farmer would not distinguish between them.
2. Our records will compare more favorably with American records.
3. A two-year-old heifer can be milked a full year in order to fix the habit of a long milking period on her.
4. Any breeder is at liberty to conduct a 10 months' test now.
5. Records made for a shorter term would not compare favorably with former 365-day records.

A 300-Day Test.

The arguments which strike me as being the principal ones in favor of making a change to a 300-day test are as follows:

1. A 300-day milking period will allow a cow to produce a calf every 13 or 13 months, as nature intended, and cows will be more likely to remain regular breeders and profitable cows until they reach a ripe old age.
2. It would put the average breeder more nearly on a par with the big and wealthy breeders, and would undoubtedly result in a great increase in entries in our R.O.P. work.
3. Taken in the aggregate throughout Canada, if adopted by all our dairy breed associations, there would be a great increase in the amount of milk produced and number of calves dropped during the next five or six years.
4. There would be much greater uniformity as regards length of time the qualified cows and heifers will have been milked to make their records.
5. It will place our exhibitors and winter fair dairy test cows, which have to freshen regularly every year, on a more even footing with other stock that can now remain in their own stables and be tested for 365 days, and thereby make much superior records, although they may be of very inferior individuality.

Urgent Necessity for Production.
While there is much to be said in favor of the rules as they stand at present, it does seem to me that in view of the food famine staring the world in the face to-day, as a result of this bloody carnage in Europe, these points pale into insignificance in comparison with the urgent necessity for increased production of dairy products. This is a matter to which I have given a great deal of thought during the past few months, and the conclusion I have reached is that we should adopt a 300-day test and a time limit of 400 days in calving. I would favor letting the standard for milk and fat remain as at present. An Ayrshire cow that cannot produce 8,500 lbs. of milk in 300 days has no business aspiring to a place of honor in our Record of Performance. I am strongly of the opinion that if our association will make the break and adopt the 300-day test the rest will follow suit. There is undoubtedly a strong current of opinion among our members setting in in favor of shortening the test to 300 days. In the United States, where the rules do not make it compulsory to breed the cow during a year's test, we have already seen some of the world's champions rendered useless for breeding purposes, after being subjected to a year's high pressure feeding and milking three and four times per day. Many of our wealthy breeders consider that it pays them to sacrifice a

few cows in that way on account of the prestige they acquire through having world's champion records in their herds. In Canada, thanks to our 15 months' time limit, we have never experienced so much trouble in this respect, but already we have seen some cases where a cow's powers of reproduction have been very seriously impaired by a year or two of high pressure test work.

I have written somewhat more fully than I intended at the outset, with the hope that it will cause our pure-bred dairy cattle breeders to also give some thought to this subject between now and annual meeting time, in the hope that then there will be a practical unanimity of opinion among our breeders with regard to changes in our R.O.P. rules, which will lead to increased production and reproduction in the dairy herds of Canada.

The 300 or the 365 Day Test

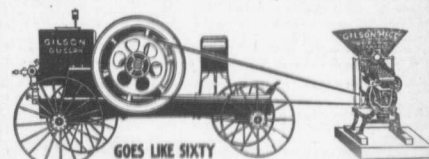
C. G. M., Glengarry Co., Ont.
SHALL we continue the 365 day test or shall we reduce it to 300 days? Which system is in the best interests of the dairy stock of Canada? Regarding this question, we find our breeders divided into two camps, first those who place the emphasis upon the record made, regardless of sacrifices before and after, and secondly those who claim that a record to be of real lasting value to the breed it represents must be made on a sound commercial basis. It is a well known fact that a dairy cow, to make the best use of her life, in the work for which she is intended, namely, the production of milk and the reproduction of her kind, must freshen approximately once in twelve months. If she fails in this, the wide-awake dairyman realizes that she is losing him money, and if that cow were not registered, the chances are she would soon end her life on the block. Why should a system which leads to the block an otherwise good grade cow, be the means of leading her pure bred sister to heights of fame which she could not reach by any other method. That is the question in a nutshell. We must all admit that greater yearly records can be made by having 15 months between freshenings than with only twelve, but is the advantage gained a real one? The successful future of registered dairy stock is dependent upon a firm, practical, economic footing. Any system which upsets the economic and market balance of the production of milk is not a safe basis upon which to build. The production and marketing of milk and milk products is the backbone of all dairy enterprises, and any system which ignores this balance must in the end be detrimental to the registered dairy stock industry.

It is a fact that many successful breeders of pure bred stock are now conducting their R. O. P. work upon the 300 day basis rather than disarrange their yearly breeding and marketing schedule.

Personally, I am greatly interested in the work being done by Mr. Lettich of the Ontario Agricultural College with the dairy herd there. I believe Mr. Lettich is approaching the question from the proper angle. He is placing the emphasis where it properly belongs, i.e., upon economic, profitable production, and is making his records conform to that standard. I believe the time is coming when we will all pay more attention to that side of the question. I believe that in no way can we better prepare for this condition than by adopting the 300-day test.

The 300-day test would also simplify matters for those who count on entering their best stock in the show ring. They could have them freshen about the same time each year and still have them in line for R.O.P. work.

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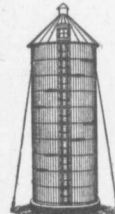
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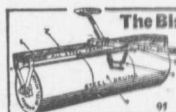
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