



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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Shall I Buy A Milking Machine This Year?

In Answer Several of Our Folks Contribute Their Experiences

I HAVE always been slow to advocate the milking machine very strongly; so people who have used them have not continued their use. Can now say, however, after using a Sharples Milker (three unit) since a year ago last July, that I would not think of going back to hand milking, and I cannot see why any man that can run a gasoline engine cannot operate a milker satisfactorily. Any little troubles we have had have been ordinary engine troubles, and only once in that time have we not been able to use the milker, and then I was away, both men had enlisted and I had had a new man only a week. A slight leak in a connecting pipe caused the trouble.

We have milked a four-year-old with it this winter that gave 160.5 lbs. of milk in one day, and a two-year-old that gave 91 lbs. in a day. I have milked the latter heifer continuously for 11 months, and she has now given 18,300 lbs. of milk in that time. Our herd are all pure-breds, and all test cows, etc., are milked with the machine.

Speed of the Machine.

With three units two of us can milk the cows in just about half the time we could by hand. One changes the units and the other does the stripping, which in most cases is only a few ounces; I have often found more milk in a cow's udder after hand milking than after a machine; but to get best results I would advise hand stripping.

The machine is best appreciated when the cows are milking heavy, as the same changing and stripping does, and this is where they make the time. One person that is used to it can run two units and do his own stripping, which we often do in the summer time, especially at the after dinner milking.

It is not the same trouble to get men to milk with the machine as it is by hand, and we do with one hand less; besides, my wife never milks now, and always did before we got our mechanical milker.

Repairs for test cup inflations, and everything to date, have been under \$4. We have had no udder trouble in any way since installing the machine, and cows seem to even like it better than hand milking; even when just put on they continue in some cases to chew their cud.—R. M. Molby, Ontario Co., Ont.

Produces Certified Milk

And Does It With A Milking Machine

E. A. PARSON, Carleton, Co., Ont.

I INSTALLED two B-L-K units in April, 1913, after giving a 30 day trial to another make of milker. From the outset they have given me the best of satisfaction. Since installing I

have not had to milk by hand more than six times at the outside, and this was not caused by the milker, but by some slight trouble with the power. Regarding the running expenses, as there is so



As Good As His Right Hand

IN the old Province of Quebec, where the dairy cow is supreme, is a dairy farmer who can very truthfully say, that his milking machine is worth as much to him as his right hand. Mr. W. F. Stephen, in a recent address at Lindsay, Ont., tells of this dairyman's experience as follows:

"One instance that has come to my notice of the benefits that may be derived from the installation of a milking machine, is that of a young farmer who had established a profitable dairy herd, and who was getting along very nicely and making money. He then met with the misfortune of losing a hand, which incapacitated him for milking, with the result that he had to sell out his herd and go back to grain raising. He found, however, that it was impossible for him to pay off the mortgage on his farm by grain growing. He then purchased a milking machine and re-established his herd of good dairy cows. He is again a prosperous dairy farmer."

This year many dairy farmers with two good hands will find the milking too great a task with the scanty and inexperienced help available. Thousands are enquiring about the milking machine. To give this information Farm and Dairy publishes in this issue letters from seven users of milking machines of standard makes. Our folks who thus testify to the merits of the mechanical milker, speak from experience, and their testimony is good.

One great trouble with most milkers is, the pulsators sticking, being erratic and generally causing trouble, especially in cold weather; the B-L-K pulsator is simplicity itself. It runs with extremely little attention, and is very easily regulated when desired. Now, as regards cleanliness, I am confident my machine is hard to beat, there are no inner linings to crack and accumulate filth, and as there are so few rubber parts about the machine at all, it is a comparatively simple matter to thoroughly sterilize all parts. My contention along this line, I think, is quite proven, when I state that I have been furnishing certified milk to Ottawa for nearly a year; in fact, I am the only dairyman in this district producing this class of milk. When you remember that the law requires certified milk to contain not more than 5,000 bacteria per c.c. for eight months of the year, and 10,000 per c.c. for the balance of the year, I think that it must be clear to anyone that whatever machine I am using, it must be capable of thorough sterilizing. I have had counts as low as 1,500, and plenty of 2,000 and 3,000 counts, and these, of course, are all taken by our city inspector from the delivery rig on the streets.

20 Cows an Hour.

As regards the time taken for milking, I know that it must take me more time than if I was not producing the certified article, as we have to take extra pains in washing udders and rinsing the machines, but even with it all, a man with two units will milk 20 cows an hour, and that much easier than he would milk 10 by hand. As for sickness or udder troubles, I do not know what it is, outside of the usual troubles at calving time, or when a cow gets a teat stepped on and badly cut; but contagious garget, etc., I have never had since using this machine, for the obvious reason, I think that there is absolute release from suction on the teat between each pulsation.

As to whether my cows like the machine or not; well, they have never said anything to the contrary; they are contented and happy, and give fully as much milk as ever. I can assure you that their owner would not part with his B-L-K for a lot.

Milker Now Essential

Two Years Successful Experience

W. E. THOMPSON, Oxford Co., Ont.

I HAVE been using a Hinman milking machine for nearly two years with very satisfactory results. When we installed this machine we were milking 12 cows. The conditions on which this machine was installed were 60 days' free trial, when, if satisfactory to me, I was to pay \$170 for the three units and the stable fixtures.

little rubber about these machines, the costs for replacements are practically negligible. As for experience needed to operate I must say that any man, with average intelligence, and a genuine desire to make machine milking a success, will get along with a B-L-K.