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Milk in 365 days at 2 years.....18156.
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Milk in 7 days, second calving... 604.20
Milk in 1 day, second calving..... 93.

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R. M. HOLTBY, R. R. 4, PORT PERRY, ONT.

Danish Agriculture.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

That increased live stock is the keynote to agricultural improvement, even though wheat production is the avowed objective, is the story Dr. E. T. Russell, F. R. S. and Director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England tells us is the cause of Denmark's greatness. The Doctor writes to that effect in the introduction to a new book just translated by Mr. Harold Faber, the Danish Consul-General to Britain and issued by Longman's, London, at two dollars.

It would be difficult to find a more entrancing subject, Dr. Russell tells us, "than the history of Danish agriculture between 1860 and 1912, roughly the period covered by this book. Up to the beginning of this period the story has been much the same as our own—there had been a steady improvement from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the culmination in the 'sixties. The system had been essentially one of corn production; but in order to get the best results it had to be combined with live stock. It was in working out the combination that Danish agriculture took a line of its own which gradually led to complete differentiation from other European systems. The English farmer had gone in for meat production. The Danish farmer, on the other hand, went in for dairy work. The choice was momentous, and we should like to know a little more fully what determined it. Events have shown that it was emphatically the right choice, because dairy farming produced much more food per acre of ground than meat production, and it allows full scope for, indeed it necessitates, those co-operative methods of business and production which have since dominated Danish agriculture. Co-operation came later. In 1882 Still-

in Anderson founded the co-operative dairy at Hjedding, which is usually regarded as the starting point, though, as a matter of fact, a co-operative dairy had already been established in 1875. The wisdom of the Danish choice was evident in the eighties and nineties, when Europe was flooded with cheap agricultural produce, especially from the virgin countries of the new world and Australasia. Wheat fell to nearly half the price it had commanded in the sixties. English agriculture suffered a terrible set back, and did not begin to recover till about 1896. Danish agriculture, on the other hand, was able not only to weather the storm, but even to make headway all the time. The improvement in dairying reacted on the arable farming; the export of butter rose from 10,300 tons per annum in the late seventies to 100,000 tons per annum before the war, and the yield of wheat rose from 30.9 to 36.5 bushels per acre. Thus the Danish system has proved to be eminently suitable for the production of wheat from the land". The later figures given in the appendix emphasize still more Dr. Russell's contention that the increased live stock adds essentially to the fertility of wheat land. They show that between 1861 and 1914 cattle increased from 1,119,000 head to 2,463,000 head, and pigs from 301,000 head to 2,497,000 head. During the same period the yields per acre of wheat rose from 30.9 bushels to 43.1; bushels of oats from 30.3 bushels to 44.0; bushels of barley from 27.5 bushels to 38.2 bushels, and of potatoes from 4.2 tons to 5.7 tons. That is the part which increased live stock has played in Danish agriculture, and the fact is certainly full of suggestion for England's reconstruction work.

Mr Faber's story of co-operation in agriculture in Denmark is very instructive. The foundations of the system were laid by the peasants themselves, and during the latter half of the last century the work "aimed almost exclusively at improving agriculture or agricultural industry." And it was largely live stock that they thus devoted their attention to. The peasants, Mr. Faber points out, "formed societies for the purpose of enabling them to adopt means for the improvement of their live stock which they saw practiced by large landowners, but which they themselves individually could not afford to employ. They also combined in other societies to improve their business by the manufacture of butter and bacon on an industrial scale, and introduced quite original modes of co-operation, such as 'control' societies. Later



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