

Profits of Seed Selection.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Permit me to give my fellow farmer, through your widely-circulated paper, our experience with field-selected seed grain. Our purpose is to show how important and profitable it is. Professors Robertson and Zavitz, by their work and teaching along this line, have won for themselves a very high place among the benefactors of our country. We remember the time—not so very long ago—when farmers generally kept their poorest grain and small potatoes for seed. That day is all but passed away; now, the demand is for the very best samples for seed purposes.

We have practiced for several years what is called "fanning-mill selection," which we have found to increase the yield, one striking example of which we will give. We were sowing a field of Tartar King oats. We fell short of seed before the field was finished, and, so as not to mix varieties, we sowed the screenings from the other seed. At harvest, there was a foot difference in the length of the straw, and the heads from the small seed were about two-thirds the length of the other. The difference in yield would not be less than 15 bushels per acre. That settled for us, once and for all time, the question of seed quality.

While fanning-mill selection is good, field selection is much better, because it is only there that the finest heads, producing the greatest number of grains, can be obtained.

We procured from a local seedsman, several years ago, our first seeding of Mandscheuri barley, which has given us good yields, but we were not fully satisfied with it. The straw lacked strength, and too large a percentage of the heads were short. A neighbor had a field grown from seed produced from a sample obtained from the O. A. C. I obtained his permission to select from his field. The crop was a very fine one, the afternoon delightful, and, while the binder was cutting it down, I was happily employed choosing out the finest and longest heads I could find. In a couple of hours I had selected enough to make 11 pounds of seed. This I sowed on the 20th of May, along with my root crop, drilling it in with every other spout shut off; this put the drills 14 inches apart. The 11 pounds sowed one-fifth of an acre. From this I harvested and threshed by hand 9 bushels 5 pounds. The season was not favorable, and there was considerable light grain. This I took out, which left me 7 bushels and 25 pounds. This we sowed last spring on five acres, the rest of the field being sown with a splendid sample from our general crop. The crop was a fine one, considering that it was grown on an oat-stubble which had yielded 70 bushels per acre the year previous. We have threshed from the five acres 230 bushels. There was not a straw down, while on the rest of the field it was more or less laid. A very high percentage of the heads were long and full, and fully as good as the ones selected. The yield was four bushels per acre better than the other part of the field. This 20 bushels extra paid me well for my afternoon's outing. Nor is this all: we shall have at least 200 bushels of high-class, pure seed, which will readily command 15 cents per bushel over the price of No. 2 barley.

More gratifying still is the knowledge that we have advanced a step forward. Think of what it would mean to the Province if the 5,000,000 acres devoted to the principal grain crops could be made to produce four bushels per acre more by using a better quality of seed—and they would. It would mean a sum sufficient to pay all municipal taxes twice over, and still leave a sufficient sum to make considerable farm improvements yearly.

Scarcity of farm help stands in the way of a general adoption of field selection, but if only three or four farmers in each township took up the work, as we have done, each taking a different class of grain, and sell the crop for seed to their neighbors, a marked effect would soon be noticeable all over the country.

Here is a field of great usefulness for retired farmers. Instead of moving to town or city, amongst uncongenial surroundings, to die before their time, how much better to stay in the country, and find real happiness in being useful, and in promoting the public good.

Simcoe Co., Ont. FOYSTON BROS.

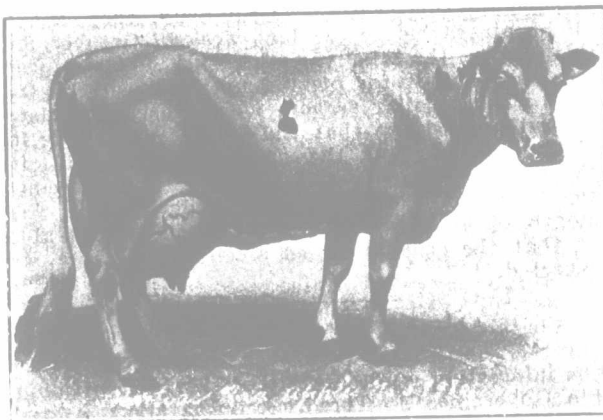
A greatly-increased acreage has been given to buckwheat in Ontario this year, owing to the late, wet spring being adverse to the sowing of the more standard grains. Although frost caught some of the late buckwheat, the crop generally is considered to be one of the best for years in both yield and quality. In short, this may be remembered as the buckwheat year.

THE DAIRY.

The Bad and Good in Dairying.

At the Western Dairymen's Convention, in Brantford, Ont., last winter, a most interesting and valuable address, illustrated with lantern slides, was given by Miss Laura Rose, who humorously remarked, in beginning, that she was sorry she had not had more experience at speaking in the dark. She also stated that she had more difficulty in procuring photographs of the bad in dairying, and so in the slides the good predominated.

Nothing like making a good beginning, said Miss Rose, as the first picture was thrown on the canvas, a splendid one of Boutsje Pietertje De Kol, of the O. A. C. herd, the best cow in Canada, which gave nearly twenty-one thousand pounds of milk, which, if sold at 4c. per quart, would have made a profit over keep of \$259. The great fault of our farmers is in being satisfied with cows which give only three or four thousand pounds of milk a year. "Not failure, but low



Pontiac Rag Apple 58980.

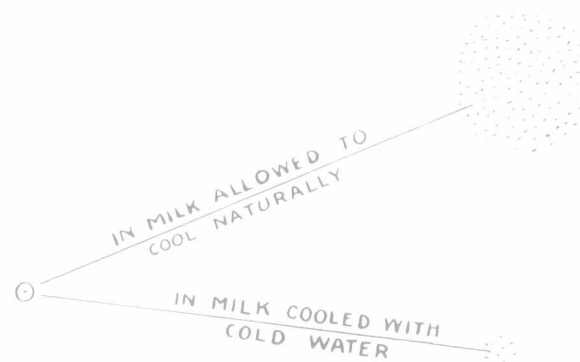
As a two-year-old she gave 18,252 lbs. of 4.22% milk in one year. When 4 years old she made 31.62 lbs. butter in 7 days. Sold for \$8,000.

aim, is crime," and the dairyman sins in having his ideal too low. Fine specimens of the different breeds of dairy cows were shown, among which was Pontiac Rag Apple, a famous American Holstein, which brought her owner \$8,000.

Slides illustrating the interior and exterior, and surroundings of barns, good and bad, emphasized the importance of properly housing the cattle. The motto over every barn should be: "Let there be light." Darkness means dirt; dampness, disease. Sunlight implies cleanliness, health, contentment.

The milking problem was introduced by a series of slides: Calf milking cow; child milking cow; girl milking cow. The first two were considered bad practice.

Miss Rose said that the more she came in contact with dairying, the more she felt the business had suffered since the women had so completely left the milking stool. Women are naturally more cleanly than men, and have more patience and



Progeny of a Single Germ in 12 Hours.

kindness, requisites so essential in the dairy stable. A section of the udder, thrown on the canvas, showed plainly how the bacteria could work their way through the small opening at the end of the teat, and in the milk in the channel find perfect conditions for their rapid multiplication. That the first stream from each teat should not go in to the milk pail, was forcefully illustrated by the thousands of germs seen in the bacteria plates made from the first-draw milk, while the middle milk showed very few.

Clean milk means clean cows, and this means that the cows should be groomed. The bacterial content of the milk was greatly influenced by the air through which the milk passed in its course from the teat to the pail. Cleaning out the mare, putting down hay, sweeping, etc., made the atmosphere quite unfit to milk in, as was revealed by the splendid slides along this line.

The wide-flaring milk pail stood out in contrast

to the more hygienic Truman pail, with its small, hooded opening.

The separator has wrought a wonderful change in dairy methods, but it is far from being an unmixed blessing. This is not the fault of the machine, but rather of its operator. Many a woman is not making as good butter now as when she used the deep creamer cans, owing to the fact that she does not quickly cool the cream as soon as it comes from the separator. It must be set in cold water and stirred occasionally.

The most important slide in the collection is this one, said Miss Rose, as she pointed to the diagrammatic illustration reproduced on this page.

Thoroughly washing the separator after each time of using; keeping all the utensils clean, as well as the cow, the stable, and the atmosphere, and quickly cooling the cream, would remove the stigma from the cream-gathering system.

The effectiveness of pasteurization as a method of destroying germ life and making a clean seed-bed for a good culture, was impressed upon the sight by the plates made from raw and pasteurized milk and cream.

The importance of a pure water supply, and its easy contamination, was seen by the pictures of neat farm buildings and surroundings, and yet the seepage from the cesspool, pigpen and barnyard was finding its way directly into the wells, and often proved the source of disease and death.

A chubby baby, taking great comfort from his nursing bottle, when put on the canvas, evoked laughter from the audience, and an earnest plea from Miss Rose for a pure milk supply for the babies of our country.

Dolly Dimple Yields 1,058 Pounds Butter in a Year.

Another most remarkable official record has been completed by the young Guernsey cow, Dolly Dimple, which, as a two-year-old heifer, made a phenomenal official year's record of 14,009.1 pounds of milk, 703.36 pounds butter-fat. At the conclusion of her year's work, she was two months with calf. Freshening for the second time October 9th, she started her second year's work on October 14th, 1908, at the age of three years and nine months, and has just completed it, with an official twelve-months' record of 18,458.80 pounds milk, and 906.89 pounds butter-fat (equivalent to 1,058 pounds butter), made under supervision of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station. She also has to her credit a seven-day record of 444.8 pounds milk, and 22.034 pounds butter-fat; a thirty-day record of 1,960.4 pounds milk, and 89.99 pounds butter-fat; and a one-day production of 68.4 pounds milk, and 3.625 pounds butter-fat. She is owned at Langwater Farms, North Easton, Mass. Her feed during the year consisted of 730.19 pounds of bran, 486.76 pounds pea meal, 730.19 pounds ground oats, 730.19 pounds gluten meal, 486.76 pounds oil meal, 447.76 pounds cottonseed meal, 516.76 pounds alfalfa meal, 243.48 pounds hominy, 2,537 pounds beet pulp, 180 pounds corn fodder, 5,470 pounds roots, 3,730 pounds silage, 3,501 pounds hay, and 486.76 pounds of a proprietary concentrate sold under a trade-name. She appears to have been stabled throughout the period, except in the month of June, when pasture is mentioned as part of the roughage; 705 pounds green feed was also allowed in June and July.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

Better Culture, Better Marketing, Better Quality.

Better quality of fruit and improved marketing, better care of old orchards, and fewer varieties in setting new, were the lessons emphasized at the annual meeting of the State Pomological Society, at Norway, Me., November 9th to 11th.

William Craig, of Auburn, president of the Society, had charge of the programme, and kept things on the move. Mr. Craig has been a resident of Maine only a few years, but his kindly and genial manner has won for him many warm friends.

BETTER FRUIT.

E. Cyrus Miller, an orchard specialist, of Haydenville, Mass., addressed the meeting on the subject of better fruit for New England. Cutting out the alternate trees, where too closely planted together, pruning, but extending the treatment over a number of years; plowing and cultivating, where possible; applying a reasonable amount of stable dressing or chemical fertilizer each year, and spraying, were the points emphasized. He would graft native trees, as, with care and attention, they could be made a source of profit.

Points with reference to setting a new orchard, included the selection of a well-drained upland site, prepared as for hoed crops, setting 40 to 60 feet apart trees two years old from the bud, and of few varieties, commercially valuable, and preferably red in color; cutting back severely, and dipping in a scalecide before setting; pruning for