

come all in a heap when they move off the farm and buy a place in town. It is impossible to work with them and not admire their patience and perseverance, and the noble, lion-like way they attack work and make it fly before them. But there's something sad about every one of them that I happen to know. They're getting old before their time, and are tired; and what is it to them now that they have been good workers in their day. Their day is over, though they are only about fifty years old; and their interest in the world is small, because of ignorance they are not sensible of the loveliness and greatness of God's earth and heavens. So that they can only just rest, and, waiting for their long rest, employ themselves with what thoughts they best can. And whether it would not be more comfortable, then, for them to remember they had been workers for good in their day, instead of good workers for nothing greater than their own bellies, I leave to the judgment of your readers.

Perth Co., Ont.

T. R. JOHNSON.

### Buckwheat as a Cleaning Crop.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Last season I was favored in renting 30 acres of a deserted farm that had become very poor and dirty, so much so that it would not produce more than from seven to ten bushels of any ordinary grains, wheat, oats, barley or peas. I plowed the ground in June, and managed to keep the surface clean by disking, spring-toothing, harrowing and rolling, until the 3rd of July. Then it was sown at the rate of one bushel per acre. One-half that quantity would have done, but, in order to keep down Canada thistles, twitchgrass, and other noxious weeds, of which there was no end, I decided to sow more seed. Of course, I got lots of encouragement free along those lines. Some said, "You will get back about as much buckwheat as you are sowing"; others said, "You are working for the good of your health," and so on and so forth. These comments were numerous, as this land lay convenient to the stone road. They would tell me they had been passing by that farm for thirty years or more, and they never saw more than one-third of a crop of any kind growing there. There had been nobody living on the farm for 25 years; what grew on the land was carted off to other places, so it is easier to imagine than describe the results. However, the buckwheat came up in three or four days, and soon covered the ground and claimed the inside track and right of way, and held it till harvest time. Then it was cut with a binder, shocked in the usual way, and let stand for about three weeks, then threshed in field and drawn home, and cleaned up over one thousand bushels. I had two varieties of grain, the Silver Chaff and the Rye variety. The Rye variety outyielded the other by all odds, though not so nice to look upon, but looks don't cut all the ice. Now the land is sown with oats and barley, and is admired by all passers-by, notwithstanding the dry month of May, without one shower of rain. Instead of impoverishing the soil, buckwheat improves it, and I can prove the statement.

R. ATTRIDGE.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

### A 53-foot Silo.

Something rather out of the usual in silos has been erected by John Taylor, Jr., a "Farmer's Advocate" subscriber in Dumfries Township, Waterloo Co., Ont. It is 12 feet in diameter, and 53 feet high. In its construction were used 206 sacks cement, 58 yards gravel, and 150 pounds barbed wire. Five men were employed for 101 days in its construction. Mr. Taylor has unbounded faith in silage as a feed. The present is his second silo, and he is growing 16 acres of corn to fill it.

## POULTRY.

### Artificial Incubation.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am not an expert at poultry-raising, but will try to tell a little in regard to incubator and chickens. I washed the incubator in a solution of one ounce of creolin to two quarts of water, put the eggs in a pan, and poured the same solution over them. After the last testing, I left in 100 eggs, and hatched 75 chickens. Other years I have lost a great many chicks from white diarrhea; this year I did not lose any. I washed the brooder with the same solution, and covered the floor with newspapers, which were taken out twice a week, and clean ones put in their place. Hay seed from the barn floor should be kept in the brooder for the chickens to scratch in. I fed the chickens some powdered chalk once in a while, and always kept a good clover seed in the brooder for them. I fed cornmeal cooked into Johnny-cakes; also, dry, cracked corn and oatmeal. I let them have as much sunshine and fresh air as possible. The poultry houses should be white-washed twice a year, and kept perfectly clean. I

have learnt a great deal about poultry through "The Farmer's Advocate," as we have taken it for a number of years. J. A. MacDONALD.  
Queen's Co., N. B.

### A Homemade Brooder.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The following is the method we use in raising chicks, which we find very satisfactory, and which has been used by a successful poultry-raiser in this district for several seasons, with good results.

First make a pen with 1 x 12-inch lumber, any size you wish, 3 ft. x 8 ft. being a good size. Make a frame of strips the same size for the top, and tack wire netting on it; that is to keep the chicks in and to keep marauders out. Now make a roof out of boards and tar paper (the lighter the better) that can be set on or off at will, and the pen is finished.

They soon learn to go in and out themselves. Such a pen will accommodate 30 or 35 small chickens, and we have used it for as few as five, and in not very warm weather, either. With such a method, one has the satisfaction of knowing at all times just where they are, which is more than can be said if a hen is "trailing" them.

A. S. DODDS.

West Kootenay, B. C.

## THE DAIRY.

### Utility of Ayrshires.

Different people have different opinions as to which is the best breed of dairy cattle. No professional agriculturist is at liberty to call any one breed best. True, some breeds give better returns under certain conditions than do others, but more depends on the individuality of the animals and the strain of the breed than on the breed itself.

For different conditions, different breeds may be recommended. The Ayrshire is one of the hardiest of the dairy breeds, and as a rustler is not excelled by any prominent breed. This is one of the strong points in favor of the breed, and, where pasture is relied upon to feed the herd in summer, the Ayrshire ranks high.

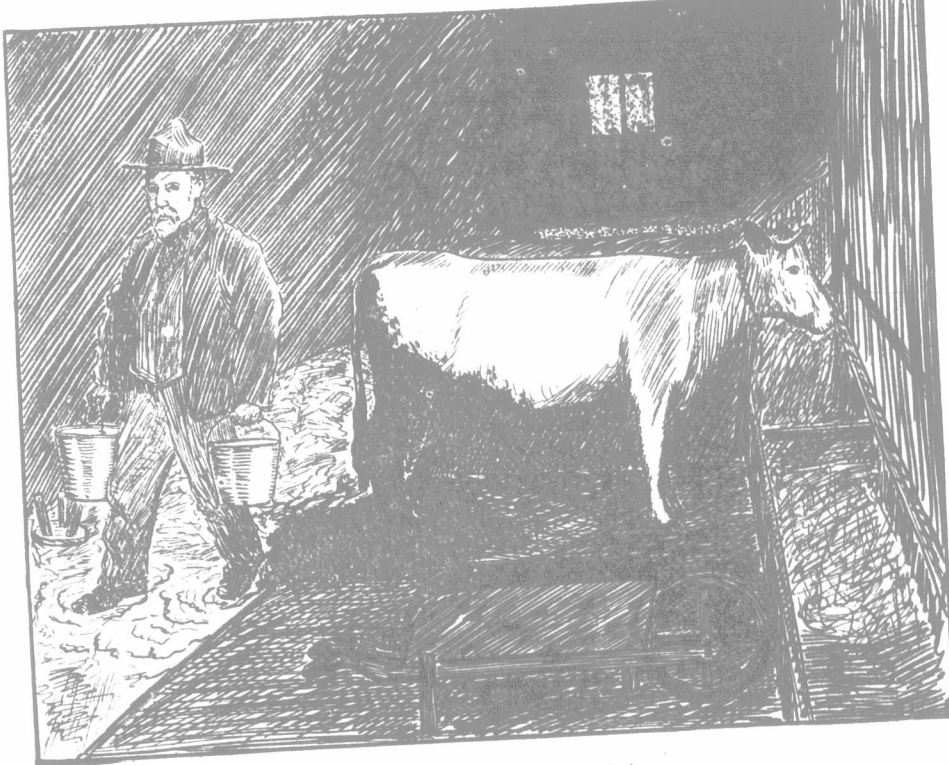
The breed originated, as its name implies, in a hilly section in Scotland, and no doubt the hardships experienced by the cattle during the formation of the breed, and perhaps later, are largely responsible for the breed's hardiness and foraging capabilities at the present time. No particular care was taken by the earlier breeders in Scotland in feeding and housing. The cattle were allowed to roam amongst the hills and gather their own feed, and as this went on from year to year, these hardy characteristics became intensified, and, as a result, a breed of excellent foraging character and strong, robust constitution is the result.

Mature individuals of the breed are but medium in size, but they are usually heavy milkers, and give milk containing a fair percentage of butter-fat; and, as in other dairy breeds, high-testing individuals are to be found.

This breed is sometimes criticised for being too beefy in appearance, while by others this characteristic is looked upon as a very desirable one. In the making of the breed, one is led to believe that blood of the beef type of animals must have been used. Some writers claim that Shorthorn blood was used, and others that Highland blood was infused. Regardless of its origin, individuals show a certain approach to beef type, but are, at the same time, of a very good dairy form, and are heavy producers.

Cattle of this breed usually produce good straight, square calves, and these are suitable for vealing purposes; steers may often be produced which make very tolerable feeders from the viewpoint of both the feeder and the butcher.

Again, as to the appearance of the herd, there is nothing more attractive than a herd of Ayrshires grazing peacefully in a pasture, or standing



Where Carelessness is Crime.



Why Carelessness is Crime.

Doctor—A bad case of intestinal trouble directly traceable, no doubt, to an impure milk supply.

Then get a cheese box and cut a hole in the side about four inches square, and about three inches from the bottom. Put some chaff and short straw in the bottom. Take the lid off the box and knock the top out of it, leaving only the ring. Place a piece of cheese cloth over the box, letting it sag down till it almost touches the straw, and put on the ring, which will hold it in position. Put a little mattress in on top of the cheese-cloth. Two pieces of cotton, with feathers or cotton batting between, will answer, and you are ready to put in the chicks.

We do not use an incubator, and we take the chicks from the hen as soon as they are dry, and place them in there, and they scarcely miss her.