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# FARM AND DAIRY

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## RURAL HOME

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### SOME REQUISITES OF A MODERN DAIRY COW STABLE

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#### Many Stables are Wholly Unfit to be in the Business of Producing Human Food. The Cause of much Polluted Milk. Comment on Up to date Improvements that may be Installed.

How often we see good cows imprisoned in dirty, dark, ill-ventilated stables! We are obliged to wonder whether or not milk produced amidst such surroundings can be fit for human food. People are so prone to censure the city dealer for all the impure conditions of his milk, and everyone knows that he is culpable enough, but few stop to consider that it is back at the fountain head of the supply in the producer's stable that much of the cause is found.

Many of the stables that I have visited were absolutely unfit for habitation of any creature, much less for the home of the animal that provides the most important and most easily tainted of human foods. The majority of them are low, dark, entirely without ventilation, except for the occasional opening of doors; the cows were tied in cumbersome wooden stanchions as helpless as men in the stocks. In some cases the mangers were old rickety boxes, in which unclean particles of food were allowed to collect and putrefy. It is still very common to find in cow stables wooden floors, under which the liquid manure collects and decomposes, giving rise the year round to obnoxious gases and odors, which contaminate the milk on the slightest exposure.

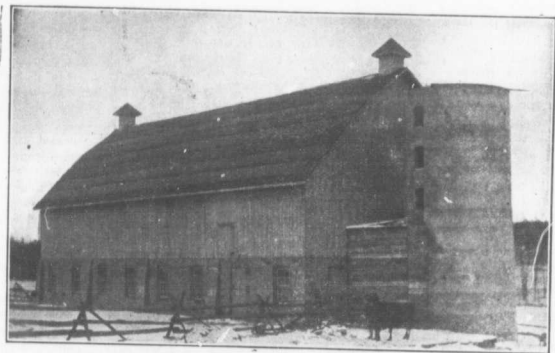
#### LACK OF CLEANLINESS.

Worst of all, with these conditions there usually goes hand in hand an appalling lack of cleanliness of the cows and attendants. The animals never feel a comb or a brush from one year to another, and their flanks and thighs become covered with manure which cannot help falling off into the milk during the operation of milking, and this is laden with myriads of putrefactive germs. Little wonder that people who receive such milk days after infection have disease and death dealt out to them and to their children. These details are not at all pleasant, but nevertheless they present the true state of affairs that prevails on a considerable percentage of milk-producing farms. A revolution in the conditions of farm buildings would remove 75% of the cause of the polluted milk that finds its way to cities.

#### GOOD STABLES DEFINED.

What constitutes a good condition of stabling for a dairy herd? I do not approve of underground stables. They are too difficult to light properly as they are not usually exposed to the light on more than one or two sides. Furthermore, dampness always goes with underground stables with stone or cement walls. The stable I like best is one well above ground on a stone or cement foundation. It should have a good deep

basement underneath through which the air can circulate. The stable must have a tight floor, preferably of cement, overlaid with planking in the stalls leaving the gutters and passages uncovered. The object of the plank covering is to prevent rheumatism and lameness, which, our own and other's experience has taught us, affect cows especially in the knees if allowed to stand or lie a whole winter on a cement floor. The stall should be just long enough to allow the cow to stand on it without having her feet in the gutter. The latter on no account should be more than four and a half or five inches deep so that there is no danger of the cows injuring themselves slipping down into it. A slight fall towards the gutter of about one inch is desirable in both stall and



A New Stable in which the value of Sunshine and Ventilation has been Recognized  
Seventeen double windows, 2 feet 6 inches x 4 feet, allow the sun to shine in every part of the stock. This barn is on Mr. A. W. Caton's farm, Addington Co., Ont. See page seven this issue for plan and description of these stables.

passage in order that all liquid may collect in its proper channels.

#### IRON PIPE PARTITIONS.

The cheapest and strongest partition that can be erected between the cows is formed of iron pipe, imbedded in the cement about half way from the manger to the gutter and extending upward and forward where it is joined to another upright pipe placed at the cow's head. To brace the whole thing securely the forward uprights may be fastened to another bar running horizontally over the heads of the animals, which pipe will be found of use in fastening swinging stanchions, should the latter be made use of. Besides its cheapness and rigidity, the ease with which the stable can be kept clean is another important factor to be considered, for there are no corners and crevices where vermin and filth can accumulate as is the case with the cumbersome wooden partitions so much in vogue.

Although the opinion of dairy experts is adverse, personally I prefer to have a manger in front of the cows. But recognizing the evils that accompany the usual style of box manger, I must add that that style is worse than none at all. A manger must be of such a formation that it can easily be cleaned out, and the round-bottomed kind is the only kind that conforms to this condition. The reason that a manger is preferable to none at all, lies in the fact that in eating from a flat surface the cow is liable to push the feed out of her reach, either into the passage or back into the stall, amongst the bedding. A manger should be provided with partitions between the divisions allowed to the different cows, in order that they may be fed independently of each other, especially in regard to their meal ration. All dairy-men who do not have managers deplore the fact that this manner of feeding meal is unsatisfactory, and it seems to me that we must return to a modification of the manger that will enable us to feed our cows equitably and independently.

One good device that I have seen, but which was very costly, was a large galvanized iron trough about eight inches deep and 20 inches across, placed in front of the cows. The feed passage was elevated a foot and a half above the floor of the stall and the trough was placed right up against the edge of the elevation, so that the fodder was just dropped into the trough from the passage. The manger was provided with a partition between each cow, so that it was very satisfactory and made a very permanent and easily cleaned manger, though very expensive. A depression about six inches deep and two feet wide in the cement in front of the cow proves to be a very good manger, and many of this kind are in use and appear to give good satisfaction.

#### MEANS OF TYING.

There are many excellent devices for tying cows; there are two outstanding good ones. The first is the swinging stanchion of iron pipe fastened above and below, and turning on a pivot at each end. This allows the cow a maximum of freedom, as she can lick herself or lie down with her head in any position she chooses. The other device is a light chain around the neck and sliding up and down a bar at the side of the stall. This method is not so costly as the former and allows almost as much freedom.

Water is best supplied by a system of water buckets, many kinds of which are on the market. These should be placed high up out of the way of the animals while eating, and may be arranged so that one bucket will do for two cows.

#### LIGHT AND VENTILATION.

For most perfect lighting the stable should be narrow, and should not be occupied by more than two rows of cattle. The animals may be placed head to head, which facilitates feeding operations; but if feeding conditions will allow,