

### His Best Market

A. McGibbon, Halton Co., Ont.

The saying "To strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" expresses a weakness of humanity generally. We farmers are just as weak in this respect as anyone else. We were recently visiting a farmer friend near here. He was very much concerned as to which of two towns nearby would afford him the best market for the dairy butter that his wife had been making at home since the conclusion of the cheese factory season. He knew that there would not be a difference of more than one or two cents between butter quotations in the two different towns, but if there was any difference he wanted to get it—and he was right. It is the object of every business man to sell on the highest market. We decided that our friend must be a business man.

Later when I went to the stable I discovered that while he was "straining at a gnat" in the house he was just as readily "swallowing a camel" in the stable. "Which of your cows is the best milker?" I asked. He hadn't an idea.

As I had been on friendly terms with this farmer for some years, I felt that I could express myself more freely than to a stranger.

"Ever test them?" I next inquired.

"No."

"Then how do you know that one of the cows may not be eating up the profits of two or three of the others?" He had to admit that it was quite possible that such might be the case.

This man, like many of the rest of us, was very careful about the marketing of his finished product, but he was marketing practically all of the raw produce produced on his farm without first ascertaining where he could market it to best advantage. Some of the cows might not give him one cent in return for feed consumed. Others might return a good square profit.

We should regard every cow as an individual market and keep in our herd and breed from only those cows that afford us the best market. This is sound business.

### Alfalfa to Solve Labor Problem

J. W. Widdfield, Uzbridge, Ont.

I am becoming enthusiastic in the growing of alfalfa. I believe that it, more than any other crop, will aid in solving the labor problem. We once thought that the corn crop would solve this problem, but corn apparently keeps us just as busy as the other crops in ordinary use.

I believe that alfalfa will take the place of other soiling crops and the place of grain crops and corn for winter forage. If one has a proper system of handling the alfalfa crop, it can be handled satisfactorily in the worst season. For instance, if we happen to cut it before a rain we can put it in the silo. In dry weather we would make this crop into hay and put it in the mow. I myself am just beginning to see the possibilities of alfalfa in connection with the labor problem.

If five good cows are kept and the money received from the buttermilk put into the bank, at the end of 50 years this will amount to \$100,000, an amount that is possible for a man of 21 to accumulate by the time he is 70.

Barnyard manure can be used to reduce the effects of drought. When soil has been manured it holds more moisture, and when the soil is rich in humus and plant food the crop can get along with less moisture.

The keeping of live stock is a necessity. Fer-

tility will be turned back to the land. The labor needed is better distributed and the live stock business is less subject to adverse climatic conditions than grain raising. The silo will greatly increase the number of cattle that can be kept on a given area of land. The silo is in one sense a concentrated meadow.

### Heavy Producing Grade Cows

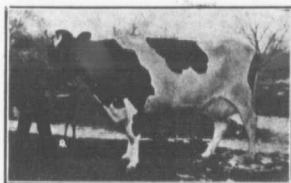
The two grade Holstein cows illustrated on this page have made remarkable records. Their owner, Mr. J. E. Waring, Oxford Co., Ont., writes us that cow No. 1, freshening Dec. 1, 1911, produced 19,345 lbs. of milk as a four-year-old, and freshened again on Oct. 9, 1912.



No. 1. A Profit Maker of Marit

No. 2 freshened in the fall of 1911 and again in October, 1912, giving birth to a fine pair of heifers, and in the interval produced 17,025 lbs. of milk as a five-year-old. These cows were formerly owned by Mr. G. W. Pierce, also of Oxford county, who made splendid records with them.

Both Mr. Pierce and Mr. Waring are agreed as to the great importance of absolute regularity in the feeding and management of the dairy cow. Mr. Pierce has told us that he believed in feeding by the clock, and that when such feeding is practised, the cow will milk splendidly on much smaller grain rations than



No. 2. Another of Mr. Waring's Producers

The two cows illustrated on this page together made 35,370 lbs. of milk in one year. How is that for profitable production? They are owned by Mr. Waring, Oxford Co., Ont., who tells more about these cows in an article adjoining.

when they are milked "any old time." Mr. Waring, in sending Farm and Dairy the photos and records of these two cows, writes as follows:

"I am not a heavy feeder, but I endeavor to study my cows and feed them those feeds that they relish most. I hardly ever find two cows that will take the same feeds in the same quantities. I also believe in feeding a variety of feeds that will balance well.

"We count on punctuality in feeding, watering and milking. This is the main factor in getting the best results from the dairy cow. The boy holding the cows in the photos is my son. He took the greater part of the care of these cows when making their records, and, I believe, is going to make a wide-awake dairyman."

Good farming is the best insurance against crop failure. Farming is a business. It requires a better business head—a man of broader vision—to farm scientifically than to practise in any other profession.

### Seed Selection is Both Practical and Profitable

T. C. Raynor, Seed Division, Ottawa

A seed has been styled "a plant packed." In it lie great potentialities. Any plant is the better for getting off to a good start. Repeated experiments have demonstrated that the use of large, plump seed gives the best results. Such seed has an abundant store house of plant food to draw upon, which proves especially valuable when the season is adverse to good germination and rapid growth.

In the State of Kansas they have been paying attention to wheat and corn improvement with the result that farmers are receiving double the commercial prices for good seed wheat and corn; seed wheat brings \$2 a bushel and corn from \$1.50 to \$5 a bushel.

In the State of Wisconsin a good deal of attention has been paid to the development of profitable strains of wheat, oats, barley, and corn. Some of the Agricultural College graduates have tried out some of these improved strains with the result that not only has a large state market been opened, but an interstate one as well. The Experimental Station acts as a sort of clearing house by putting a prospective buyer in communication with the growers who have any surplus on hand. Many of these growers are now producing hundreds of dollars' worth of seed instead of a few dollars' worth as formerly.

#### CANADIANS DO IT TOO

But why go out of our own country for illustrations of profitable seed production. Until the organization of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, there were a few farmers here and there who made a small profit in growing seed grain for the seedsmen or neighboring farmers. Now that members of the C.S.G.A. are making a specialty of growing certain crops for seed under certain directions and restrictions, there is a larger quantity of seed grain available to meet the increasing demand; but nothing like enough to meet that demand as yet.

#### SOME EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

Mr. C. R. Gies, of Heidelberg, Ont., who has been selecting Dawson's Golden Chaff wheat for a number of years has been selling large quantities for seed at satisfactory prices. Mr. Wm. Lewis of Dunsford, Ont., has been selecting Siberian oats for which he hasn't been able to keep pace with the demand, at \$1 to \$1.25 a bushel. Mr. Alf. Hutchinson of Mt. Forest, Ont., who is working with Empire State potatoes, notwithstanding the comparative failure of the crop in most parts of Ontario in 1911, had what promised to be, when I saw the field, a yield of 200 bushels an acre. Mr. Thos. Waugh of Bechoque, P.E.I., has done well with Banner oats. Most of the Banner oats grown on the island province can now be traced to his strain. In 1910, when 1,000 bushels of Banner oats were required for a public auction of seed oats at a seed fair in Quebec City with selection behind them, it was P.E.I. oats that were obtained.

Mr. Harry Brown of N.S. has made a reputation for himself in potato growing. Mr. Jno. Mooney of Regina, Sask., has been able to sell car loads of improved seed wheat at remunerative prices.

#### INTERNATIONAL WINNINGS

To cap the climax for seed selection the results of two members of the C.S.G.A. with exhibits at New York City in what might be termed an international affair are outstanding. Mr. Seager Wheeler of Rosthern, Sask., who has grown a quantity of registered Preston wheat was very much impressed with the New Marquis variety, and decided to improve it as well. At the above exhibition he won the \$1,000

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