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FARM CHATS

H. Percy Blanchard, Hants Co., N.S.

Little Dorrit.

H. Percy Blanchard, Hants Co., N.S.
LITTLE Dorrit is a child of mystery, a lamb with a hyphen somewhere in the dawn of its history. One Sunday evening, to be exact, the eighth day of April last, the sheep were out to the brook for the afternoon. Next morning, going up to the barn, I found a fine lamb, not a day old, but dead. Its unnatural mother had simply deserted it unconsciously gone into the barn, and left the little thing to die.

Next Wednesday morning, when I went into the barn, I found the smallest little lamb I ever saw. It had just arrived, and bleated mournfully, but its mother, somewhere close by, gave it not even a glance. It was so weak and small it could not stand. About an hour later, I saw a sheep, No. 207, that seemed about to lamb, so I put her in a pen by herself, and in a short time she had a nice ewe lamb. Then I thought that perhaps the wee lamb was hers also, and put it in with her, but all the little thing got was shoves and butts. Its mother was somewhere, so I went over all the other ewes in the waiting list, and found just one that had milk in her udder, No. 231, the "Climber." She got her name because she always liked to climb to the top of the hay-rick to feed, rather than pull the hay through the slats. So I put the "Climber" and the wee lamb in a spare pen. I had to hold the sheep down on her side and let the lamb suck. Its underpinning was shaky, but its vacuum was great. I named the wee lamb Tiny Tim, but to this, Eleanor demurred. Now, Eleanor has the main oversight of the nomenclature of our flocks and herds. She names the cows, the lambs, and the colts. There was Agnes and Shiny-Bone, Shaky, Shanks, and Beauty. Tiny Tim, she objected, was a boy's name, and the wee lamb was a lady lamb. So we compromised on "Little Dorrit."

I have always had poor success with bottle fed lambs. They would get thin and weak, and then their stomachs would get upset, and that was the end of them. Everyone said not to feed the milk straight. Put water in it; hot water. They explained that cow's milk was too strong. Some said to add a little molasses, as a physic. Another warned against molasses, but advised brown sugar. One old Irish sergeant told me how they used to feed buttermilk to young calves, by putting bakin' soda in it. His argument was that the soda counteracted the acid in the buttermilk, and that the soda in the lamb's milk would prevent the milk from souring in the lamb's stomach. But now that I had this orphan, "Little Dorrit," on my hands, feeling became a live question. No. 231 was not even a good step-mother, and to-day I charge her with heartlessly deserting her own lamb on that Sunday night aforementioned, with the result that it perished. Now, five pounds of sheep's milk makes a pound of cheese, (ugh! I have smelt sheep's cheese,) and it has much more butter fat than cow's milk. I argued then that cow's milk was not too rich, but too poor. But cow's milk "cheeses" quicker in the stomach than sheep's milk. So, with a bottle that held about a cupful, I compromised on orthodoxy, and allowed a scant inch of water. (Instead of half-and-half) and the rest I filled up either with strippings or clear milk, plus a turn or two on the separator or cream. The logical deduction was to add cream to reduce the toughness of the milk curd in the lamb's "tummy."

And Little Dorrit began to grow.

She got steady on her pins. When on her fortnight birthday I clipped off the superfluity of her tail, (you know Little Bo Peep's sheep left their tails behind them) she seemed quite chipper over it. When I added her ear tag, she strutted around with it as an ornament, proud of the fact that she was No. 265. And now she trails round after me like a dog. In fact, when I go after the milk pail she follows me into the kitchen. So much for a daily bottle of cream and a quiet country life.

Does the Car Pay?

D. W. Ingles, Grenville Co., Ont.

THE success or failure of any business depends very largely upon good management and efficiency. Now, when reliable help is so scarce, it pays the farmer to be as efficient as he can. The car assists him in getting his produce to market. With a trailer he can take his cream or milk to the station in a short time and thus get it to its destination in good condition and secure the highest price for it. Further, he can take fruit and other perishable produce to the market quickly. With a horse he would be much harder and besides he would lose a great deal more valuable time when he might be at home doing other necessary work. He would either have to keep a driving horse or else have the horse away from work on the farm. In the winter any of the horses could do the driving, as they are not very busy, but it is different in summer.

In the rush seasons, if anything is broken on the implements, he can go for repairs and be back in a little while. With a horse it might be half a day or more, and the whole time the crop waiting to be attended to. It has often happened that a car has made a considerable saving in this way.

In buying or dealing he can go in his car and see his intended purchase and be back in half the time that he could with a horse and, besides, the car could cover twice the ground. If the car owner lives at a considerable distance from school and the children are too small or not able to walk so far, the farmer's wife can take them and be back in a short while, for short leas buy too. She would not have to hitch up the horse, and the car would be practically safe, whereas many horses are not.

The car saves the farmer's time and, on most farms, time is valuable. The car costs only when it runs, and that not excessively while, with proper care, it will last for years. A horse must be fed all the year round and, with a shortage of food and the consequent high prices of it, this is a point the farmer can well afford to consider.

Indirectly, in a way, it further pays for itself in the amusement that it affords. The farmer takes trips through the neighboring country that he otherwise would not and is able to apply new or different methods on his own place that he has seen in successful operation on the farms of his neighbors and friends. With a horse he would be less likely to go out and more or less inclined to grow conservative toward the newer methods.

One great objection to the country in the past has been its isolation, its grind, as compared to the city. To-day, the auto and the telephone are fast overcoming this and the young people, and those who are no longer young, are glad of the opportunity of being able to attend a show, a lecture, a meeting or church by means of their auto. After one's day's work a spin on a pleasant evening is very refreshing. Taken all in all, the answer to the question, "Does a car pay?" is an emphatic "Yes."

Trade

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