

My Experience with Pure Bred Sires

Malcolm H. Gardiner, Delevan, Wis.

I told in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy of the mistake I made, when a young man, in buying a grade bull, because I did not then understand the great importance of the sire—the influence for good or ill that is vested in the head of the herd. To pay \$150 for a pure bred yearling bull seemed to me the limit of extravagance. Yet when I came to study the matter and think it out in the end, I found my views so changed that I willingly invested \$400 in a pure bred calf. Of course my neighbors quoted the old adage that a fool and his money were soon parted, but I did not think I had done anything foolish and was willing to wait for time to prove that I had acted wisely. If the owners of common herds would realize how fast time flies, and that it only takes a few years to change a common herd into a high grade herd, there would be many more grade herds and a great deal more money made in the dairy business.

In thinking out the matter for myself, I decided that the bull was much more than half the herd, as I must depend wholly on him for its betterment; and I came to the conclusion that I could not afford to buy anything less than the best obtainable. My reasoning was like this: If I can get 20 heifers from the bull that will be better than their dams at like ages by one pound of milk at a milking, so small an amount that only the scales will show it, each will give me an increase of 600 lbs. of milk a year, or 12,000 lbs. for the 20 head. Milk at that time was worth one dollar a hundred, so the 12,000 lbs. would be worth \$120. But I did not expect the usefulness of these animals to be at an end with the one year. The average milking life of a dairy cow well cared for is eight years, and I knew that these cows would be of use to me or some one else for that time, and that instead of \$120 the return would be \$960. I thought the promise well warranted the expenditure of the \$400 I paid for my bull.

A 150 PER CENT INVESTMENT

That I was right time proved, for my grades exceeded their dams in production by fully 2,000 lbs. of milk a year each, and within a year after I disposed of that bull I had, in addition to some I had sold, over 30 heifers and heifer calves. Five years from the time I bought this bull, and solely owing to the introduction of his blood, I found the income from my dairy herd increased by \$600 a year. Did my investment pay?

Now, say young friends who are just taking the management of the old farms upon your shoulders, and you, Messrs. Farmers, who have been milking common cows with little profit for years, why not make a start toward bettering conditions? On an average, half the cows and heifers reported in the Official Tests have lately given birth to bull calves sired by bulls of an equal or higher standing than the dams whose records are given, and the greater part of these bulls can be bought at very moderate prices considering their real value.

RAISE YOUR OWN CALVES

There are men who will say that because they sell their milk to condenseries or for shipping purposes, it is impossible to raise their own cows, and that they must depend upon the drover. It is admitted that when a man holds back whole milk for his calves, the cost of those calves is well impressed upon his mind; yet if he will make this investment for his first crop, that crop when it freshens will produce more than enough milk in excess of the amount produced by its dams to raise its own calves. The investment only goes in on the half-bloods; thereafter the system costs nothing and returns large profits.

Every man who sells whole milk is up against the problem of whether he shall raise his cows or depend upon the drover, and he should be very careful in making his decision lest he choose the greater of the two evils. The Hindus have a proverb touching this point, which translated and verified runs as follows:

He was not very wise, yet he was not quite a fool; he knew the ox might kick; so he stood behind the mule.

The man who depends upon the drover surely gets behind the mule; and financially, he usually gets what is coming to him.

Which is Best Variety of Corn?

Thos. Totton, Essex Co., Ont.

We farmers should all be anxious to get the best seed corn obtainable with the strongest vitality. The grain should be on the ear, well dried, and free from mixture. Fifty cents an acre is not too much to pay for good seed corn. One bushel will plant six acres, the hills being three feet eight inches apart each way.

Ontario is demanding an early variety of seed corn. I would recommend the following varieties: Baily Yellow Dent corn, White Cap Yellow Dent, small, and Silver King (Wisconsin No. 7) White Dent. I have had good results from these varieties and can highly recommend Wisconsin No. 7.

Fifteen hundred of the members of the Wisconsin Experimental Association carried on a test for five years, in which they were advised to put the best corn in their neighborhood up against the No. 7, and they found that they got an average yield of 62 bushels an acre of shelled corn, while the best corn put up against it gave an average yield of 50 bushels; so they had 12 bushels more an acre now from the No. 7 than from the best varieties in common use.

Wisconsin No. 7 is a good corn for ensilage purposes. Its great vigor enables it to stand dry weather remarkably, and owing to its extreme earliness it may be harvested earlier than other dent corns even when planted much later. It has very leafy stalks; the width of the leaf is especially noticeable.

The Confinement of Dairying

E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

The process of reasoning by which some young men reach their conclusions is hard to understand. Some years ago in our neighborhood we had a fine instance of strangely directed reasoning. Two young men were both offered fine farms by their fathers. One young man accepted his father's offer, and to-day he is one of our most prosperous farmers. The other declared that he would not be "tied to a cow's tail all his life," he was "going to be independent—no farming for him." Perhaps it was fore-ordained that he should be tied to a pair of ice tongs and an ice wagon, as he now is in the city of Boston. At any rate he is tied, and tied good and tight. He has to get up good and early in the morning, earlier than any farmer, and if he wants to get off a day he is apt to find just how tight his employer has him tied to that ice wagon. The other fellow can take his family and go for a holiday almost any time he likes, and he has to work no harder than other men.

We must all give our business first attention if we are to make a success of it, but this applies to every business; dairy farming is no exception. I have observed that no man stays closer with his work than the successful business man in town, and we dairymen must do likewise. When we come to talk of the confinement of dairying, I believe that this particular industry has achieved its reputation because the expression "tied to a cow's tail" is so apt. It is much more apt than "tied to the factory whistle" or "chained to an office desk" or "tied to a pair of tongs," but no matter what the business is, the tie is there just the same. I think I would rather be tied down the way that young farmer friend is than be everlastingly taking ice up and down stairs. Those of us who talk about the confinement of dairying would do well to take a few careful observations of conditions in other occupations.

We find that it is much easier to keep the barn clean since we established the litter carrier. The boys and men will work more readily than when they had to trundle a wheel barrow.—E. F. Jones, Simcoe Co., Ont.



Rural Free Delivery, as it is, now in the Country to the South of us

One of the most welcome bits of news from Ottawa at the last session of Parliament was that the Rural Free Mail Delivery service is to be greatly extended in Canada. This service in Canada, as in the United States, has been an unmitigated blessing to the farming community. In the latter country the service has been longer established, and the equipment is more elaborate than in Canada. The mail carrier is supplied with an attractive mail wagon, specially designed for the purpose, as seen in the illustration.

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