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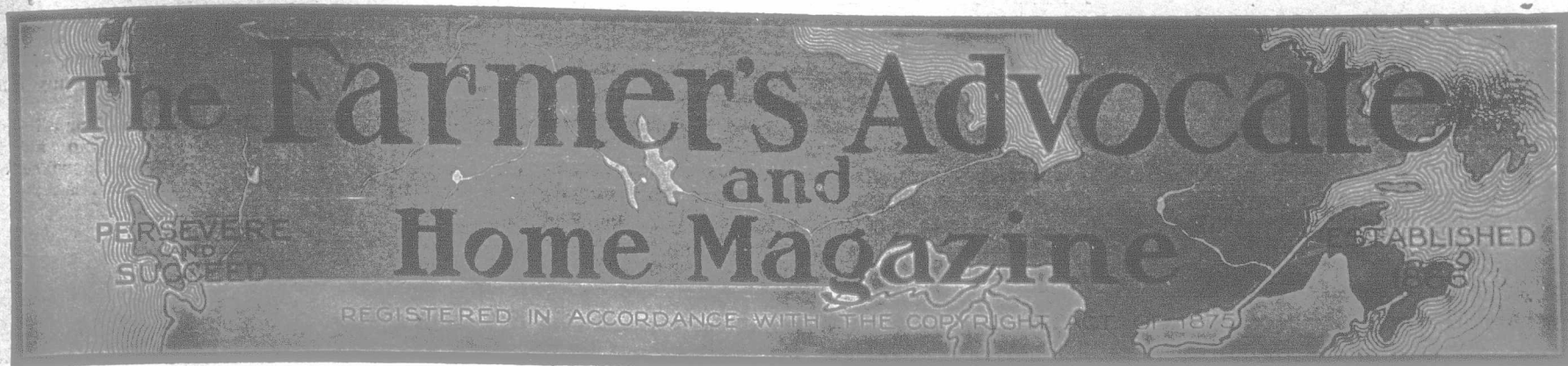
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No. 1065

EDITORIAL.

A new record for late dates in silo filling has been made by a number of farmers near Clarkson, in Peel Co., Ont., who ensiled the first of last season's corn crop the last few days of January.

The ensilage of third-cutting alfalfa mixed with corn is a practice which seems to be commendable for seasons of short corn crop, and poor September hay weather. Under other circumstances we believe the alfalfa might better be made into hay.

One of the best things that can happen rural districts, is the cultivation of a community or neighborhood spirit, with unity of aim and co-operative effort that will in turn develop a worthy pride in the farming and other achievements of the locality.

That public school systems of which so much has been boasted, should tend to the undoing of farming, the country's most essential industry, by becoming one of the chief factors in rural depopulation, is a subject deserving first place on any program of educational reform.

Advertisers when sending in copy for their advertisements, are requested to furnish same on a separate sheet of paper from the correspondence. By so doing, the matter will be more conveniently handled here, and with less danger of being misplaced.

Rev. John McNeil, a distinguished British preacher, now stationed as pastor of a Toronto church, in the course of a recent address at an annual banquet of life insurance men, wound up by proposing a new degree that deserves to crowd some of the other often ornamental initials off the parchment. It was not the "D. D." or "LL. D.," he declared, that a man should seek to have after his name, but "W. D." standing for "well done."

The monthly meat bill is a big item in the city man's cost of living. The farmer can procure a good supply in winter at a much less cost, by killing his own fat stock and keeping a quarter of beef, or mutton, or a side of pork now and then. In summer the co-operative beef ring solves the problem. There is a wide margin between wholesale values on the farm and retail prices in the butcher shop, and as an old Irish saw has it, "There's a sight 'o miscellaneous eatin' in a pig."

When we read of certain feeders reporting better results with alfalfa silage than with corn silage, we wonder what their corn silage is like. Our cattle did better on corn silage, but it was made from heavily eared hill corn, well matured. A Middlesex County correspondent touched this point up about right. He did not think his alfalfa-corn mixture was just as good as first-class silage made from well-cobbed corn, but was better than silage made from corn that was not well-matured or cobbed. Where the proportion of alfalfa was small, even this criticism might not apply. The alfalfa might, in that case, prove an advantage, by tending to balance up the ration.

All Shoulders to the Wheel.

Canada is a big country. She has men of big ideas, and men willing and capable of carrying out these ideas. Canada is a growing and expanding country, and the present is an epoch-making period in the history of many of her industries. Agriculture is the stiff backbone from which radiate all the strong ribs which go to form the framework of our rising nation; but agriculture has not reached its greatest strength, and there is a great opportunity, at the present time, in many different ways to place it on a sounder, more economic basis than it has ever previously attained in this country. It must be kept before the people—not only Canadian-born individuals, but also the countless thousands yearly flocking to our shores.

There are many links which go to make up the chain of "showing" the people agriculture, and one of the best of these is a thoroughly unadulterated agricultural exhibition, where all the "thrillers" come from the farm as live-stock, grain, fruit, or other products. Many of the breed societies in annual meeting discussed the question of what they called a "National" agricultural exhibition, and all were strongly in favor of the project, such exhibition to be held under the patronage of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and run exclusively by farmers, fruit-growers, live-stock men, and the producers of special crops. What an impressive show such could be made.

Such a show, if inaugurated, would of necessity be a winter event. It could not well be held in the autumn, as it would clash with the great fall exhibitions. In short it would be a great winter agricultural exhibition, comprising live-stock (fat and breeding classes) and all the products of the soil. Every province in the Dominion would be represented, and the best Canada produces would be on exhibition. Truly a good way to demonstrate the best types and the best methods in successful agriculture.

A few weeks ago there appeared in these columns an article dealing with the subject of a large winter live-stock show for this country, and the term there used was "International" the idea being to give our American cousins an opportunity to compete. Undoubtedly, whether the exhibition is known as "National" or International, competition from the States of the Union will be invited in the open classes, the same as at the Canadian National Exhibition, held in Toronto, in September. The wider the scope of the show, the greater its interest and value.

What a splendid opportunity this would be for display exhibits from the various provinces, leaving competition altogether out of consideration. Anyone who has attended the great "Land show," held annually in Chicago, could appreciate this fact. Chicago has a National Dairy Show, an International Live-stock Exhibition and a Land Show, the latter representing the products of the soil of the various States. Three wonderful exhibitions. Now Canada does not need three such shows nor yet two of them, but she has a place for one really great exposition combining all three features. Let the representatives of all these interests stand together, and the strength resulting from numbers would be great enough to overcome all obstacles. This great "three in one" is what is needed, and all selfishness of spirit in each of the classes of exhibitors should be banished for the good of the whole.

It is coming. When the influential men begin

to push the matter, something is sure to follow. All plans must be carefully laid, and equipment arranged to accommodate increasing entries from year to year. Patchwork is always unsatisfactory, as has been amply demonstrated time and again.

Situated at the most central point in a city large enough to accommodate the crowds, placed under careful management and above all things run as a strictly agricultural exhibition with fairness, and consideration shown to all, with the agricultural interests standing solidly at the back of it, success is assured.

A Minimum Fat Per-Cent.

The Canadian Jersey Cattle Club at its annual meeting adopted two or three noteworthy resolutions, one being an expression of opinion that no cow should be enrolled in the Canadian Record of Performance unless registered in the Canadian National Records, and yielding milk with an average test of at least three per cent. butter fat.

"Naming no names," it is tolerably safe guessing the mark at which these broad general observations were directed. Without meaning to excite any unbrotherly breed rivalry, we would probably be not far wrong in surmising that there is a spotted "nigger in the woodpile."

So far as registration in the National Records is concerned, it is but fair to point out that the facilities of the Record of Performance scheme were offered to the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association when it was—as it still is—the only breed society in Canada not in the National Records. Protest on this score comes, therefore, too late.

The other position taken by the Jersey breeders opens a nice point for consideration. There is in force a federal standard stipulating that legal whole milk shall contain not less than three and a quarter per cent. (3.25%) of butter fat. The Ontario Milk Act is less exacting, but even it forbids the sale for human consumption of milk containing less than three per cent. fat. Cases are cited by Mr. Reid, Secretary of the Jersey Cattle Club, of cows enrolled in the Holstein official records of production with an average test of less than three per cent. butter fat.

This milk if sold unmixed with the milk of other cows would be, from a legal point of view, adulterated. At least it would not class legally as whole milk. While the average test of any breed of cattle in Canada would run well above three per cent., there are individuals which fall below. Furthermore, without gainsaying the enormous milk-producing and profit-earning capacity of the Holstein cow, it is to be noted that where Holsteins have largely supplanted other breeds, there is a noticeable decrease in the test of the milk, and a persistent increase in the number of pounds of milk required to make a pound of cheese. To the credit of Holstein cattle be it said that there are many good-testing strains, and breeders have shown a commendable enterprise in seeking to diffuse the blood of these strains. We hope this effort will continue, and that by selection the average test of Holstein milk may be raised. Meantime there is something to be said for the Jersey breeders' position, although it would seem rather a hardship to disqualify an eighteen or twenty-thousand-pound cow yielding over five hundred pounds of butter fat, because her own individual milk did not come up to the legal standard. Probably it is