

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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poor man on a substitute and would make more poor men by injuring the dairy business, driving cows off the land, so decreasing fertility, which would in the end mean higher prices for other necessities. As the output of butter grew smaller they would inevitably increase the price of the substitute and make more money.

Over in the United States 145,468,730 lbs. represented the output of oleo in 1915, and this was exceeded by about one million pounds in the fiscal year ending in 1916. The market over there is flooded with butter substitutes, just as our market would be in a short time if the packers had their way. Canada has a small population, but its people have been educated to eat and demand good butter. If oleo got a foothold here and replaced butter on a fair percentage of Canada's tables, the dairy industry must suffer. Canadian dairy products are just beginning to gain a solid place in the British market. It is worth something to be able to say they are pure, and so must remain, for no deceptive substitutes are manufactured in or allowed to enter Canada.

Coloring has been the greatest cause of trouble with the stuff. Manufacturers wanted to make a white, lardy looking article look like butter so they could reap the reward of larger sales. When it was colored to look like butter there was a temptation, not always resisted, to sell it as such. The United States has been legislating against this for years. When that country put legislation into effect to stop its sale as butter, the output of oleo dropped from 126,316,427 lbs. in 1902 to 49,880,982 lbs. in 1905, but by making substitutes almost without number and by spending large sums in advertising, the oleo interests were able to get rid of an output of 145,468,730 lbs. in 1915, and still trouble galore is experienced in keeping the trade from encroaching further than it should upon the rights of pure dairy products.

It may be argued that if only white oleo were let in it could do no harm. Let in the white and watch the manufacturers put all kinds of pressure to bear for the right to color it to look like butter. The white stuff would not find ready sale. Butter's trade mark must be appropriated to sell the substitute. It is much safer not to give in to the few who want oleo, for if they could get the thin

edge of the wedge to "bite" they would use all their "heavy weights" to drive it in to the severing point of free colored oleo.

Some argue that the packers would be able to pay a higher price for Canadian live stock. They might be able, but does anyone think they would do it? The packers who practically ruined the hog industry of Western Canada a few years ago, the packers who set the prices they will pay—they would not be likely to advance the price of beef and pork to the producer if the Government allowed them to manufacture and sell oleo. Neither would they lower the price to the consumer.

Canada had better keep all butter substitutes strictly out. The Canadian farmer and consumer are looking to our Department of Agriculture, which passed the excellent Dairy Act at present in force, to keep the bars up against oleo. The Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, J. A. Ruddick, as adviser to the Hon. Martin Burrell on dairy matters, will have the backing of all those interested in Canadian dairying and pure dairy products if he stands out firmly as he has done in the past against any possible encroachment of butter substitutes. The policy of dairymen is clear cut and their stand is strong and right. Oleo is an undesirable and undesirable are debarred from entering Canada.

Sound Sense on the Food Question.

In these days when city writers are clamoring for legislation and government action to bring down the cost of living, accusing farmers, cold-storage owners, all producers and dealers in foodstuffs of "holding up" prices, it is a treat to read in a city paper a fair and square common-sense article on the question. Such we reproduce here from the Toronto Saturday Night:

"Those who indulge themselves with the idea that Government can do everything, from regulating the price of gasoline to taking the squeak out of the town pump, are now demanding that the Federal authorities get after the high cost of living, and amputate the same somewhere around the waist line. Very easy to suggest, but very hard to accomplish. Food values, like other values, follow the lines of least resistance, which happen to be upward, for the very good reason that food is scarce. Ottawa reports that eggs, while scarce, and high as we know, are being consumed in Canada in larger quantities this year than last. The Western world has half a wheat crop, while the Eastern world, under present war conditions, is eating more wheat than ever, and is, of course, producing less. Millions of dollars' worth of meats are being shipped from Canada to England. When Pat Burns or some other packer gets an order for three or four million dollars' worth of hogs for foreign consumption, only one thing can happen, the price advances. And still newspapers, seeking popularity with the "peepul," argue that the Government must do something. But what will it do? Stop Pat Burns from shipping his hogs? Will the Prime Minister start on a tour of the country educating the hens on lines of greater production? Will we appoint Sir Sam Hughes Keeper in Ordinary of the beef cattle, so that the meat, neatly enclosed in tin cans, will not reach the trenches? Will the Minister of Agriculture Burbank our cows so that they will have calves in litters in place of one at a time? Perhaps Sir Tom White will, in his idle moments, if he ever has any, write a monograph on how to grow winter wheat in the winter-time. Two crops a year would help some.

"Some newspapers naively suggest—of course they are Opposition newspapers—that the Government unhook a bottle of horns by commandeering the Western farmers' wheat. If any public man suggested such a thing between Winnipeg and the Rockies and got away with his life he would be fortunate, particularly in view of the fact that Western wheat-growers have been holding and are still holding, for higher prices, which are very likely to be achieved before the year is out. Fancy putting such a proposal before Hon. Bob Rogers for his sanction! "Forget it, boys; forget it," saith the Hon. Bob.

"When all else fails, these Davids who would slay the H. C. L. giant, set their slings for the cold-storage warehouses. By the very nature of its business cold storage cannot be a monopoly. Cold-storage machinery can be bought by anybody and operated by any mechanic. There is no deep secret about it. Plants are spread over the country from coast to coast, big and small. Some in the hands of individual owners, others in the hands of large packing corporations, who operate them for their own use. As a matter of fact cold storage is one of the greatest boons we have. It gives us perishable winter foods, such as oysters, in summer, and perishable summer foods in winter. Every city and large town has its cold storage plants, the owners of which are out looking for business. The lowest bidder gets it. There is plenty of competition, so excessive prices cannot be maintained. From the standpoint of economy, cold storage plants are among our greatest boons. They allow of the preservation of foods, so that there is practically no waste, and by its means we have the benefit of many foods the year through, which before the advent of cold storage were unknown luxuries, except for a brief period of the year.

"If we must live luxuriously we must pay the price. But we are not prepared to go back to the plain living

of a generation ago when porridge was a habit, rather than a diet, when new-laid eggs in a city were about as scarce as hen's teeth, to the time when mother patched and father cobbled, and home-made haircuts were not unknown.

"If the world went on to a malted-milk-rye-bread diet for a spell, food prices would fall, but so long as we keep on consuming more than is produced we must anticipate higher and still higher prices. It is a condition for which this great world war is to blame, and no man or government can alter it one iota."

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

The commonest large animal in most parts of Canada is undoubtedly the Northern Deer, which is found in the wooded parts of the country from New Brunswick to the Rockies. This species, while it has disappeared from the thickly settled districts, is not only holding its own, but increasing in some localities.

The Northern Deer differs in color at different times of the year. In summer its coat is reddish brown and the hair is comparatively short, in winter it is gray and the hair is longer and coarser.

Individuals of this species vary a great deal in size, some attaining a weight of four hundred pounds, though the average weight of a buck is about two hundred pounds, and of a doe a hundred and fifty.

The bucks only have antlers which are shed yearly. Contrary to popular belief the number of points on the antlers is no sure guide to the age, though commonly five points are found on a buck six years old. The largest number of points recorded is 78 on the pair of antlers. The antlers are shed in January and in about six weeks the new antlers appear and grow until August when they are complete. They are then "in the velvet" but by the middle of September the buck has scraped them clean and polished them.

The main senses of the Deer are scent and hearing, both of which are remarkably acute. The sense of sight is not at all keen, and seems only to take notice of moving objects.

As a rule this species is a silent animal, though both the fawn and its mother have a low bleat which they use in calling each other, and the bucks sometimes utter a snort or else a shrill whistling note.

The number of young born at a time depends upon the age and vigor of the doe. A young doe usually has one fawn when two years old, and next year has two, this being the usual number of young, though triplets are not of rare occurrence. The weight of the fawn at birth is about four and a half pounds. The young are born about the middle of May, and for a month they are left by the mother in the thicket in which they were born while she goes forth to eat and drink, visiting them however half a dozen times a day to suckle them. The fawns, in their first coat are dull reddish-yellow, spotted with white, and this color-scheme renders them very inconspicuous as they lie perfectly motionless in their retreat.

At the end of June or beginning of July the fawns begin to follow their mother, and in September are weaned and lose their spotted coat.

During the summer the Northern Deer feeds on grass, herbs, aquatic plants and the leaves of deciduous trees. In the fall it eats quantities of acorns and beechnuts, upon which fare it very soon fattens up. In the winter it feeds mainly on the twigs and buds of trees and shrubs, the foliage of conifers, mosses and lichens, and on beechnuts which it paws up from beneath the snow.

The usual gait of the Deer is by low, smooth bounds, which carry it along at about twenty-eight miles and hour. It can take very high jumps and can clear a five-foot fence with ease.

This species is a strong swimmer, and can make a speed of four miles per hour in the water. It places great reliance in its swimming powers, and when pursued it almost invariably makes for the nearest water.

In the mating season in November the bucks fight frequent duels. A typical duel is thus described by Caton, quoted by Seton, as follows: "The battle was joined by a rush together like rams, their faces bowed nearly to a level with the ground, when the clash of horns could have been heard at a great distance; but they did not fall back again to repeat the shock as is usual with rams, but the battle was continued by pushing, guarding and attempting to break down each other's guard, and goading whenever a chance could be got, which was very rare. It was a trial of strength and endurance, assisted by skill in fencing and activity. The contest lasted for two hours without the animals being once separated, during which they fought over perhaps half an acre of ground. So evenly matched were they that both were nearly exhausted, when one at last suddenly turned tail and fled, his adversary pursuing him but a little way. I could not detect a scratch upon either sufficient to scrape off the hair and the only punishment inflicted was fatigue and a consciousness of defeat by the vanquished."

Sometimes, however, these duels have a fatal termination for both parties as their antlers become intricately interlocked, and both die of starvation, unless death comes more quickly in the shape of a wolf or other large flesh-eater.

The chief enemy of the Northern Deer is the Timber Wolf, and the reduction by man in the number of wolves is the main reason for the increase of Deer in many localities.

Take a hint from the market reports: "Present demand is for the better grades." Breed better stock.

Some men

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