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Pasture Notes.**UNDERFEEDING THE DAIRY COW IS
UNPROFITABLE.**

Underfeeding a dairy cow is a waste of feed, effort and money invested; yet this is one of the most common mistakes that dairymen make. Some dairymen are born poor feeders. Some acquire the practice of stinting their cows, thinking it is economy, while others have this misfortune thrust upon them because of the shortage and high prices of feed. But when we consider that dairying is primarily a matter of converting feed into milk the fallacy of such a course is apparent.

To enable her to produce to full capacity a dairy cow should have, not only a sufficient amount of feed, but a ration meets necessary to produce milk and but that is palatable and containing the element. There is less danger of loss in overfeeding a dairy cow than any other animal because one of the chief characteristics of the dairy cow of quality is to make use of all the feed given her. If conditions are such that immediate returns are not possible she stores it up in the form of bodily strength and fat which will be accounted for in her next lactation period. This applies not only to the producing cow, but to the dry cow as well. If she is well-fed while dry and she begins her year's work in good condition that extra feed will show up on the cream check.

Underfed, impoverished cows are always unprofitable. The less number of cows kept to produce a given amount of milk, the greater the profit there will be for the owner. In other words, why keep two cows when the same amount of feed given to one will produce as much as both. By proper feeding two cows can be kept in one hide.

This is illustrated by a two years' record of a herd that changed owners at the end of the first year. The herd consisted of nine cows which produced 1,409 pounds of butterfat the first year. The second year they produced 2,717 pounds of fat—the same cows, but a different owner. The records do not show the difference in profits, but without doubt an increased production brought increased profits and greater satisfaction to the owner.

MILKING SHED.

If possible, a dry level piece of ground with sufficient elevation to provide fall for drainage should be chosen. Should it be necessary to build the shed on a slope it is best to have fall from the back of the shed to the yard, but abrupt slopes should be avoided if possible. Where the slope is from the shed to the yard it is best to excavate the shed-site to a firm bottom. Fillings are liable to sink and crack the concrete floor. A drain must be provided at the foot of the bank formed by the excavation, to carry off surface and storm water and prevent it running through the shed. Where the slope is in the opposite direction—that is, from the yard to the shed—a gutter will be required along the front of the building, otherwise the dirt from the yard will work down into the shed, especially if the yard is not concreted.

The practice of discharging drainage into a creek has several objectionable features. It is a waste of valuable manure, and, further it will contaminate the water, which is probably being used by some one lower down. The water-supply of many dairy factories is drawn from open streams, so that a serious position might easily arise from this cause. A liquid-manure tank of concrete, or portable one on a sledge, is much better.

An adequate and permanent water-supply is an absolute necessity in a dairy, and consequently this point must be considered in choosing a site. Where a gravitation supply is available it can be piped to the site which has the most advantages in other respects, but where the supply depends on pumping its source is of first importance. Defects in other respects can usually be got over, though it may cost a little more money, but a defective water-supply is a never-ending cause of expense and annoyance. A shed with a poor supply of water is usually a dirty one, and the milk received from it is consequently defective. A rain-water supply is seldom satisfactory, as it usually gives out just when it is most needed. Well-water is best, on account of its suitability for cooling milk and cream, but, failing that, a running stream is a good substitute.

In laying out the building the shed should be placed so that the prevailing wind will come from the back, or at an angle over the far corner of the separator-room. This will blow any smell from the shed or engine-exhaust away from the separator-room.

GARDEN NOTES.**THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.**

Seed sowing should be done with caution during these few weeks, unless in warm situations, in which such things as radish, onion, lettuce, carrot, spinach, and cabbage may be sown, as being early is a great point here, and indeed one cannot well be too early with these.

Rhubarb should be got in as expeditiously as possible on favourable occasions. Plant on well-prepared and well-manured ground. As this crop is a permanent one, it pays to be liberal at the outset. Use good crowns and plant just deep enough to see the crown above the surface. An important point to bear in mind is not to pick any stalks the first season. This will pay in the long run, for they cannot make growth so long as their stems are picked off.

Artichokes may be planted at any time now, weather permitting.

Asparagus beds should have a good coat of manure, if this has not already been done. A good dusting of salt over the manure is a valuable assistance, as asparagus is particularly fond of salt, but this should not be overdone—10lb should do a bed 40ft by 4ft.

Cabbage may be planted out as weather permits.

THE VINERY.

Lose no time in getting vines pruned and cleaned up so that the house or vinery may get a good cleansing and fumigating with sulphur, to clear away insect pests. Remember that starting time is approaching rapidly, this being about five weeks hence, so the sooner this work is completed the better, to give the wounds time to heal before the sap rises, or the vines may be troubled with bleeding. If sulphur be used for a fumigant, see that no pot plants or green plants of any description are left in the vinery whilst fumigating, or they will be destroyed.

Generally about the first week in September is a good time to start off the vines; then close up the house, tie up the canes, give the border a good dressing with manure and a good watering, and ventilate only when required. Advice upon this will be given later on.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE N.Z.R.S.A.**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE
DOMINION CONFERENCE.**

At the commencement of another year may I send a personal message to all local associations and to every individual member of the association?

The Association needs some shaking-up and I believe there should go forth a clarion call pointing to where our real duty lies in future national usefulness and reconstruction.

The Returned Soldiers' Association is to-day a power for good in the land. Our beginning was in small things, and was buried in small things, but there are wider spheres of usefulness ahead of us all. It has been suggested that the Association will die a natural death. I do not believe it; and on the contrary, I believe it will rise, Phoenix-like, out of the ashes of internal dissension to a greater and higher level of national usefulness after the settlement of all the problems immediately before us is accomplished.

We have won the position we hold to-day by the strength of our minds and our purposes, and by the right of those who have borne arms. The future of the Association lies in our hands, to make or to mar. I personally do not regard my responsibility lightly—rather do I hold it as a very sacred trust, a trust held for ex-soldiers as such, and also for the Dominion; a trust that should occupy one's very best endeavours and engage one's best hopes.

I would impress upon all members of the Association that the future usefulness of the Association is in the hands of each individual, and the purport of my message is summed up in that ideal: "The greatest good for the greatest number."

Individual members may desire to take a strong, and perhaps head-strong course in certain directions, but we must all realise that it is necessary to look upon our actions and desires in the light of how the Dominion as a whole would view our ideas and intentions.

THINK IMPERIALLY.

Learn to think imperially, study history with the map spread before you, and realise the greatness of the Empire of which we are a co-ordinated part. Above all, realise that we—you and I—are taking part in the World's progress.

In past eras of our history the cry was, "For God and Merrie England," but now

I would urge, rather, that our prayer should be, "For God and the World."

It is for the realisation of this ideal that we must all ultimately strive, else all would be but failure.

In the travail of the past years of war—the travail of the soul of the world—we all hoped that a child of best intentions would have been born and known as Peace—a League of Nations that should insist on peace between the nations, and that there should no longer exist the rights of man to slay his fellows. But that stupendous birth was stillborn, and we can to-day sense the sorrow of the nations that the travail of the world should have been of no avail. There is a nation that made all useless—a nation which will accept no mandate to govern and reconstruct after war's awful blight, which has retired within its own borders and forgets the cry of the stricken.

So it comes about that, for the future, whether we wish it or not, we shall have to see to it that we do not relax from the position of being able to defend both ourselves and the lesser and weaker nations.

On whom fall the mandates of the world, if not upon those who have already borne the stress and strain of five years of world-war? Our Empire is the policeman of the world! There is no escape. Dare we refuse the trust which God has given? to be prepared to go through that which

As parents of the future we will have our parents went through when they yielded us into the King's keeping, and gave us to the Empire, and all which that Empire stands for. This will be our greatest personal sacrifice, but I take it that there will be no sacrifice that we shall refuse for the sake of the Empire.

Our parents did not falter, and are we of lesser stuff than they? Seventeen thousand of our comrades are missing to-day, and we, in the future, must be prepared, if need be, to yield our sons of to-day to the Destroyer, in defence of home and Empire, and for the good of humanity.

War may not come—pray God it never will—but the only way to prevent it coming is for each member of the Empire to think imperially and so prepare that it will be impossible for another to attack us again. Alone, on the very borders of the Empire, and comparatively defenceless, the military forces of the Dominion are known as "Defence." Our object is defence, not offence, and for defence we have striven, and for defence the Empire stands.

THINK NATIONALLY.

Turning from the wider viewpoint to New Zealand itself, I would urge members to think nationally. Remember that all of us are once more civilians, and that it is 'up to us' to do our best in construction on wider lines, just as it was 'up to us' to go to all lengths when our nationhood was attacked. Remember that, having yielded willing service with the forces of the Crown, we did not do one iota more than our obvious duty. Remember that, if we served, others wept—that the duty required of us as men did but vary in detail and degree with the duty required of all. Remember that we returned soldiers are but ten per cent. of the population of this land and that the remaining ninety per cent. have to bear the burden of the repatriation of that ten per cent.

THINK ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

Think enthusiastically of the work of our Association in the past, the present and for the future. We have created something to be entirely proud of. I believe that if there were more enthusiasm, more would be done. The basic idea should be, not "How much good can I get out of the Association and its activities?" but rather, "How much good can I do for the incapacitated and stricken soldier and his dependents."

There has been self-seeking amongst our members—let us see to it that we seek others' good and not our own. The past has been more than justified, and it is for us to justify the future.

Lift up your eyes to the ranges of future generations and see that from those high levels comes the salvation of the generations born and still unborn. Make it our religion to live and strive for others, for the stricken and their dependents. So will you find your own souls and learn the true joy of life.

(Signed) ERNEST BOXER,
President.

Hunger-striking is not the modern development most people think. In the seventeenth century, Evelyn, the diarist, discovered cases, and made notes of them. "I had the curiosity to visit some Quakers here in prison," he wrote of a visit he made to Ipswich in July, 1656, "a new fanatic set, of dangerous principles, who show no respect to any man, magistrate or other. . . . One of these was said to have fasted twenty days; but another, endeavouring to do the like, perished on the tenth, when he would have eaten, but could not."

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