



*Dairying country.*

tasks, mainly maintenance, such as harrowing and weeding; harvesting of hay; wood-cutting; sundry repairs to fencing, gates, outhouses, and so on; carting shingle for muddy gateways; gardening; digging and clearing of drains; top-dressing; and many other odd jobs that crop up on such a place. The midday meal is taken at 12 o'clock, and the evening milking is begun at 4.30 p.m., so that normally the days' round should end by 6.30 or 7 p.m.

Hay is harvested during the months of December and January, and the farmers of the neighbourhood usually co-operate in this work, both in labour and in the use of equipment, keeping down what would be otherwise high costs. This spirit of co-operation, shown in harvesting, is also seen in many other ways among country folk, especially in times of sickness or hardship.

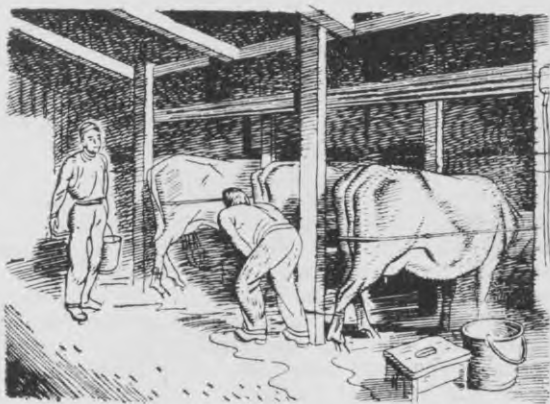
The most important task, is of course, that of getting the cows milked, but the whole herd need only be milked twice a day for about ten months of the year. Various cows are brought in late in the year, and some early, so that for about two months during the "dry" period enough cows—from eight to ten—are in milk to carry the farm over until spring.

Winter is used for general maintenance-work and preparation for

spring and calving. Even the concreting work around the farm, such as in the milking-sheds and sties, can be done by an industrious and enterprising farmer, and, of course, during the cold weather one of the boons of afforestation is a plentiful supply of firewood.

### **Planning the Day**

It can be appreciated that a day on a dairy-farm could be an exhausting round of drudgery, but looking ahead and planning against the unlooked-for can reduce it to a fairly predictable routine. Sound workmanship right at the beginning is all important, of course, and pays



*Milking time.*