New Head for C.P.R. Demonstration Farms

G. H. HUTTON.

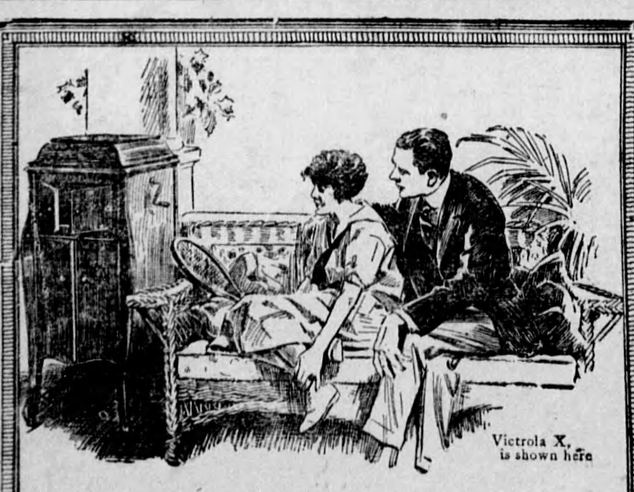
IN being able to secure the services of George H. Hutton, B.S.A., as Superintendent of its Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch, the Canadian Pacific Railway is to be congratulated in finding a worthy successor to Dr. J. G. Rutherford, who has been appointed to a seat on the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. Dr. Rutherford, who has been a prominent figure in livestock circles all over the continent for many years, has been head of this branch for more than six years, during which period he earned the esteem of farmers, stockmen and others throughout the country, and many farmers in Western Canada owe a large measure of their success to the advice and assistance given by him. His successor, Mr. Hutton, has had considerable experience in Western Canada, and few men are better informed than he on the agricultural possibilities of Western Canada, and particularly of Alberta. Since 1906 he has been in charge of the Dominion Government's Experimental Station at Lacombe in Central Alberta, where his work, especially in connection with livestock, has been of the utmost value to farmers throughout the province and elsewhere in the Canadian West.

Mr. Hutton has been connected with farming so long that he does not remember when he first began. He is a thoroughly practical farmer. During his boyhood days he did those tasks which usually fall to the lot of a boy brought up on the farm. Later he went to college where he obtained his B.S.A. degree, in 1900. After operating a farm of his own in Eastern Canada for about six years, he went West to take charge of the Government's Experimental Station, which he is now leaving to take up his appointment with the Canadian Pacific. He is known throughout Western Canada as one of the foremost agriculturists in the country, and his activities in connection with the live stock industry may be gathered from the fact that he is president, vice-president or past president of six different breeders associations, besides holding numerous directorships.

Few men have done more than he in promoting mixed farming methods among the farmers of Central Alberta. This he has done by showing the immense possibilities of the country and by proving in the practical manner how favorable the conditions are for the raising of live stock and dairying. Sent to Lacombe to operate the Government Experimental Farm there with a view to ascertaining and demonstrating the varieties of grains, grasses, fruits, and vegetables most suitable to local conditions, and the best methods to employ to secure most economical results, he soon saw that if there was a great and useful field in this work, there was also a very valuable one in the live stock industry in all its phases. He accordingly suggested to the Department of Agriculture that the work of the station should include experimentation with livestock in addition to grains and other crops, and succeeded in convincing the head of the department of the merits of this suggestion. From small beginnings, Mr. Hutton and his assistants have built up at Lacombe the largest flocks and herds of any experimental station in Canada, with the possible exception of the Central Farm at Ottawa.

The information gained as a result of the experiments conducted at Lacombe have been very valuable to farmers throughout Western Canada. Hog-raising, sheep-feeding, beef and milk production are all subjects that have had most careful attention. During the last three years more than three thousand hogs have been used on the farm in tests of various breeds to ascertain which were the most economical pork producers under local conditions. In a grading-up experiment with sheep now being conducted more than four hundred ewes are included. An excellent herd of Angus cattle has also been established, and the foundations laid for a first class herd of Holsteins. From the sale of live stock, the farm has a revenue running into many thousands of dollars annually.

Mr. Hutton's work with the Canadian Pacific will be along lines similar to those along which he has previously been engaged. His new duties will include the supervision of the system of demonstration farms operated by this company, at which settlers in Western Canada may receive advice, based on the experience of many years as to the best farming methods to employ, thus giving the new settler a chance to avoid many of the mistakes likely to be made by farmers coming from a country where different conditions prevail. Probably no other private company land—railway or any other kind—in any country has spent so large a sum or taken so great an interest in getting the farmer started right as has the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the appointment of a man of Mr. Hutton's ability and experience to be the head of its Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch indicates that no change in this policy is contemplated.



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Raise All the Dairy Calves You Possibly Can.

We should Strive to Double Our Cow Population In the Next Ten Years—More Immediate, and Larger Cash Returns, Secured by Sale of Milk Than of Cream Where Location Is Favorable.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

FOR the farmer who is raising hogs, one of the greatest problems is summer pasture. A new luxuriant growth of green grass is soon eaten off when the dry hot season comes and it is just at this time when the stockman needs some form of succulent feed for his stock. When the stock are running on pasture they are getting back to nature and there is nothing like good green feed as a conditioner for the animals.

As for forage crops in this country alfalfa and rape seem to give the best results, although anything that will produce a good green growth in a dry season is all right. Wherever alfalfa will grow it gives the best kind of permanent pasture for pigs, as there is no danger from bloat as is the case of sheep and cattle. Alfalfa provides pasture for a greater length of time than any of the grasses and is green and succulent even when red clover has become somewhat dried and woody.

Heavy pasturing of alfalfa is not good for it and consequently the number of animals allowed to pasture on it should be restricted and the plants should be allowed to grow up and be cut two or three times a season. Pigs, fed corn alone on alfalfa pasture, make fairly satisfactory gains since the protein in the alfalfa helps to balance up the deficiences in corn, although for best results a little of some nitrogenous concentrates should be fed. Red clover in the country gives very excellent results as a pasture for pigs, for the reason that it can be grown in a great many localities where alfalfa cannot be raised at all and consequently it's great value. At one of the Experimental Stations in the States, red clover was inferior only to alfalfa, while at another it was found that it was surpassed only by alfalfa and rape.

As an annual pasture for swine nothing surpasses rape. It can be sown both early and late in the season and as a consequence forage may be provided for at any time. To get the best results from rape, it should be sown in the spring and allowed to obtain a height of twelve to fourteen inches before turning the animals in. Care should be taken not to allow the plants to be eaten off too closely as the young plants do not get a chance to recuperate. To guard against this it would be wise to provide a second plot where the animals could be turned in for a time. Rape is also grown in conjunction with oats or with oats and field pease, and some authorities rank rape and oats next to alfalfa and red clover for pig pasture.

For young pigs in pasture it is not wise to force them to subsist on what they can get. They should be fed a little grain. Pigs that are being pastured for the purpose of fattening latter should have a limited grain ration, as this system of feeding has been found most economical. —J. C. McBeath, B.S.A., O. A. College, Guelph.

Shall I Rear Dairy Calves In 1919?

In brief, raise all the heifer calves for which there is feed, labor, and stable-room. More and better cows are needed in Ontario. The number of milk-cows in the province has remained stationary at about one million, for a good many years. There is no good reason why this number should not be doubled in the next ten years, but it can be done only by rearing or buying. Buying cows is expensive and risky. It is a far better plan to raise cows. This means that all the best heifer calves should be saved for future cows. As it requires from three to four years to change calves into cows, in order to double the cow population in ten years, making allowances for necessary discards, we need to begin right away, in order to attain the desired object.

The average number of cows per 100 acres of farm land in Canada is but two, whereas in Denmark it is fourteen, and in Holland sixteen. We have a long way to go in rearing cows, before we have anywhere near the number which are found in the best European dairy countries. There is but one economical way to attain this result, and that is by raising practically all the heifer calves dropped during the next ten years and as many pure-bred calves of excellent ancestry, as may be required for breeding purposes.

Shall I Sell Milk or Cream?

This will be determined to a large extent by the character of the farming operations. If the need for direct, quick cash in largest amount, is great, then selling milk will best "fill the bill." On the other hand, if the dairy farmer can afford to wait for the slower returns from cream and live-stock, and particularly if he desires to improve or maintain soil fertility, then selling cream is to be recommended.

Nearness to market is another factor. Where the dairyman is near a small town and had the time to "peddle" milk, he can make more money out of his cows than by any other system. At ten to twelve cents a quart, a good cow will return from $250 to $300 per year for her milk. When this is compared with $190 to $150 per cow, where cream is sold, or milk sent to a cheese factory or condensery, we see what a decided money advantage there is in selling milk to customers direct. -- Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

GREAT PEACH SHORTAGE

Disease Has Ravished Orchards in Niagara District.

Cheap and Effective Home-made Remedies to Combat the Fly Nuisance—Especial Care Required In Case of Dairy Cattle—Care Must Be Taken to Prevent Sun-Scald of Pigs During the Hot Weather—Prevention and Treatment Explained by Expert.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

NO fruit tree disease this year has been so conspicuous and so injurious as the Leaf Curl of Peaches. In early June more than half of the peach orchards between Beamsville and St. Catharines and many orchards in other localities were so badly affected that almost every leaf was distorted, swollen and turning a brownish color. Most of these trees will not enter winter nearly so healthy nor bear so large a crop next year as if they had not been attacked by the Leaf Curl.

Control.

This year's experience, though a hard one, will doubtless be of much value to the fruit grower, for it has shown as perhaps seldom before the great importance of early spraying of peaches to prevent Leaf Curl. By early we mean before the leaf buds have begun to swell. Sometimes late spraying, that is spraying after the buds have begun to swell, will control the disease, but it will only do so where the wet weather does not come until after the spraying. A single day's rain would not of course be sufficient to start the disease. It takes several days of moist weather. There is good evidence that even fall spraying after the leaves have dropped will also control it.

The best mixture to use is lime-sulphur about 1 gallon to 7 gallons of water. Soluble sulphur 12½ pounds to 40 gallons of water will also control the disease, but is not so popular with the growers as the lime-sulphur. — L. Caesar, B.S.A., O. A. College, Guelph.

Fly Remedies.

The fly, like the poor, is always with us in summer-time. In spite of many campaigns having for their slogan, "Swat the fly," he is still with us, and likely to be until the end of time.

Flies are a terrible nuisance in the home, in the dairy and in the stable. They torment the very life out of cows. It is strange that man with all his inventive genius, has not yet been able to overcome his agile enemy, the fly.

Up to the present, no very satisfactory remedy for cow-flies has been worked out. The most we can do is to apply something which keeps them off the cows for a time. The number of fly remedies is legion. There are several very good patent remedies.

A good home-made mixture consists of two quarts of fish-oil or any kind of cheap oil or grease, one-half pint coal-oil, and four tablespoonfuls of crude carbolic acid, thoroughly mixed and applied to all parts of the cow except udder and teats, by means of a cloth or brush. This quantity will coat twenty-five cows, and unless there be rain soon after applying, one coating will last a week. (Leave out the coal-oil for calves.)

Lighter mixtures, containing creosol, zenoleum, etc., may be sprayed on daily. If done before milking, great care is needed, else the milk will become tainted. — Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

"Protecting Pigs From Sunscald."

Now that the hot summer weather has come those who own light colored pigs are beginning to complain of sunburn or sunscald. This condition of the hide of the animal is similar to that of people; it gives the same degree of uncomfortableness to the pig and is caused in the same manner. Consequently, the same method of prevention and treatment may be carried out.

In the first place, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the prevention is shelter. No matter what kind of stock is in the pasture, shade is essential, and much more so is it for pigs on account of the thin coating of hair on their bodies. If the pasture for pigs is so situated that there are no trees to afford shade to the animals it would be just as well to keep them shut up during the hottest parts of the day and allow them to run out during the evening, night and early morning hours. By keeping them in a pen that is somewhat darkened, they miss both the hot rays of the sun and the flies that are always so bad around a stable of any kind, during the hot weather.

Some people provide a "hog wallow" in their pasture which is a very good thing, but the location should be some place in the shade, as it is a well-known fact that the hide will blister far quicker when wet than when dry. A pig seems to think that a wallow is an essential thing, and if he persuades the farmer into thinking the same, the farmer should lead him to believe that during the heat of the day it is the best time to keep out of it.

If the pigs have become sunburned at all, it is well to keep them inside for a few days and thoroughly grease their bodies, with some nice smooth grease such as vaseline. The grease tends to keep the air from the irritated skin and ease the uncomfortableness of the animal. Vaseline also has a wonderful healing and curative property which makes it preferable in such cases. — J. C. McBeath, B.S.A., O. A. College, Guelph.

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