

## JOYS OF THE STOCKMAN'S LIFE.

Mr. French Writes on the Pleasures of Dealing With Animals and Growing Things—No. 34 of the Sunny Home Stock Talks.

Messrs. Editors: The writer does not possess all the characteristics deemed essential in a preacher, but as you have furnished an excellent text in the July 26th issue of The Progressive Farmer, I want to enlarge upon it a little from the standpoint of the stock farmer. The text referred to is the "Thought for the Week," an extract from the writings of Old Gorgan Graham: "It's good to have money and the things that money will buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in awhile and make sure you hain't lost the things that money won't buy."

There is money to be made now in all branches of farming, and this is certainly true as regards the branch known as live stock farming, but a great many men are going into the breeding and feeding of live stock who are going to meet with partial disappointment simply because their whole interest in the stock business centers around the dollar to be made out of it.

Now, the writer knows from a lifetime experience in handling live stock that there are other things that will afford the true man as much (if not more) pleasure than the dollars he pockets when his pets have to go on the market.

Has he not visited the barn or fields, lantern in hand, at all times of night to see that these little things he expects later to have the care of, get their start in life without any mishaps?

The natural instinct of our domestic animals is something wonderful to contemplate. At night many a time—when sudden storm or flood has overtaken the new-born animal in the field—has the writer known a wild, nervous heifer to follow the stockman half a mile to the barn because he has her little one in his arms and she feels that she must go where he goes. And how her great eyes express her relief when the little one, all safe and sound, is deposited on a good bed of straw in a warm box stall! And with what jealous care she follows the youngster when, with tail in air, he takes his first spin around the pasture with the other calves! Before this time the stockman will have formed a pretty good opinion as to whether the young calf has the making of a great herd bull or whether he must go in the class with the other ninety-and-nine as good average animals. Then the development of the young animal affords interest daily. Just hear him some day when in a distant pasture he hears his "daddy" roaring, and for the first time answers him in his kind. The effort would be mirth-provoking if only for the genuine earnestness with which he gives the challenge. It reminds us of our youthful days when from a safe distance we replied, "You're 'nother," to an older boy.

Then there is the pleasure of going about the pasture among the cattle and sheep in the evening when the day's work is done. How the cows and heifers gather about me reaching their long black tongues out after salt or some other dainty. Perhaps lady Nosegay will be caught chewing up the stockman's sweaty overalls, or perchance, will be felt the gentle thud of Sir Richard butting said overalls if the salt doesn't come his way fast enough.

Then when the stockman visits the barn the last thing before going to bed, what a real pleasure it is to hear the puff and grunt of the well-fed animals. Of course mingled with these may be the tones of anger with

which the adventurous porker may protest when being nosed about by the cows or steers, but then we may console ourselves with the thought that he is only one of the lowly ones, and ought not to protest when cuffed about by those mightier than he.

Then there is the pleasure the stockman may have in contemplating the beauties of his green pastures (and there is nothing in nature more beautiful than a gently rolling green pasture), his well-kept fields of forage crops, his whole farm increasing in productiveness year by year.

'Tis a busy life, to be sure, but contrast it with the life led by the "cropper" whose only hope is to wring a few more dollars out of patient mother earth and who is obliged to leave the farm in order to live his real life, since there is nothing in his narrow business that appeals to his higher nature.

If you want to make your business part of your life, young man, consider earnestly the claims of live stock farming in its its fullest sense. Indeed, it is the ideal life.

A. L. FRENCH.

R. F. D. 2, Byrdville, Va.

### FIGHTING THE CATTLE TICK IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The South Carolina Live Stock Association is Anxious to Have the Palmetto State Take Up the Progressive Work Now Being Done in North Carolina.

The following statement in reference to the cattle tick is being circulated by the South Carolina Live Stock Association and speaks for itself:

"The common cattle tick is a familiar sight to all our people, but very few outside of those engaged in the cattle business realize the important part it plays in hindering the development of the cattle industry in the State. The cattle tick carries the "germ" that causes Texas fever, a disease very fatal to grown cattle. Cattle that are raised on land infested with ticks are inoculated with the germ by becoming infested with ticks immediately after birth. At this age they suffer a very mild attack of the disease with no visible external symptoms and after they have passed through it they are then proof against the infection and can be exposed to ticks later in life without harm. But if cattle are raised on land where there are no ticks and afterwards moved to tick-infested lands, they will become infested with the disease. They will also suffer from the disease if they remain on the land on which they were raised and tick-infested cattle are introduced among them.

"Because of these facts the Federal Government has established a quarantine line across the country dividing the regions infested with ticks from those in which there are no ticks. No cattle can be moved from the tick-infested regions across this quarantine except when they are being shipped, for butchering, to a slaughter-house which has direct railroad connection. South Carolina is placed below this quarantine line among tick-infested regions. Hence, cattle cannot be shipped from this State to points above the quarantine line except for immediate slaughter. Cattle for dairy purposes or for feeding or breeding are barred. Thus, the market for the cattle produced in the State is considerably restricted.

"Some of the States included within the tick-infested area, notably Virginia, North Carolina, Texas and Oklahoma, which had within their

boundaries an area in which ticks existed only on a few farms or ranches, have succeeded in having such areas placed above the quarantine line, thus opening new markets for the cattle raised therein. This was accomplished by the passage of a law by the legislature establishing a State quarantine dividing the slightly infested area from the other part of the State and the eradication of the ticks from the infested places in the slightly infested area. When these conditions were brought about the State quarantine line was then adopted by the Federal Government and made a part of the National quarantine line. This plan is just as feasible in South Carolina as in any of the States mentioned. In a great part of the State since the passage of the stock law, the cattle tick has become almost extinct and exists only on a place here and there. The first step in the matter, however, must be taken by the Legislature."

### "Don'ts" for the Woman Who Buys Milk.

Do not start out with the idea that the milkmen are all tricksters; there are good men in the business who need most of all to have their profits increased by a larger trade.

Don't take loose milk. Choose by preference the delivery in bottles, if you can be sure that they are filled at the farm or at the distributing dairy. Measuring out in the street dust is a disgusting practice, but still another element of danger is added by the use of bottles thus filled. The bottles are not sterilized, may not even be properly washed, and may come from houses where contagious diseases have occurred. Having selected a dairy, be loyal to it; if you have complaints to make see that they reach headquarters.

Whether in country or city, the householder is not to put her reliance on any so-called "tests." She is not to buy a lactometer or a neat little case of chemicals. The average woman has neither time nor training for such exact use of these appliances as alone can give value to results.

But of one condition, the most ignorant can judge: sediment in milk means unclean methods; it is not to be tolerated. "Hold back the last spoonful in pouring" is a common household rule—far better, send in your complaint to the central office. An unpleasant or "cowy" odor is

also ground for suspicion; it means barnyard filth.

See that the milk bottle is put on ice as soon as delivered; that utensils used for milk are used for nothing else; that they are washed, scalded and drained, without wiping. Wipe off the mouth of the bottle before pouring out. Protect from dust and flies as well as heat. In cool weather keep in well-aired place rather than the ice box. Use only crockery of glass as containers. Good milk should keep twenty-four hours.

Do not demand large measure; the milk will surely be "distended" to cover the dealer's loss.—Mary Himman Abel, writing on "Safe Foods and How to Get Them," in the December Delineator.

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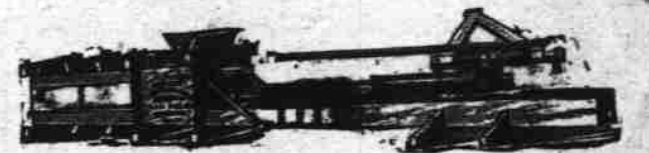
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