

The Farmers Institute.

(Continued from first page.)

in the dairy business you must give it all your attention—it cannot be neglected a single day in the year. You must first have shelter for your cows. The stable must be kept clean and the cows well fed. Then again the cows must have good food. You had just as well take home a sack of flour and expect your wife to make a good mess of biscuit as to expect your cow to give good milk from poor food.

"You must have good water. I am confident that typhoid and other fevers are caused by drinking milk and eating butter from cows that drink poor water. Right here I want to warn the farmers and villagers against the use of poor water by their families and their milk cows. The average pond water is entirely unfit for milk cows.

"I have abandoned wetting food for my cows. By feeding it dry the animal must thoroughly chew the food and wet it with saliva before it can swallow it. That causes the food to be more fully digested and better results will be gotten from the milk.

"The milking must be done cleanly and carefully. We first have the udders washed and dried with a cloth. Milk with dry hands—it is not clean to do otherwise.

"Never buy a cow with very large teats which strike against the legs in walking. They are liable to become thick and to crack. Milk with the ends of the fingers and with dry hands.

Mr. Blake: "Which makes the better milker, a man or a woman?"

Mr. Erwin: "I am inclined to think that the woman does; they are gentler and do less talking."

Mr. Blake: "They do less talking?"

Mr. Erwin: "I have eight boys and I teach them to milk and give them a course in kitchen work. When each one gets to be about 10 years old I put him in the kitchen with his mother for a year. The girls get lessons in milking too."

"I believe in letting one person milk the same cows right along. They get used to each other and don't jangle."

In making butter with a hand churn work the handle an hour. Put one ounce of salt to each pound of butter. See that the salt is pure. For butter that is to be shipped it might be well to put in a little more than an ounce. The best test for salt is to drop a spoonful of it into a glass of clear water. If it makes the water milky there is lime in it and will turn part of your butter to soap. Do not use it if there is a scum left on the water.

Mr. Blake: "Do you believe that anything but regular dairy salt should be used?"

Mr. Erwin: "I believe that no salt should be used save that made for the dairy."

Dr. Porter, dean of the Missouri Agricultural College: "Salt is of great importance. That use of the experimental station comes from one of the best dairy salt firms in the world."

Mr. Gill: "It is a matter of first importance."

Mr. J. N. Rosser, of Rush Hill, told why our Creamery and Cheese Factory Failed. He first told how it was built. A joint stock company furnished \$3,000 in cash and much wood. An Illinois man got up the company.

Enough milk was never received to run on. The enterprise met with failure from the first. The well boring contractors failed to get water. Just then Martinsburg got a creamery. Another contractor went to work on our well and finished it and was paid on the understanding that it would furnish ten barrels a day. They furnished two barrels. We then dug a cistern. Our separator persisted in not running. The men who were interested in the creamery bought cows but gave them no shelter. We ran a few weeks and broke down. It was leased to two young men who found out in two days that they knew nothing. They never got enough milk to run over two hours a day. After a year they threw it up and the company hired a man to run it, who did for several months. Now it is dead as Hector.

Mr. Rosser: "Is water from cisterns fit to wash butter?"

Mr. Morse: "I took a tin bucket of water from the cistern at the creamery and set it away for a week. It ate the tin up. Such water is not fit for washing butter."

Mr. Erwin had a milk tester on exhibition that gave the per centage of butter fat in milk, ranging from 1 to 6 per cent. He pays one dollar per hundred for 4 per cent. milk and 50 cents for 2 per cent. milk.

Mr. B. F. Wyldie of Benton City could not remain until to-day to read his paper, but the text of it is herewith given:

My subject, "Orchards in Central Missouri," would require but few words if I should confine my remarks to orchards as we find them in Central Missouri at the present time, for good profitable orchards are the exception and not the rule.

The average orchard in this section, though perhaps all that could be expected under present conditions, is not what it should be and would be if it received the care and attention that could be profitably given. But if I undertake to describe the ideal orchard that might be a reality here in Central Missouri and try to explain the ways and means by which the ideal can be made a reality I fear I will hardly be able to do the subject justice but will do the best I can.

Why is it that we see so few good profitable orchards? The fault is not with the soil and climate, for any soil that will produce good farm crops will, with proper management, produce fruit as well.

The fault must be in the management of our orchards. In the past land has been cheap and farms of

large extent has been the rule. The farmer has had more land than he could well manage, consequently he had but little time and less inclination to care for an orchard and so to have the subject but little thought until the matter was urged upon him by some enterprising non-resident nursery agent who had but little opportunity to know the varieties of fruit best suited to the locality, and when he did buy a bill of fruit and plant them, they were often neglected and failure was the natural consequence.

At the present time conditions are changing. As the price of land advances and large tracts are divided into smaller farms it becomes necessary to use every acre to best advantage and I will say in the face of all past failures that any given acreage of good farm land will under the proper management yield more than double net profit from fruit than from grain, grass and live stock.

This fact will be appreciated by one who has an opportunity to make the comparison. I am confident that in the future the fruit interests of Central Missouri on an equal footing with other industries and in some localities will surpass them.

I do not think there is a farm in Central Missouri that has not good fruit land enough to grow a good profitable market orchard. In selecting a location for an orchard I would choose moderately rolling land. If that land is not available, then a good drainage by leaving open dead furrows between the tree rows, plowing the soil to the roots only enough to prevent water from lying on the ground. Plant only varieties of fruit that have proven to be profitable here or that are recommended by persons who have experience in fruit growing. I think there is more loss from planting new varieties than from any other cause. I find it necessary to cultivate orchards both ways—keeping the ground clean with grass. Any cultivated crop will be grown in an orchard while trees are young if the fertility of the soil is kept up, but while the trees have gotten well to bearing.

Prune little and often, removing sprouts and small branches where they interfere with each other and wherever they are evidently out of place. If this is done from the start there will be no need of heavy pruning.

Old orchards that are in bad shape may be revived and made quite fruitful by pruning off dead and surplus branches, cutting and fertilizing the land. Young trees in an old orchard are not a success unless extra care is given them. They must be planted on land never occupied by fruit trees before.

In growing an orchard, handling and marketing the fruit, there are many minor points that cannot be well mentioned in a single article. The beginning of an orchard is a hard matter to master the difficulties as they present themselves if he avails himself of the opportunities that are offered by study each point and learns by experience and observation, keeping himself well supplied with the current literature on the subject, which he will find to be much more of a real practical nature than the fine spun theories and abstract ideas of some of the writers when one class of people did the work and the other class did the writing and talking.

As to markets for fruit, I think there need be no fears. That great extent of country known as the northwest, where home grown fruit is almost unknown, and the rapidly growing cities of our own state, will need all the good fruit we can produce and at a paying price, too. A strictly choice product makes it easy market to take and extends the market for miles with fruit. The orchardist who bears this in mind and works accordingly will be sure of success.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Mrs. Helen Laughlin followed with a paper on "That Small Dairy." She took the woman's side of the domestic life on the farm and went into some of the details of how to care for the cows and calves, milk and butter. She impressed on her hearers the necessity of feeding stock very regularly.

Mr. A. J. Blake read a paper on: "Shall the farmer stand still?" Among other things he said:

"Many of you will remember the day when calomel was a panacea essential to every well-filled medicine chest of our family doctors. Some of us too remember when scarlet fever was treated by giving potions of hot teas and our good family physician gave us his best efforts in hurrying the unfortunate child to an early grave. Time has brought by the aid of investigations a change—calomel is now relegated to the rear and is used in a limited way only. Diseases are now treated quite differently from the manner of thirty or forty years ago.

"Manufacturers who once took no note of the waste or offal of their several machines have been compelled to make a study of how to utilize the waste that there may be no waste.

"Listen for awhile to one who grows clover every year and knows what he is talking about. He says: For one hundred years it has been almost an axiom with agriculturists that the plant could make no use whatever of the free nitrogen of the atmosphere.

"It is well known to our hearers, or should be that while nitrogen is the most expensive element of fertility, costing from 12 to 18 cents per pound, when bought in the shape of commercial fertilizer, four-fifths of the atmosphere itself is nitrogen, and enough passes over every square rod of the farm every hour to fertilize a whole quarter section for a year if it could only be made available.

"Farmers buy grain for feed stuffs and pay in proportion to its content of nitrogen lying around loose between the grains of oats in the sack, costing them nothing as there it is in the oats themselves.

"Clover gets its supply of nitrogen of the atmosphere through the fleshy, wart-like growths on its roots, which for want of a better name, are called tubercles. Clover is the best crop to intersperse with the other crops in a judicious rotation. It renews the fertility of the soil by gathering nitrogen from the air and storing it away for the next crop."

"J. W. Rouse read a paper on "Poultry Culture." He discussed best methods to hatch and raise chickens, how to build hen houses, etc. He did not favor feeding chickens on corn, as it makes them fat but they will not lay. Small chickens grow weak on meal.

They should have a variety of food, scraps from the table, etc. In Canada the most eggs are pro-

duced because they take care of the chickens better than they do in this country. He advocated the planting of sunflowers and tomatoes for the use of the poultry.

Mr. J. W. Rouse read his paper on the subject of bees. He is an expert of known ability and experience.

A HOUSE ON BEE-KEEPING.

We suppose there are few persons that would keep bees if the chances of getting honey was taken away. While the estimate of surplus honey obtained in America per year is 75,000,000 lbs., this is very much the smallest part of the profit in keeping bees. The honey is very useful to man aside from the honey obtained, as they are careful in fruiting their fruit bloom by carrying the pollen from one bloom to that of another. While there are other insects that can perform this service, it is only the bee that has been found by observation that there would be 30 bees at work on the bloom to one insect.

The past season shows the value of bees to the fruit grower, for while there was a profusion of fruit bloom, just at the time the bees were in keeping bees, the honey for the bees to be put but little, because of a great scarcity of fruit. It is a peach blossom, just at the time the bees were in keeping bees, there was a chance for a profit on the honey. Any one can easily experiment a little on this by covering a limb of a fruit tree when just coming into bloom by using a piece of muslin or something of that character and leave the rest of the tree exposed and then note the results. It is usually that will set on the limb that is covered. Clover may be tested the same way. By one test made on white clover with twenty heads covered and twenty uncovered it was found on the uncovered heads 2,229 seeds and on the covered heads only 229 seeds were found. 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