

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE COWS.

A Few Notes About the Greatest Dairy Test That Ever Was.

If anything can be determined positively as to which is the best dairy cow, # ought to be this summer at the World's fair grounds. Such a thoroughgoing and extended trial was never before made in the records of cheese and butter history. Three breeds of cows-Jersey, Guerosey and Shorthorn-are each claimed by their advocates to be the best dairy breed. The associations of breeders of these respective varieties selected 25 of the best specimens of their cows from all over the country and entered them for this six months' test. Dr. S. M. Babcock of Babcock milk test fame is one of the commissioners to watch the cows night and day and see that all is Tribune is informed by North Dakota done fairly. The commissioners witness the weighing out of rations for 75 cows three times a day, beginning at 5 o'clock in the morning. They must also witness the weighing of every pound of milk, the making of every pound of cheese

The cows entered were those calving at nearly the same time on the exposition grounds. The contention will be as to which breed of cows yields the most butter and cheese at the least expense of

My afternoon with the World's fair cows was one of the most interesting of my visits at the exposition. They were beauties, those cows. First I visited the Guernseys. The enthusiastic superintendent, Professor Caldwell of the Pennsylvania Agricultural college, kindly escorted me through the Guernsey Here I saw some of Vice President Morton's cows from the famous Ellerslie herd that I visited last fall. The Guernsey people make this distinctive claim for the animal they believe to be the coming cow-that she will make the most butter at the least expense of food. She is also larger than the Jersey, there-

fore of value for beef, they say. They talk so eloquently you are almost disposed to yow that you will get a Guernsey cow. But meanwhile you pass to the Jersey stables, under the superintendence of that shrewd Yankee-Canadian, Mr. Valancey E. Fuller. He is best known in connection with the great St. Lambert cow family. Mr. Fuller whips out his paper and pencil and proves to you in three seconds that the greatest amount of net butter profit to a given amount of feed doesn't mean at all the greatest average per cent of butter profit that you can get out of a cow. Then you are all muddled in your mind and wonder which of these honest, good looking gentlemen-the Guernsey man or the Jersey man-is fooling you. Among the Jersey cows undergoing the test is a black and white one that you would stake your bead is Holstein-Friesian. She is large and of the general form of the Holsteins. But she is the pure bred, registered Jersey Ida's Marigold and one of the best cows in the test.

Mr. Fuller does not believe in much cornmeal for Jerseys, especially fresh cows. He says a fresh cow is generally in a more or less feverish condition for the first week or so and that cornmeal aggravates this condition. His favorite in the Jareau ration is called hominy feed-that is to say, the refuse left over after making hominy at hominy and the cows is the southern hominy corn.

two that have given the enormous amount of 56 pounds of milk a day. I learned incidentally when visiting the World's fair cows that in weighing and measuring milk it is estimated that about two pounds of milk make a quart. Some of the Shorthorns weigh 1,400 pounds. They seem tremendous after looking at the slim little Jerseys. The animals are so carefully tended that they are not allowed to be disturbed even to the extent of making them rise when they are lying down. Some of the Shortborns, however, had precious little of that kind of care before they were brought to the fair. One or two looked like real rackabones, with their ribs standing out hungrily. They were not shedding well, but looked ragged and woolly and faded. The reason of it all was that they had been wintered badly -not comfortably housed or fed enough through the cold weather. They had been crowded with food since their arrival, but it took a long time to bring them into condition. The contrast between these forlorn beasts and the sleek. pretty creatures around them was an object lesson not to be forgotten. The man who will winter a cow in that way ought to be half starved and made to wear his spring overcoat for a couple of winters in blizzard weather. Then he would find out how it goes himself.

The cheesemaking test was just finishing when I visited the cows. The modern theory of several gentlemen at the agricultural experiment stations and elsewhere is that milk which is richest in butter fat is also richest in all the other solids; hence the milk that makes the most butter will also yield the most cheese, if the theory be true. The result of the cheesemaking test promised to the county fair exhibition of useful anisustain this doctrine. In an inclosed case with a window in it to look through were the cheeses that had been made daily from the separate yields of milk of the three breeds—the largest cheeses from the Jersey yield, the next largest from the Guervsey milk, the smallest from the Shorthorn, although cows of the latter breed give great quantities of milk. To make one pound of cheese re-quires of Jersey milk 8.78 pounds, of Guernsey milk 9.21 pounds, of Short-horn milk 10.63 pounds.

The final result of all, however, will

be known when it comes to be summed up and averaged how much food the three breeds consume in proportion to the yield of butter and cheese. That, of course, cannot be calculated for certain till toward the end of the exposi-ELIZA ARCHARD CONNER.

THE GREAT SHEEP REGION.

Where Sheep Are Taking the Place of the Wheat Crop.

One of the pronounced recent departures in the agricultural industry of the northwest is a change from exclusive grain growing to a mixed industry, in which live stock and dairying are prominent features. In Minnesota special attention thus far has been given to horses, cattle and bogs, but in Montana and the Dakotas sheep are arousing the most notable interest. In Montana the sheep flocks have multiplied tenfold in 10 years and in 1891 numbered over 2,800,-800 animals. The sheep industry of Montana represents a capital of \$20,000,000 and brings in a revenue of nearly \$2,-500,000 from wool alone. Montana wool has in a brief period attained a national reputation. North Dakota is a recent convert to the sheep industry, but already has more sheep than all other do-mestic animals combined, and the industry is rapidly growing in popular favor as in profitableness. The Minneapolis farmers that sheep bid fair to be the solution of the crop problem, in paving the way to diversification of products. Experienced authorities insist that there is more money in North Dakota slicep than in grain and that sheep raising is likely to be the great industry of that state before many years. With only a few seasons start the sheep industry of North Dakota has grown to embrace a capital of over \$5,000,000 and a flock of 600,000. The average cost of keeping is estimated at \$1 per head for the state, and the average fleece about eight pounds. Consequently the wool alone more than pays the cost of maintaining the flock, leaving the natural yearly increase in flock a net profit. Abundant chesp lands, the low cost of hay, grain and pasturage and the healthfulness of the climate make the Dakotas a natural sheep region. The new industry is a solution of the single crop problem.

In Minnesota the sheep industry has not yet attained the prominence given to several other branches of stock raising. Indeed the state has more dogs than sheep. Yet the government report for 1891 credits the state with 400,000 sheep. and an average wool clip of seven pounds per sheep. The principal aim of sheep raising in Minnesota is mutton. The government "Special Report on the Sheep Industry." 1892, states in the chapter on Minnesota, "Sheep pay the farmer better than any other class of stock, and in the prairie country those who are now engaged in raising a few sheep find it the most profitable branch of mixed industry." The average annual increase in flock is placed at 95 per cent, and the average cost of keeping at \$1 or less per head. The government department enumerates numerous advantages, exceptionally favorable climate, the best of feed and water, freedom from disease and a first class local market, which Minnesota possesses over all eastern states. Sheep brought to Minnesota from Ohio and other eastern sheep regions show a marked gain in weight of fleece and carcass. The government department entertains enthusiastic sentiments regarding the future of Minnesota's sheep industry.-Chicago Herald.

#### Feed for Work Borses.

Ample preparations should be made for green food for them. A plot of clover or rye or orchard grass should be always laid out for the early ng feeding. A stock of be especially provided for the season when the old coat is shedding, and a the factory. The best corn for both daily ration of it given through the summer. It has an excellent effect on the skin and will prevent that frequent Among the big Shorthorns are one or irritation which so annoys the animals at this season after a winter's feeding of corn. A mash of bran and linseed, two quarts of each, lightly saited and sweetened with sugar or molasses, will be most useful, and the grateful whinny with which the horse will receive this luxury will tell as eloquently as words might how it is appreciated by him.

#### Live Stock Points.

Stock feeders near the Rocky mountains have one advantageover their eastern competitors in the matter of curing hay and fodder. The dry, light air of their country cures bay and fodder in a way that preserves much more of the food value than is the case with the same kind of crops cured in the rain region. Sheep and steers in the west prefer the air dried fodder to ensilage.

There is one plant that is never touched by an insect, and that is tansy. If you rub a horse over with a handful of it before taking him out upon the road, it is claimed that the flies will not touch him. At any rate it does not cost much to try Rubbing a cow's legs with an infusion of tansy just before you milk her will keep the flies away and allow you to proceed in peace.

The open air horse show at New York paid expenses. The promoters hope it will do something more next year. It is much pleasunter to see fine horses out doors than in a wooden circus tent, shut up in a stifling atmosphere with dudes and fashionable women who come to show their style and good clothes. The open air horse show is a compromise between the annual display of fashionable men and women with some fashionable horses thrown in on the one hand and mals. At the same time the New York affair has a leaning to the side of fashion. One of the premiums was for the best pair of farm horses. This prize, \$100, was won by a pair of splendid big grays named Pepper and Ginger, belonging to a plain Long Island farmer. On the other hand, however, a premium of \$200 was given for best "all round goat." There were prizes for trotting stallions, hunters and high steppers. Among the useful classes may be named park hack horses and delivery wagon horses, for the latter of which a prize of \$100 was offered by a well known dry goods firm. Most of the premiums were \$100 in money. Then, too, there were hurdle and other races, tandem teams

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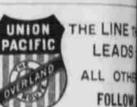
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