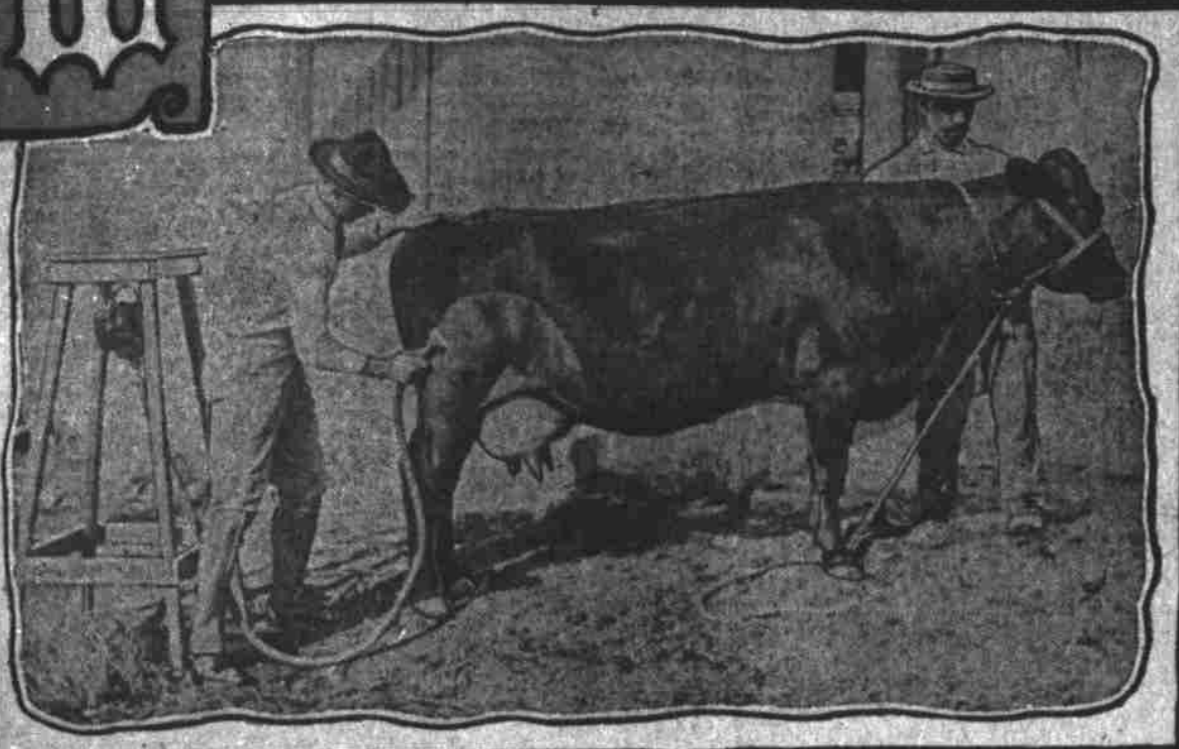
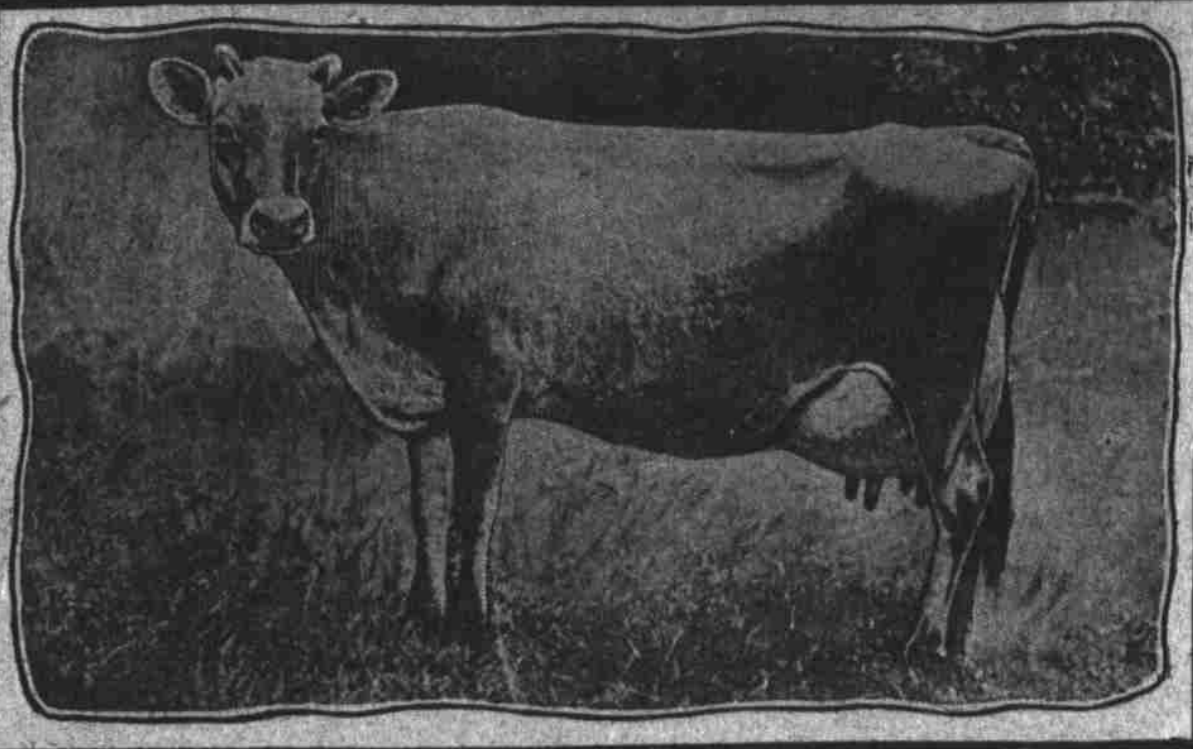


# WHEN THE COWS COME HOME



Scientific Care of High Grade Cows.

Great Movement to Increase the Value of the National Milk Yield



She Doesn't Know that Her Value is \$2,500.



**W**HILE Helmar Rabild was appointed dairy expert for the Bureau of Animal Industry in the national Department of Agriculture in April, this is probably the first public announcement of his appointment.

They have spread all over the more enterprising and progressive countries of Europe; and, even in the United States, the last two years have brought about a sentiment auguring that the time is ripe here for the application of some modification of the system to the American cow.

For some years the Dairy Division at Washington has been hard at work to demonstrate to the farming population at large a big, main fact which Europe has learned in all its far-reaching, golden significance. It is this:

The only reason for the low yield of the average American cow is that the farmer keeps no records of individual production. As soon as he begins to weigh his milk and test it for its content of butter fat, he can intelligently dispose of the poor and unproductive cows, retain the profitable ones and breed better ones.

It can be done at so small an expense that the wonder is all farmers do not do it.

However great the wonder, the plain fact is, they don't. Breeders of select stock, and some of the more advanced dairymen, keep very complete records; but the average owner of a herd, large or small, is still inclined to depend upon what he considers his knowledge of his cows—which repeated experiences prove to be about equal to his knowledge of oesophagocopy.

### REVEALED HIS ERRORS

Very recently a dairyman of wide reputation, who, for years, was president of his state association, decided he was going "to try the newfangled scheme of keeping a record of every blamed cow he owned," not because he needed any record, but simply to see whether the so-called scientific dairying could beat the old man, who had handled every one of them from the hour it was born and had milked them all, morning and evening.

Just to prove how little there was in it, he made notes, before he began his records, of the estimates in which he and his sons held the best half dozen cows in the herd. When the records had been kept for a year, this is where that best half dozen stood:

First, the fifth; second, a cow not eligible to the prize half dozen; third, his fourth; fourth, his first; fifth, his sixth; sixth, like the second, another outsider.

His second and third selections were even lower in the record list. As for the herd in its entirety, his records proved that many of the cows barely paid for themselves, while one-fourth of the entire herd cost him a net loss.

He was a good president, for he made public report of how poor a dairyman he had been.

These individual conversions have increased in number of late, for they have received an immense impetus from the most powerful picture that was ever drawn.

If the results of that single little picture could be estimated, there is little doubt that they would prove to be greater than any that have attended the most famous paintings the world has ever known.

Fortuny's "Choosing of the Model," Munkacsy's appalling evidences of the horror of war, all the Venuses who have inspired the souls of lovers—none has so changed the lives of men as the ridiculously small cartoon devised by W. J. Fraser, professor of dairying in the University of Illinois.

He put before the eye, graphically, for a single glance, everything the whole power of the government has been trying to put into the popular mind for years.

Taking the statistics of thirty-six Illinois dairy herds, comprising 554 cows, he found that the best 139 of them, or 25 per cent, gave 301 pounds of butter a year; while the worst 139

It is the first announcement, chiefly because all the great editors have been taken up with their labors in telling the United States about the successors of Admiral Evans in the command of the great fleet and in deciding who is going to live in the White House next winter.

They've been too busy to care a solitary whoop whether Helmar Rabild has landed the job of dairy expert or of assistant doorkeeper to the House committee on supererogatory rules.

But when the cows come home, some few years from now, bringing the rich realization of the hope which led Chief E. H. Webster, of the Dairy Division, to campaign so ardently for Mr. Rabild's appointment, they will have a different way of looking at him.

When the cow comes home, all over the United States, with more than a billion dollars to her credit every year, instead of the modest \$625,000,000 she earns for us now, Mr. Rabild and his labors will loom just as much larger in the public eye as sixty-two battleships of the Dreadnought type, at \$20,000,000 apiece, will loom beside sixty-two of their more modest sisters of the \$10,000,000 class, so common nowadays.

That is the simple task Helmar Rabild has been hired to handle—the raising of the dairy products of the United States from \$625,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000.

If I had a cow that gave such milk I'd dress her in the finest silk; I'd feed her on the choicest hay—And milk her twenty times a day.—Old Song.

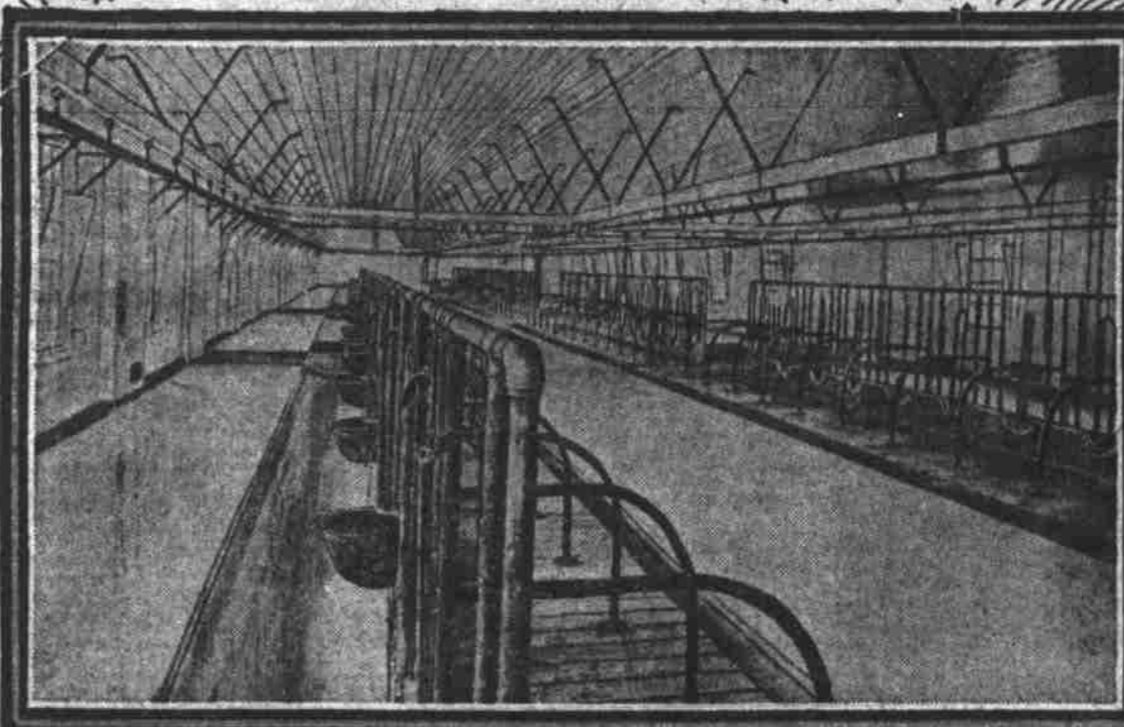
**T**HE average annual butter yield of the American cow is 150 pounds, with butter fat last year bringing between 28 and 29 cents a pound, which was from 4 to 5 cents higher than the prices for 1906.

Colantha IV, a lady Holstein, owned by J. W. Gillette, of Rosendale, Wis., has just finished her record of a year's homecomings with 998 pounds of butter fat to her credit, while the Department of Agriculture, the general dairy world, Mr. Gillette and Colantha IV are all gritting their teeth because she didn't clear the 1000-pound mark.

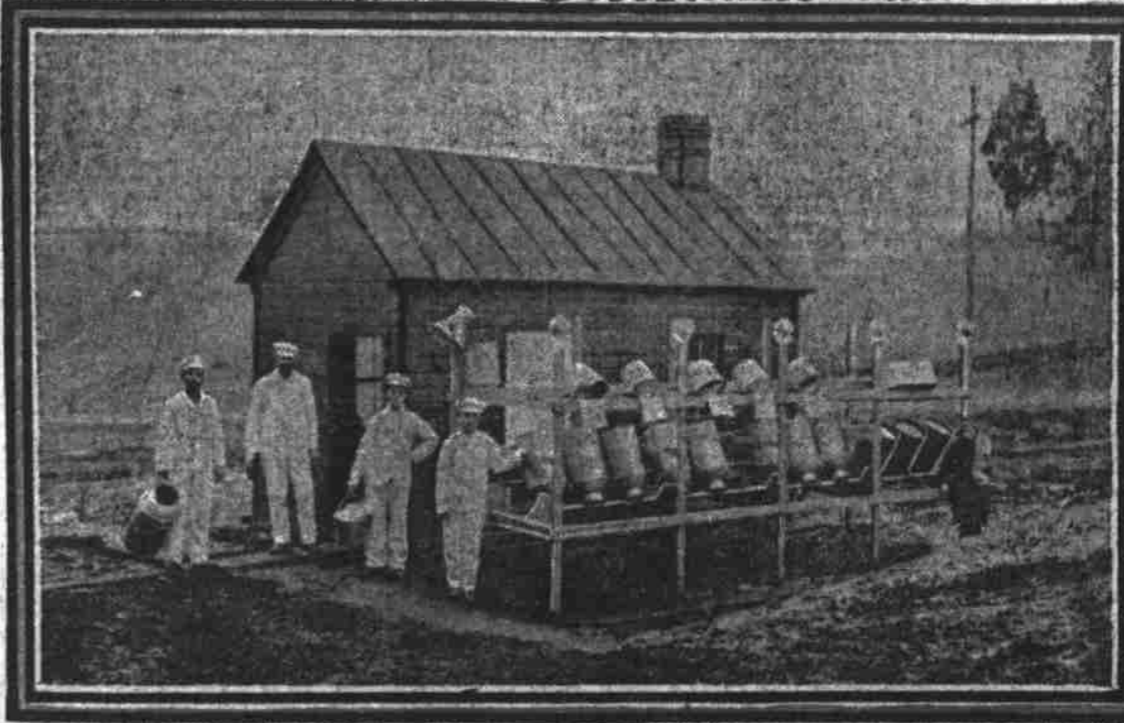
But, even at the precise 998-pound accomplishment, she did nearly 6-2-3 times as well as the average old Sis Cow, who trudges barnward with less than half a pound of butter a day to show for her board and keep.

"If we can only double that poor 150-pound average!" exclaims Chief Webster, in the Dairy Division, every time he sets eyes on Mr. Rabild. It is not an unreasonable aspiration; it is far from being an unfair expectation. One can glance over the records of well-kept herds in various sections of the country and find hundreds and hundreds of cows that do as well, and hundreds more that do much better.

Within the brief period of ten years the methods which Mr. Rabild seeks to inaugurate here have doubled the dairy wealth of Denmark



A Stable From Which the Best Results Come.



Hygienic Successors to the Milkmaids of Poetry.

gave only 133½ pounds apiece.

Then he drew his picture of twenty-five good cows, averaging 301 pounds each, returning a total profit of \$783; and of the 1031 poor cows it takes to return precisely the same total of profit within the same time.

There wasn't a cow in either one of those two typical herds as big as one's little finger nail, and there wasn't a cow that did not loom larger than life size in the eyes of the least observant of dairymen when the drawing was published by the Illinois Experiment Station.

### BETTER LIVING IN PROSPECT

It was copied by farm journals all over the country, and it is still being copied. It is presented here because there are millions of farmers who do not see farm journals, and many more millions of people who are baking bread and pushing pens and soiling shoes and driving locomotives with never a thought as to the difference that queer little cartoon is going to make—with the help of Herman Rabild—in the wages they will earn a few years from now and in the money they will lay out for the necessities of life.

Europe was as badly off as the United States a dozen years ago. Then it was, spread-

ing to Denmark, Sweden, Holland and England, that the wonder-working test associations commenced to find salvation for the farmers.

Twenty, thirty farmers organize and hire a "tester," agreeing to contribute a small sum each per cow and to feed and lodge the tester while he is on their premises. Their governments give the organizations a subvention to encourage the system and help pay the tester's wage.

He goes from farm to farm, and tests two milkings, morning and evening, leaving the record of every cow with the farmer upon his departure. If there be any feature of dairy management at fault, he suggests improvement.

The system has wrought a revolution in European dairying. It has doubled the value of Denmark's dairy output. It has given rise to 3000 test organizations, and their number is still growing.

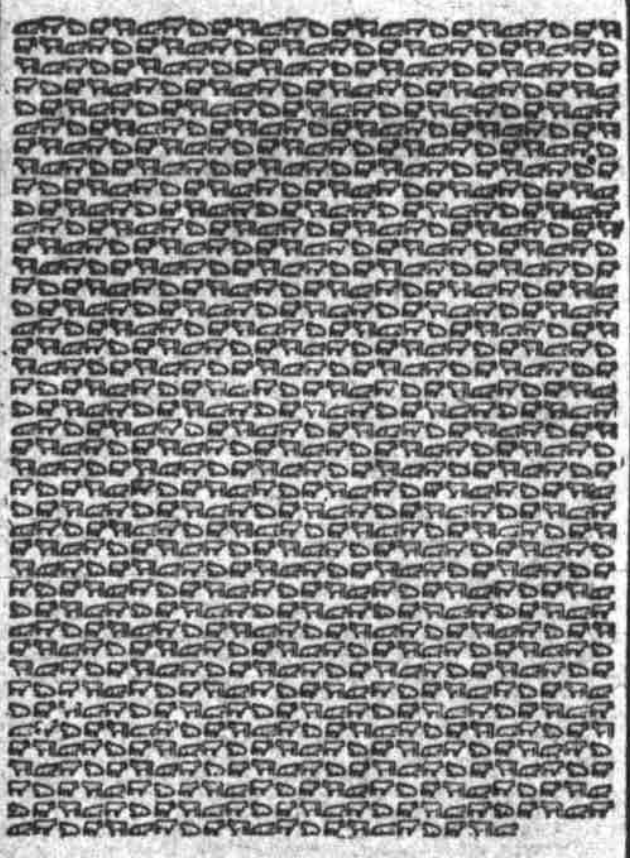
Mr. Rabild came to this country five years ago, bringing with him ample knowledge of the methods already so effective abroad, and overflowing, upon his arrival, with astonishment that this so enterprising America should be so behindhand in its dairying.

Having been an official tester in Denmark, he became an assistant in the Michigan Dairy

**WHEN THE COWS COME HOME.**  
Twenty-five cows, each producing 301 pounds of butter fat per year, return a profit of \$783.

This is the average production of 139 cows constituting the best fourth of 345 cows in 35 Illinois dairy herds.  
The lowest fourth (1031 cows) of the same 35 herds averaged 133½ lbs. the butter fat per cow.

The picture below shows exactly how many cows of the poor kind (1031) it takes to return identically the same profit (\$783) as the above 25 good cows.



A Telling Postcard in the Dairy Improvement Campaign.

and Food Department; but he was soon heard of, and the national government kept an eager eye upon him, while the results of his work and of the European examples gained appreciable headway here.

No government subvention can ever be hoped for in the United States; but some few organizations sprang up from the mere business sagacity of the population. In Michigan the first co-operative test organization began its career two years ago; now there are half a dozen, with the main difficulty that of securing men to take the post of tester. Every farmer contributes \$1 per cow per year and boards the tester.

Within a year it is expected that there will be test associations actively at work in Minnesota, as well as in Wisconsin, Illinois, New York and Vermont.

### TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE

To help them to spread the knowledge of what such associations can do, and of the ways of doing it, to foster the entirely new profession of milk tester in the United States—in fine, to enable the farmers of this country to do for themselves what has been accomplished for the farmers of Denmark, is the task that rests upon the shoulders of Herman Rabild, to whom nobody, except the Department of Agriculture, is paying any particular attention thus far.

The government is remembering that the nation's butter crop is now worth \$263,256,852; its cheese crop, \$28,060,002; its condensed milk, \$11,888,792; its plain cream, \$4,547,536; its milk, \$217,512,596; its milk fed to calves, \$39,000,000; its by-products, \$41,049,236; its calves, \$18,000,000, and its total dairy crop, \$695,000,000.

It has before its eyes that impressive cartoon of Professor Fraser's—it is one of the treasures of the Dairy Division at Washington—and it has before its eyes, also, the vision of the day when all the cows shall be good cows, and the total dairy crop shall be worth \$1,250,000,000 a year.