

Milk Production Sensitive to Changes in Prices

Milk production is so sensitive to changes in prices that the milk producer, the milk distributor, and the milk consumer are best protected through a fluctuating price which insures, as far as now seems possible, a fairly constant supply of milk, according to a bulletin just issued by the agricultural experiment station of the University of Illinois. Owing to the great variation in the monthly cost of milk production, a flat rate for any extended period would probably shift production to the more profitable months. If the price of milk fluctuates approximately with the cost of production, the distributor's supply is automatically regulated, the milk producer's market is protected, and the consumer is assured of a normal supply of milk throughout the year.

The bulletin confirms the opinion held among dairy farmers of the great importance of pasture in milk production. The feed expense in the summer months in which pastures are good is occasionally only one-fourth of that in certain winter months when large amounts of farm-raised and purchased feeds are fed.

The amount of man labor involved in the production of milk is considerably less in the summer months than in the winter months. This is true whether based upon the total amount of labor used on the herd or upon amount involved in the production of one hundred pounds of milk. Proper significance of this reduction in labor is appreciated only when attention is drawn to the fact that these savings in labor occur during the pasture season, which coincides with the crop season, when the maximum labor is needed in the field. Aside from man labor, feed and horse labor, the expenses of producing milk are more or less constant throughout the year. When all expenses are included the net cost of producing one hundred pounds of milk in June is sixty per cent of the year cost, and in December about one hundred and twenty per cent.

With a fluctuating seasonal cost, it is expected that farmers will tend to concentrate production in the more profitable months. As the urban trade demands a constant supply of milk throughout the year, the price of milk must fluctuate approximately with the cost of production in order to prevent an extra shortage at one time and a large surplus at another. In other words, a properly adjusted fluctuating price for milk throughout the year protects the farmer's market and the distributor's and consumer's supply.

Arabian Plant Produces Seeds That Cause People to Behave Ridiculously

In Arabia there is a plant whose seeds produce effects similar to those caused by laughing gas. The natives dry the seeds and reduce them to powder, a small dose of which has curious effects. It causes the soberest person to dance and laugh excitedly and to behave in a ridiculous manner for nearly an hour. By this time exhaustion sets in and he falls asleep, to wake up after several hours with no recollection of his antics.

The fruits of some plants destroy the taste of sweetness. A berry found in the district of Ashanti renders sour and bitter substances sweet. Electric shocks can be obtained in central India by merely touching the leaves of the electric tree.

In Brazil some plants show remarkable luminosity. One is so luminous that it can be plainly distinguished in the darkest nights for a distance of more than a mile. In its immediate vicinity it emits sufficient light to enable a person to read the smallest print. One of the most wonderfully constituted plants of this country is the ball-throwing fungus. It is a small fungus, about the size of a pea, which projects a ball to a distance of several inches with a distinctly audible report.

Giraffe Has Use for Long Neck in Defending Himself

The giraffe has neither claws nor beak nor sharp teeth with which to defend itself or to attack its enemies; so when it is out of temper with one of its own kind it does not attempt to disembowel its adversary, as a rhinoceros might, or tear it, as a tiger would. But nature has given it a long and pliable neck, and, according to a writer in the New York Herald, it uses the upper part of itself like a flail, swinging its head down at each swing with a thump on its antagonist. The other combatant uses precisely the same tactics, and the two animals, planting themselves as firmly as possible by stretching out all four legs to the utmost, stand opposite to each other and hammer away with their heads until one or the other has had enough.

"Pork Barrel" Legislation and What the Term Means

"Pork barrel legislation," in political parlance, is legislation involving appropriations for buildings and public work largely for the purpose of aiding representatives and senators in making a good impression on their constituents. The expression is based on the rural custom of sharing the contents of the pork barrel with a neighbor who has failed to lay aside a winter's supply, and the similarity of this custom to that of congressmen trading votes to help each other weather the political storms back home.

Using Wood With Concrete.

When wood is used as a reinforcing material for concrete it should be impregnated with magnesium chloride, and the wood must be so placed that any change in the cross-sectional area does not affect the durability of the structure. If the latter precaution is overlooked the concrete may crack.

Soothing Cigar Has Been Overtaken and Passed by Popular Little Cigarette

Cigar types of tobacco are produced in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, the Miami valley in Ohio, Wisconsin, Georgia and Florida. Of the entire tobacco crop of 1,359,000,000 pounds in 1919, the cigar types constituted about one-sixth, and the chewing, snuff and export types most of the remainder, according to the bureau of crop estimates, United States department of agriculture. The cigar types are heavy producers per acre, the average for 1919 being 1,295 pounds, while the other types had an average of 670 pounds.

Before 1919, the average farm price of the cigar types of tobacco was always above that of the other types, as a whole, but in that year the extraordinary demand for tobacco other than the cigar classes and the immensely increased use of tobacco for cigarettes raised the average farm price of the composite chewing, smoking, snuff and export types to 41.3 cents on December 1, or greatly above the price of 21.9 cents for cigar tobacco. Indeed, the latter class of tobacco had a lower price than in either 1918 or 1917, not because of increase of production, but because of weaker demand. The cigar has been overtaken and passed by the cigarette.

BACK-YARD PULLETS MAKE GOOD RECORD

Chickens which lay so prolifically that they pay in a short time for their original cost and their feed are the kind of which all suburbanites dream. S. B. Horton of Washington, D. C., has them in his back yard.

On May 1, 1919, Mr. Horton bought 15 two-day-old White Leghorn chicks. The baby chicks were brooded with jars filled with hot water until they were old enough to be put in an outside coop. Later a six by eight-foot house was built for them, with an outside yard only four feet square.

Seven of these were pullets which began laying on October 22, when they were less than six months old. Their laying record for November was 115 eggs, and for December 137 eggs, a total of 252 eggs for the two months, or an average of 36 eggs a pullet for the two-month period. In all probability they would have made a record of 150 eggs in December but for the cold wave during the latter part of the month.

Crediting the birds with eggs at the market price of 90 cents a dozen (they were \$1 part of the time) for the period, they had paid for their original cost and all feed by December 15. In figuring the total cost of the project, the cost of the seven other chicks raised, which were cockerels, was figured, and allowance was made for their market value when slaughtered. From now on the upkeep of this flock will be small compared with the revenue.

The pullets were fed scratch feed morning and night, with a dry mash made of equal parts of middlings, bran, cornmeal, and meat scrap, before them all the time. This ration is one used and advocated by the United States department of agriculture. Nearly every day they were given a little green stuff, such as cabbage or sprouted oats, as well as table scraps and grit and oyster shell.

Death Rate for 1918 Was Highest in History of the Country, Statistics Show

The death rate of 18 for each 1,000 of population in the death registration area of 30 states and 27 cities, with a total estimated population of 81,808,104 for 1918 was the highest on record, according to the census bureau's annual mortality statistics, which show 1,471,367 deaths for the year.

Of the total deaths, 477,467, or more than 32 per cent, were due to influenza and pneumonia, 380,996 having occurred in the last four months of the year when an epidemic of these diseases prevailed. The rate for influenza and pneumonia was 583.2 for each 100,000. Influenza caused 232,780 deaths and pneumonia 244,681 deaths, respectively, the highest rates which ever have appeared for these causes. The rate in 1917 for influenza was 17.2 and for pneumonia 149.8.

The other principal causes of deaths were organic diseases of the heart, tuberculosis, acute nephritis, Bright's disease and cancer, which together were responsible for 301,381 deaths, or nearly 27 per cent of the total during the year.

Natives Employ Curious Methods to Heal Wounds

Inhabitants of the little mountain country of Montenegro employ curious methods of medical treatment, according to American physicians who did relief work there. The first thought of the natives in healing wounds is to apply chewing tobacco, horsehair or fresh rabbit skin to a sore, with the hair facing inside. Common ink is considered to be a sovereign remedy for burns. Cobwebs are used in Montenegro to stop bleeding sores or wounds. When a person is bitten by a dog, the favorite remedy is to pull off the animal's ear and rub the wound with it. Since the arrival of American physicians, however, the natives are making numerous visits to Red Cross clinics and dispensaries as a means of curing their ills.

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction in Europe Follow the Great World War?

DANGER IN GENERAL UNREST

Practically Universal Feeling of Discontent Will Grow Unless the Causes Which Gave It Birth Are Removed.

Article VII.

By FRANK COMERFORD.

A specter haunts Europe. It is the specter of unrest. When I started out to interview unrest in Europe I did not give my ear to the idle theorist who always knows all about everything, but never from direct experience with it, nor did I go to the agitator who preaches unrest in red words. Neither did I seek out the type of fanatical labor leader, who is eager for trouble, who is trying to mobilize and marshal it under the banner of Revolution. I passed by the place-hunting, time-serving politician. I was not interested in platitudes and promises.

I sought knowledge of unrest from those who knew it from contact with it, those who were part and parcel of it. I went to the man in the street, the average man. I talked with the sweaty, dirty coal miner at the mouth of the shaft. He had just come from his day in the darkness deep in the ground. I visited the man who works in the mills. I listened to the rough speech of the teamster. I went to factories and talked with men between the two whistles which mark the time of the noon meal. They munched at black bread, ate cheese or sausage, gulped tea, coffee or cheap, diluted red wine. I spent time with the idle, the idle by choice as well as those without work through no fault of their own. Only yesterday many, yes, most of these men were in khaki; now, back on the job in overalls, they were thinking. Their speech was troubled. Discontent looked out from their eyes. I could feel it. They talked it, but never as unrest, always protest.

Unrest Must Be Quieted.

Their state of mind is the problem. Unrest is epidemic; it is militant. There is little of pacifism in it. It is real, it is not without cause. To get close to the cause of this disease which threatens revolution, one must know and understand what is going on in the minds of the men we are looking to and depending upon to do the world's work. It doesn't take a prophet to understand that if heed is not given to the things irritating them and a remedy is not found for the irritation, serious trouble will follow. While war is hell, it has at least the restraint of discipline. A revolution growing out of unrest would mean mob madness, terrorism, fanaticism, brutal, cruel and merciless. Once started, it would spread like wildfire. The world would be swept from its senses. The fire would run its course until stopped because there was nothing left to burn. Who dares picture the state in which it would leave the world? In this day, when the nerves of the world are on edge, when cold and hunger irritate, one shudders when he thinks of the fate of civilization if unrest is not checked before it explodes in passion and wrath.

Unrest existed before the war. It was an accursed then, it is an oak now. Before the war men were complaining, and justly complaining, about their lot. The difference now is that four years in the trenches have caused them to stop complaining and act. Soldiering taught them much. They learned of the greatness of force.

Back of their present tendency to act is the grown grievance and the war lesson. Before the war they complained; today they demand. It is interesting to examine unrest in the complaint stage, as these men knew it before 1914.

These plain, ordinary average men have always been intensely human. They loved their wives and children, they lived for their homes, they felt keenly their responsibility for the happiness of their loved ones. They have but one thing to give. Before the war they gave it unsparingly—it was their labor. Their one source of income was the pay envelope. With their wages they had to buy shoes, clothes, food, and provide shelter for the lives they brought into the world, and for the women they had chosen to be the mothers of those children.

"Home" Before All.

"Home, Sweet Home" is the international anthem. It is the heart song of the average man. The club plays no part in his life. From his home he goes to work, and from work he goes home. Shanties and tenements are not homes. These men have always protested against the ugly shacks in which they were compelled to house their loved ones. They bit their lips in jobless days when their children went to bed hungry. Resentment grew in their hearts when they saw how poorly dressed their wives and children were. They muttered curses when their children were forced to go to work. They wanted to give their children a better education than they had had, a better chance in life, and they laughed at laws prohibiting child labor, while conditions compelled chil-

dren to work or starve. As these men grew older their families grew in size and demand, while their ability to earn decreased. The tragedy registered in their pay envelopes. They were being ground between growing needs and diminishing wages. The grinding not only hurt their bodies, it fattened their brain.

They lived in dread of poverty. It had been their nurse, they feared it would be their pall-bearer. Poverty had taken its revenge upon them. They were resolving that if they could help it it would not put its lash upon their children. They knew poverty intimately. It wasn't a word, a name, it was a living hateful, cruel companion. It was the devil that recruited the Marys of Scarlet Hall, the Magdalens of the slums, and always the army was mobilized from the shanties of the poor. Children who had been robbed of their youth, who had never owned a flower, poorly fed and miserably clad, dragged out of bed by alarm clocks, sounding the call to toll, when they should have been answering the school bell, children physically unfit for the breadwinner's struggle, children without the moral endurance necessary for the fight, were driven into No Woman's land, the rotten scum under the world.

Light in Education.

Before the war men were brooding on these things, papers, books, magazines mirroring life, pictured these horrors. They were the subject of public discussion and debate. Men returning from a hard day's work talked these things over with their wives after the children had gone to bed, and many a man left his supper table to peek through the half-closed door into the room where his kiddies were sleeping, tiptoeing back, only to look into the eyes of a mother, and see reflected there the fears he felt.

The invention of the typesetting machine, the cheap manufacture of paper, the growth of public school systems, and public libraries, brought light to the dark minds of the workmen. In that light they saw more clearly their needs and more completely realized their rights. It is the natural ambition of man to climb. He wants to get on and up. Ignorance had kept him from climbing. Ignorance is darkness. Men stumble when they try to go forward in the dark. Education is the light in the road. They sought to make haste, to make up for the lost time. Education taught them to want things for themselves and their families that their fathers and mothers never thought of wanting. The hopes which satisfied their parents depressed and irritated them. The bathtub and tooth brush are acquired habits. The desire to straighten the back that has been bent in toil too long, is put there by education.

One thing stood in the way—it obstructed the path upward to decent living. They saw the barrier clearly and distinctly—poverty. They saw this impassable obstacle was made out of poor wages. They saw more. They saw that poor wages built the poorhouses and filled them, organized the bread lines, introduced the soup house. Out of their thoughts, in their experience, they carved a truth. "As long as some people have more than they can possibly use, while others through no fault of their own have less than they absolutely need, something is wrong," and when the call to arms came these thoughts were living in the mass mind of the world. Many not concerned with the problem of the other seven-eighths, knowing nothing of what was happening in the minds of the men and women of toil, and caring less, they did not know that these men were uniting and planning to tear down the wall of poverty.

Contradiction in Berlin.

Fats, oils, clothes, milk for babies and other necessities are scarce in Berlin, and so high-priced that the poorer people can hardly afford them at all; yet the shop windows along Unter den Linden are full of beautiful goods.

Housing conditions pinch despite the fact that Berlin and other cities have less population than before the war.

Every candy store window in Berlin has a crowd before it all day long. Adults, as well as children, stand and stare at the displays of sweets.

Movies—most of them immoral—are always crowded. Twelve new moving picture houses are to be erected. The most popular firms are those "on the ragged edge."

Theaters are crowded, and so is the opera, as a rule.

"Old Timers" on Rhine Again.

Quite a number of regular "old timers" who marched to the Rhine with the American army of occupation in December, 1918, and who have been to the United States and discharged and enlisted again, go to make up the Fifth and Fiftieth infantry regiments which arrived recently in the vicinity of Coblenz to await possible dispatch in the near future to Upper Silesia to supervise the plebiscite.

Some of them saw ten and twelve months' service in France and Belgium before the armistice.

Russ Loses 35,000,000.

The Polish professor, A. A. Ossendofsky, chief of the intelligence department of the all-Russian government, estimates that the world war, bolshevism, civil war, starvation and disease has cost Russia a total of 35,000,000 lives. He places the cost of bolshevism at 12,280,000 lives. Professor Ossendofsky says that formerly the Russian population increased at the rate of four persons a minute. Today it is decreasing at the rate of twelve to thirteen a minute.

DRUGS EXCITE YOUR KIDNEYS, USE SALTS

If Your Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers, Drink Lots of Water.

When your kidneys hurt and your back feels sore, don't get scared and proceed to load your stomach with a lot of drugs that excite the kidneys and irritate the entire urinary tract. Keep your kidneys clean like you keep your bowels clean, by flushing them with a mild, harmless salts which removes the body's urinous waste and stimulates them to their normal activity. The function of the kidneys is to filter the blood. In 24 hours they strain from it 500 grains of acid and waste, so we can readily understand the vital importance of keeping the kidneys active.

Drink lots of water—you can't drink too much; also get from any pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast each morning for a few days and your kidneys will act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to clean and stimulate clogged kidneys; also to neutralize the acids in urine so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive; cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep their kidneys clean and active. Try this, also keep up the water drinking, and no doubt you will wonder what became of your kidney trouble and backache.—Adv.

Make Themselves Miserable.

It is not so much happiness as impatience that from time to time possesses men, and then they choose to call themselves miserable.—Goethe.

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