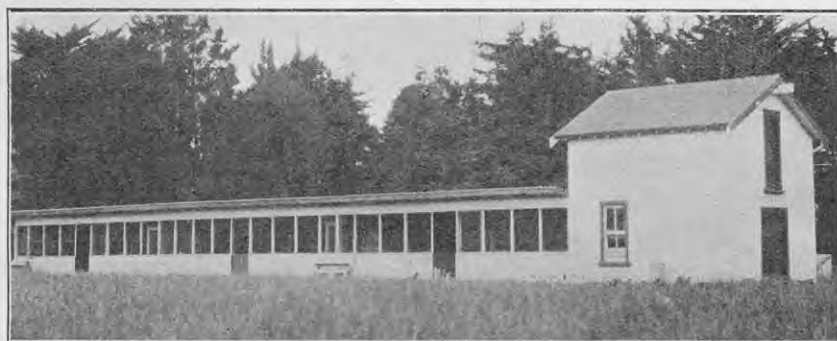


as a good illustration of the soundness of the dairy-farming practice in England, where the dual-purpose Shorthorn preponderates over all other breeds. Conditions, of course, are different and inapplicable to New Zealand: milk production is on a quantity basis only, and fat cattle for slaughter fetch high prices. The dual-purpose animal responds well to heavy concentrate feeding in the increased quantity of milk produced (though it is common knowledge that the quality suffers), but at the same time she puts on condition readily and may be sold fat, if desired, at the end of her lactation period.

Though the results given in this article are strictly accurate as far as they go, they are open to some criticism, particularly in the case of Herds B and C, owing to the absence of antecedent data. Similarly the concentrate ration used may not have been the most economical in respect of cost, and no allowance has been made for the unexpended manurial value of the food consumed. However, as already indicated, a study of farm economics was no part of the original purposes for which these experiments were inaugurated. But despite these qualifications the experiments seem to have shown fairly conclusively that New Zealand farmers should aim at the better feeding of their herds during the early spring months; further, that moderate concentrate feeding during those months only is a payable proposition from a factory viewpoint in a high-testing Jersey herd, and in a case such as Herd A it might conceivably prove more economical than the provision of adequate supplies of hay, ensilage, green crops, or other feed such as could be produced on the farm. On the other hand, the experiments have shown that concentrate feeding under similar conditions should be a payable proposition in any herd which is producing milk on a quantity basis for retail town supply.

It is to be hoped that the results, so far as they go, will furnish food for thought to progressive dairy-farmers, and that they may lead to the inauguration of further trials on similar lines designed solely to test the economic aspect of concentrate feeding.



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