

FARMING

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Agricultural Estimates

The estimates for agriculture, amounting to \$300,000, came up for approval last week in the House of Commons, and elicited considerable discussion. The item of \$20,000 for Illustration Stations received most attention, and was strongly opposed by some of the members, the contention being that such stations were somewhat impracticable and not needed. The Minister of Agriculture, while favoring the establishment of these stations in Canada, agreed to hold over this item for further discussion, and to consider the proposition of one or two of the members that a portion of this \$20,000 be devoted to the establishment of a station in Essex county to illustrate the best methods of growing and preparing tobacco for market.

The Experimental Farm came in for more than the usual amount of criticism, the live stock department receiving the most attention. Favorable opinions were, however, expressed in regard to the appointment of Mr. Grisdale, the new agriculturist, who was likely to effect a great improvement in this line. To all this criticism the Hon. Mr. Fisher vigorously replied, showing that the recent changes in the staff would increase the good work the Experimental Farm is doing. He explained that the weakness in the live stock department was largely due to the fact that a couple of years ago many of the best animals had been slaughtered because of tuberculosis being in the herd. Provision was made in the estimates for the purchase of a number of valuable purebred animals. Some valuable work is being carried on at the present time for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of soft pork, and it is the intention to show the effect upon pasture land of pasturing sheep.

Dairy Notes for August

What we said in our "Dairy Notes for July," in the first issue of last month, will apply during the month upon which we have just entered, only in a greater degree. Usually the difficulties connected with securing a good quality of milk at cheese factories during August are harder to cope with. The supply of water, which has been getting smaller during July, unless there are frequent showers, often plays out altogether, making it necessary for the dairyman to drive his cows a mile or two to drink. Then the pastures become less succulent, and often reach a stage in which they hardly supply nourishment enough to keep the cow alive, let alone keeping up her milk supply. Coupled with these drawbacks, flies are more numerous, the weather often becomes more oppressive, making it harder to keep milk, and the farmer, in the midst of the grain harvest, is apt to be more negligent of his cows and the milk. Because of these difficulties both the cows and the milk need more care and attention during August than any other time of the year.

Prices for cheese and butter during this month are likely to be well maintained, and dairymen who look after their cows and the milk properly will reap the greatest benefit from them. While a poorer quality of product will bring better returns when the price is high than when low, still it is only the very best quality that can and will command the top of the market. To secure this good quality of cheese and butter a good quality of milk is necessary, and this cannot be had unless every patron supplying milk

to the cheese factory or creamery gives it the very best care and attention. When August approaches the milk becomes richer, and should make a fine quality and an increased quantity of cheese if the milk is taken care of and supplied the maker free from bad flavors and in a condition to make the finest quality in a finished article.

It is during this month that the bulk of the cheese to be exhibited at the fall fairs is made. Every patron should be interested in this matter and should be ready to assist the maker in turning out a quality of cheese or butter which, if it does not secure the prize, will come very close to the top. A sweepstake cheese or package of butter at any of our leading fairs reflects, not only the skill and intelligence of the maker, but also the care and attention which every patron of the prize-winning factory gives his cows and the milk. In this way all the honor of winning a prize does not fall to the maker alone, but to everyone directly interested in the welfare of that particular factory. So we say to the patron, encourage your maker to exhibit and help him to get the quality right by taking good care of the milk. Nearly one-half of the points awarded by the judges are given to flavor, and good flavored cheese or butter can only be secured from good flavored milk.

The Care of Milk

A Cheese-Maker Makes a Proposal that may Lead to Something more Definite along this Line

Mr. J. W. Fotheringham, cheese-maker, Courtice, Ont., wrote us a few days ago making a proposal in connection with instructing his patrons in the care of milk, etc., that may be useful to makers and dairymen generally. Mr. Fotheringham has been in the habit of sending each of his patrons a monthly milk ticket, with instructions on the care of milk printed on the back as will be found below. He thinks, however, that if the instructions given on this ticket varied each month the patron would read them with more interest and give more attention to carrying them out, and suggests that this might be done very effectively and at a very low cost if a number of factories (say, fifty) co-operated and had the printing done at one place. It would not be necessary to have the name of the factory on the card, as shown below, but each factory might have a special stamp that could easily be put on the ticket before it is sent to the patron. The idea is to get the patrons to read and act on the instructions sent them and have the milk cared for more uniformly.

There seems to be something in this proposal that is worthy of consideration by cheese-makers and factory owners. A few pointed and practical suggestions sent to each patron once a month would serve to keep him posted as to what his duties are in connection with our co-operative dairy system, and be the means of establishing a relationship between the patron and maker that should prove helpful to all concerned. We would be glad to hear from makers and others in regard to this proposal.

The milk-ticket containing the instructions sent out by Mr. Fotheringham is of a size that will go in an envelope, which can be addressed to each patron. The following is the reading matter contained on the front and back of this ticket, which may be taken as a sample of about what such a card might contain: