

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

DEMAND JUSTICE FOR RICH CREAM

It has been shown that the practice of using the pipette, for making the Babcock test as followed largely in creameries, is wrong. Dairy authorities and creamery instructors have for years preached for a richer cream. Yet it is generally conceded that the patron who sends rich cream is the loser, that his cream does not get justice, save where the scales—not the pipette—are used in measuring the samples for the Babcock test.

Creamery men have been aware for years of the error made in the test where the pipette is used. Some of them have resented efforts to inform patrons on this question. The truth has come out, however, and now many patrons realize that their rich cream does not get justice with the pipette and as a result they have not sought to produce rich cream, rather the reverse.

The question has reached that point where it is a matter of which the Government should take notice. Several of the States in the American union have passed laws seeking to enforce the accurate determination of

the amount of fat in cream. These appear to have worked out to the benefit of the business.

We know that the weighing of samples of cream gives more accurate results than using the pipette. This fact alone is sufficient reason why the weighing method should be used.

Patrons would do well to demand that the scales be used, rather than the pipette, when their cream is tested. Since the experience of those men who have used the scales is that where a proper balance is used, it is not really any more difficult to weigh the samples than to measure them with the pipette, and a rich cream, when properly tested, is directly in the interests of all concerned in the creamery business, as such, rich cream should be encouraged. The creamery adopting the scales, however, is bound to suffer in competition with the creamery using the pipette, hence the need of considering the adoption of legislation on this point that would require all to adopt the use of the scales in making the Babcock test. We can easily have too much legislation. There are certain matters however, as the history of our dairy industry proves, concerning which wise legislation affords the only means of improvement.

SAVE ALL WOOD ASHES

The ash dealer who makes his rounds through the country bartering soap for ashes should not be encouraged. Ashes that are valuable to him, would be worth much more on the farm where they were produced. Unleached wood ashes contain a large percentage of potash. This potash furthermore is in a soluble form and, therefore, quite available to plant roots. Wood ashes contain anywhere from five to ten per cent. of potash; perhaps an average of ten per cent. Many farmers do not recognize the value of this fertilizer, else they would never allow it to be wasted, as is often the case, or to be sold from the farm.

Experiments conducted by the Ontario Agricultural College have shown that an application of potash to the soil has given marked beneficial results. Various authorities on agricultural chemistry recommend wood ashes as one of the chief correctives for soil acidity. Several experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College have shown wood ashes to almost double the crop on swamp lands.

Besides the potash contained, good wood ashes will also contain from one to two per cent. of phosphoric acid, which is also of great value, particularly as this constituent influences the maturity of the plant and the production of seed or grain. Lime is also a constituent of wood ashes, the percentage of which will vary, but, perhaps, on an average, wood ashes will contain somewhere about ten per cent. The market price for potash and phosphoric acid is about five cents a pound. From these figures, anyone may estimate fairly closely the value per bushel of wood ashes. It is readily apparent that it is highly desirable that wood ashes should be retained on the farm.

Our soils cannot afford to lose the enormous quantities of valuable wood ashes that are annually gathered and exported from this country. While much is exported, probably as great a quantity is wasted. We should recognize the cash value of wood ashes to the farm, and take all precautions to preserve and apply them where they will produce the best results.

THE CHEESE MAKERS' WAGES

Dairy Commissioner Ruddick sounded a timely note of warning in his address at the Eastern Ontario Dairy-men's Convention in Belleville last week, when he drew attention to the fact that a large proportion of the cheese and buttermakers, after a few years' work, drift into some other occupation that offers greater attractions. It is a distinct loss to the dairy industry that a large number of experienced men should leave the business each year. It is in the best interests of the business as Farm and Dairy has repeatedly pointed out to retain these men.

There is no gaining say the fact that cheesemakers have received a remuneration short of what their capabilities and responsibilities would receive in some other business making equal demands upon them. As Mr. Ruddick says, there is no good reason why a business that has been so prosperous and has done so much for the country should not offer sufficient inducement to a larger number of men so that they will make it a life's work.

INSTRUCTION IS APPRECIATED

The marked success of the annual cheese factory meetings throughout the counties of Peterborough and Victoria which were addressed by Mr. Geo. H. Barr, who gave his illustrated talk on "The Care of Milk for Cheese Making," emphasizes the fact that the annual meeting is the place where instruction can best be given to patrons. A decided improvement was noted in the milk supply from those districts this past year where Mr. Barr gave this lecture the year before. Our dairy industry will greatly profit through the continuance and the extension of this means of imparting information to the men who produce the milk. Factory proprietors, cheese makers and those who are directly interested in the condition of the milk as supplied at their factories should put forth efforts seeking to have appropriate instruction given at their next annual meeting.

The dairy instructors may well use their influence towards having expert lecturers for their annual factory meetings, as Mr. D. J. Cameron, the instructor for the Lindsay group, did last year towards having Mr. Barr at the annual meetings of factories in that district. That this form of instruction is popular is well shown from the fact that in spite of unfavorable weather at the time the meetings were held in the Lindsay district, the attendance at any one meeting was not less than 40 and reached upwards of 75. It is safe to predict that the influence of the information

imparted to the patrons at these meetings will be evident next year in the improved quality of the output from these factories.

The Value of an Idea

(The Globe)

A forty-acre orchard, with 1,200 winter apple trees in it, has just been sold in the township of Woodhouse, county of Norfolk, for \$17,000. Eighteen years ago it changed hands for \$2,750, ten years ago for \$4,500, and six years ago for \$10,000. The purchaser who bought it at \$17,000 was Mr. James E. Johnson, Manager of the Norfolk Fruit-growers' Association, and he credits himself with having got a bargain. The increased value is in a large measure owing to the operations of the Association of which Mr. Johnson is the Manager.

The members of the Association recently received their checks for the season's crop, and reports of returns run in some cases as high as \$300 an acre. One case is mentioned of a grower in Charlotteville who has thirty-five trees. Until the establishment of the Association the trees were regarded as practically valueless, but this year he has a check for \$360 for the product of thirty-five trees which had hitherto been regarded as merely ornamental.

And this has all arisen from an idea, the only thing that counts in this world. Some man had the idea that the apple-growing business in Norfolk county could be made much more remunerative if it were better organized and conducted on more scientific lines. As a result of that man's thought the apple-bearing lands of a whole county become greatly appreciated in value, and the bank accounts of many persons grow in consequence. Nor should we lose sight of the greater satisfaction which the intelligent prosecution of one's calling brings to whoever undertakes to learn and apply.

Agricultural Pessimists

(Kemptville Advertiser)

The pessimist is a pest wherever you find him. He never did nor never will do any industry or business any good. He is a clog on the wheels of progress, pulling back when "go ahead" is the only thing to do. There are the pessimists in Canada; men who profess to be leaders in the field. Everything they say or write is saturated with a pestiferous pessimism that knocks the bottom out of the thing they intend to help. Above all other callings Canadian agriculture has no room for the pessimist. Grievances the farmer has, to be sure, many of them. They never will or can be righted by the pessimist. Nothing can be accomplished by belittling the cause one represents. It is the fellow who extols his calling and shows its importance to the community who gains the ear of the governments when there are grievances to be remedied. Let us get rid of the pessimist in Canadian agriculture. There is an effective way of doing it. Sit on him good and hard when he begins to exploit his pessimistic ideas before the public. Give him to understand