

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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the expense of putting farm products, be they fruit, milk, meat or what not, on the table of the consumer.

The Corn Question.

The results of our experiment, at Weldwood, with corn sown thickly in drills in comparison to corn planted in hills, and which were published in our issue of Dec. 16, have been the means of stirring up a great deal of discussion about the respective merits of these two methods of growing corn. Naturally, differences of opinion have arisen, and in some cases we feel that those who read the article and have since been discussing it, have not grasped clearly two or three essential facts in connection with the experiment. In the first place, we wish to again emphasize that the corn was sown for silo purposes only. We would not think of advising any one to sow the corn thickly in drills if he intended to feed it out as stover in the winter, or to grow ears for husking. The only two places that thick-sown corn can be considered are when grown for silage and when grown for feeding green. We are particularly interested in corn for silage, and, as pointed out in our report of the experiment, the thickly-sown corn gave us a larger yield in tons per acre, and the analysis made of it at Guelph shows this to be very nearly, if not quite, as good feed pound for pound as the corn planted in hills. But from talking with many of our readers we have come to the conclusion that some are laboring under the delusion that this thick-sown corn, which had very few cobs, was immature. We wish to state again that this corn was mature, and under no consideration, at least until further work has been done by the experimental stations, would we advise ensiling immature corn. Our thick-sown corn, to all appearances and by the results of the analysis, was as thoroughly matured as, if not more so than, the hill-planted corn. We would not like to see any reader make the mistake of sowing a late-maturing variety or of cutting his corn before it was matured, thinking that this was the proper

system to follow. In this issue the results of some experimental work carried on by Prof. G. E. Day are given, and so far as the work has gone it has proven that immature corn is not as valuable for silage as is the more mature crop, so that he would have our readers understand in the beginning that if they attempt to grow their corn thickly in rows, they must plant early-maturing varieties, and give those varieties at least the same number of days to mature as they would give them if planted in hills.

In connection with this we might again state that the corn from which the results of our experiment was taken was sown in drills three feet apart, and at the rate of fifty pounds per acre. This is a very thick seeding, and the corn, being thick in the rows, seemed to mature even earlier than that planted in hills.

Readers should remember also that it was a wet season, and the thick-sown corn possibly showed up to better advantage than it would in a dry season. However, practical farmers and some experimentalists have borne out our findings that the thick-sown corn in rows, so that it can be cultivated one way, will produce more pounds per acre for silage purposes than will the hill-planted corn.

Growers should remember, then, to plant early-maturing varieties. Be sure they mature in the thick-sown row as well as in hills. We favor planting so thickly that the corn does not cob, which means at least fifty pounds per acre in drills as outlined. Even then a few cobs will appear. We would caution also that the grower purchase good seed and test it thoroughly before planting.

Dairymen Should Demand Cream Grading.

The Dairymen of Ontario are at the parting of the way. There are two roads, two alternatives. One path may appear easy, the other difficult. The easy way leads we know not where; the road strewn with apparent obstacles has a fixed and definite goal which all dairymen would attain were it not for the thorns. Which character from Pilgrim's Progress will they simulate, that of Christian or Pliable?

Perhaps these words are not understood. Let us explain. In the great majority of cases Ontario dairymen are paid the same price for their cream at the factories whether it is good, bad or indifferent. These various qualities of cream are pooled or put into the same vat, and a quantity of cream which is over-ripe or of flavor will spoil the entire bulk, even if some of it should be excellent in every way. The result is that Ontario butter has an unenviable reputation on discriminating markets. We say this advisedly, and on the authority of those whom the Government has employed to safeguard the interests of the dairy industry in Canada. This is poor advertising for the Ontario product, it is true, but it is not written in a spirit of revenge. The sooner the patrons and owners of factories in Ontario realize their position and adopt remedial measures the quicker will they be able to meet Western, Eastern and New Zealand butter on any market, home or abroad. There is much good butter manufactured in this Province, but we are referring to the product as a whole. The good brands cannot make a reputation for all when they are in the minority. It is the quality of the car-load orders that will and does brand Ontario butter as good, medium or bad. Why is the Alberta make or that of Quebec any better than our own? Simply because a very large percentage of the cream in those provinces is paid for according to grade, the different qualities are kept apart, and manufactured separately into butter. Their specials, first, second and off-grades are made from corresponding qualities of cream. The dairyman receives more for good cream than he does for bad. There is equity in the system which encourages an effort to improve. Where is the justice, or the inducement to take greater care of cream in the out-of-date pooling system still in vogue in Ontario? In the language of politics, "It is time for a change." Factory owners and makers see obstacles in the way; will they give up without a struggle?

In 1915 about 96 per cent. of the creamery butter in Alberta was made from graded cream, 59 per cent of this butter graded specials, and only 7 per cent. graded seconds. In Saskatchewan 98 per cent. of the creamery butter was made from graded cream. In Manitoba 61 per cent. was made from graded cream. As a result of this measure the Western Provinces, especially Alberta and Saskatchewan, have been able to compete with New Zealand butter on the Vancouver market, and an extensive dealer there recently said that if Alberta and Saskatchewan made as much improvement in their butter in 1916 as they did in 1915 they would gain control, and crowd New Zealand butter off that market. The Province of Quebec now has drastic legislation relative to this matter. A dairy Act recently passed there makes cream grading compulsory. Each grade must be churned separately, and the patrons must be paid according to quality. At the Western Ontario Dairymen's Convention, held two weeks ago in St. Mary's, Harry Mitchell, Supervisor of the Milk Records Work in the Maritime Provinces, said a man should arm himself with a gatling-gun if he set out in the East to talk the old-time method of pooling and paying one price for all grades of cream. This short review of conditions in other provinces is sufficient to explain their position. Ontario cannot afford to lag behind.

We must admit that conditions are not the same in Ontario as in the Western Provinces. Factories here are sometimes close together, and if one maker attempted to grade cream and pay one man more than another, it is feared that patrons might be lost and gained to such an extent as to make the business rather uncertain. The argument has also been advanced that producers might turn to the city trade if cream grading were adopted. In any case the disgruntled producer will be the careless producer, who delivers over-ripe or tainted cream to the factory, and expects the same amount for it as the neighbor who cares for his milk and cream properly, and delivers it in such condition that a high-class butter can be made from it. Surely the majority of dairymen in Ontario will not allow a few to besmirch the name of their product. There is justice and equity in a system of cream grading that offers a reward for merit. Such a system is in the interests of the patrons, for their efforts in carefully handling their cream will be rewarded in dollars and cents instead of in words of praise.

It has been announced that a Government appropriation will this year be spent in giving cream grading a trial in a few factories. Why lose time in trying it? It has been tried in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces and has been adopted. It has been adopted so successfully that the reputation of Ontario butter has suffered in consequence. Cream grading has been advocated in Ontario for years. The season of 1916 should not be dallied away. Steps should be taken so that, when the war is over, the reputation of Ontario butter will stand any test that may result from a decreased demand, which will cast the product into direct competition with that from the other provinces. There is really no choice to be made. There is only one road for the dairymen of Ontario to follow, the way leading to a superior quality of butter through cream grading.

Why Not to the End of the War?

The Canadian Parliament is again in session, and the question arising in the minds of politicians and electors alike, is whether or not the life of the present parliament will be extended to meet contingencies brought on by the war. This is a time when all citizens of the Dominion should put matters of the state first, and forget party differences and party leanings until such time as the main issue in this country, and in all the Allied countries, namely the war, is settled to the satisfaction of humanity. Canada needs no war-time election. The rank and file of the voters think very little of such a possibility and would, were it thrust upon them, be indignant. The money necessary to carry on an election can be much more advantageously spent in helping to