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Cheese Factory Improvement.

NO question is of greater importance to the country at the present time than the proper equipment of our cheese factories and creameries for making the finest quality of cheese and butter. Especially is this true of Canadian cheese factories. It would seem as if years ago our dairymen had decided to put no more money into buildings and equipment for cheese-making purposes, and consequently we have to-day a condition of affairs that places the whole dairy industry of this country in serious jeopardy. What with small, poorly equipped and unsanitary factories and badly ventilated curing-rooms and totally inadequate conditions for curing cheese properly, this important Canadian industry has lost prestige in the old land and materially weakened its influence upon the British market.

Under these circumstances we may be pardoned for referring to this question once more. A few weeks ago we gave it as our opinion that the cheese buyers of this country do not discriminate sufficiently in price as between first-class, medium and poor factories when buying. We are still of the same opinion and believe that we shall never have the improvement we ought to have in the way of better buildings, better equipment, better milk and a better product all round till a sufficient premium is paid to induce dairymen to carry on the business in the very best way. Further, we believe that the day is coming when more discrimination in price must and will be made by our dealers, and then the well-equipped and up-to-date factory will be given its proper place at the cheese board, while the medium and inferior concern will be forced either to accept a cent or two per lb. less for its product, or to make the improvements that our dairy teachers and others interested in the business are advocating.

But why wait for this condition of affairs to arrive? Why not begin to improve right away even if the buyers are not paying a sufficient premium for first-class quality? By making curing room conditions such that the temperature can be controlled at all times even if no special advance in price is obtained, factories can save more than the cost of the improvement in one season by lessening the loss from shrinkage during the hot weather. Prof. Dean in dealing with the question of the sub-earth duct and heated cheese elsewhere in this issue gives some rather startling figures, showing the losses our dairymen are sustaining every year from heated

cheese. Let our dairymen examine these figures carefully and thoughtfully and they cannot but come to the conclusion that it is exceedingly poor business to continue to make cheese year after year with these leaks unstoppered. Surely the time for action has come.

The Labor Question in the West.

(By our special Western correspondent.)

Manitoba is now struggling with a labor problem. Harvest is rapidly approaching, the first of August will see some early fields ready for the binder, and the farmers are calling for men to help take off the crop. This circumstance is of annual recurrence, and hitherto the efforts of the Government and the railways have been equal to the occasion, but this year's conditions are so extraordinary that it seems doubtful whether the usual methods will prove adequate to cope with the situation.

Ordinarily a large number of men can be secured from the towns and cities; this year these cannot be counted upon. The building trade is unusually active—buildings to the value of \$2,000,000 are now under construction in Winnipeg alone—and this, with the large amount of railway construction employs every available man. It may be said that there is not an idle man in the province.

Again, the amount of help required is greatly in excess of former years. Not only is the area in crop over half a million acres greater than ever before, but the crop itself is unusually heavy and will be moved with much more than ordinary labor. The grain stands very thick, and the straw is of extra length. It is not in one-half or three-fourths of the province that such conditions prevail; they are universal. Every county reports the same state of affairs.

In past years large numbers of men have gone from the Eastern Provinces to work in the harvest fields of Manitoba. The "harvest laborers" excursions have come to be recognized as an annual institution, and many young men go every year. In 1898 these excursions carried over 5,000; in 1899 over 10,000 men, and in neither case was the supply equal to the demand.

Judging from the experience of these years, and the conditions above stated the Province of Manitoba will require 20,000 men from outside

points. This figure was stated in a recent speech of Premier Roblin, who doubtless had given the matter careful consideration before making such an announcement.

Can Ontario furnish such a number! A few may go from other provinces, but it is here the main supply must be sought. The men are here but can they be spared? Harvest is over, but plowing and threshing and other fall work demands attention. The inducement of a cheap trip to see the Golden West in all the glory of the great harvest, combined with a certainty of high wages for three or four months' work will undoubtedly lure every available man to go.

Supposing the requisite number can be secured, are the railways able to handle such an exodus? The first contingent of 10,000 men should be on the ground by the 10th of August, the second a week later. These must be carried for a distance averaging 1,600 miles. To carry them will require 410 passenger coaches and about 70 baggage cars, and this will be in addition to ordinary heavy traffic of the season. If the cars employed for the first excursion can be returned in time for the second, the task will be lessened, but, in any case it will call forth every resource of the railway companies.

These excursionists will carry away a great deal of money which should properly be kept in the country. As high as \$2 per day has, in the past, been paid; but suppose that each man carries back the low average savings of \$50 the total cash taken out of the province would amount to one million dollars. There is a moral in this, but the Manitoba farmers must learn it for themselves.

Some Beef Cattle Figures.

Beef eaters increasing faster than the Cattle supply.

The last estimate of the number of cattle in the United States published by the Department of Agriculture at Washington has created no little stir in some live stock centres. The feeling among men in the business is that the estimate is too low. If, however, the estimate is fairly correct, then they claim that the United States is rapidly approaching a beef famine. To show this, we cannot do better than give the following analysis of the Government figures by the Denver Record-Stockman. It says: "The last government estimate of the number of cattle in the country outside of milch cows, was 28,000,-