

EDITORIAL.

Forward Movement in Dairying.

CHEESE FACTORY INSTRUCTION SYNDICATES.

The continued high reputation Canadian cheese has acquired in the markets of Great Britain depends upon uniformly high quality of the product. No doubt we have among our makers, factories, and dairy herds, individual attainments surpassed by none in the world, and in so far as these best conditions permeate the whole Canadian cheesemaking industry the higher will the reputation of our cheese ascend and remain. Quebec cheesemakers have recognized this, and have now in working order not less than thirty-five syndicates, which are conducted as nearly as possible like one monster first-class factory. Quality and uniformity are receiving so far the whole attention of the syndicates, but there is now a movement on foot to avail themselves of the wholesale purchase and distribution of a uniform grade of the best factory furnishings, as the cost to the factorymen can, in the aggregate, be reduced by many thousands of dollars, at the same time insuring a quality that will improve the appearance and standard of the cheese.

Another line receiving consideration in Quebec syndicates is the improvement of the quality of milk furnished the factory. It is also proposed to make the makers liable to a fine if they do not absolutely refuse all milk that is tainted or off flavor. The practice of sending sour whey home in the milk cans is also to be taken up and prohibited. This practice has probably done more to impair the reputation of our cheese on the consumers' table than anything else, as it requires some little time for its contaminating influences upon the flavor of the cheese to develop.

It is believed that if the factory furnishings and milk can be provided of a first-class, high-grade quality, the question of flavor will be definitely settled. The other important point receiving attention is the qualifications of the cheesemaker. This is carefully looked after in Quebec, not only preparatory to but in course of his regular factory work, as was recently pointed out in these columns.

We are pleased to note that Western Ontario is falling into line, a syndicate having just been inaugurated, comprising the following factories: Nilestown, Dorchester, Burnside, Avon, Harrietsville, Lyons, Gladstone, Elgin, Yarmouth Center, Mapleton, Glanworth, Pond Mills, Geary's, Proof Line, Devizes, Cherry Hill, Thamesford. We commend the good judgment of factory owners upon the step they have taken, which ought to be successful, for it rests on the solid basis of increased knowledge. They are placed under the inspection of Mr. J. B. Muir, of Avonbank, who is a bright, first-class maker, of long and successful experience with both cheese and butter; noted always for his thorough cleanliness, order, and skill. Avonbank was one of the first factories to pay for milk by test and to adopt winter buttermaking. Mr. Muir will devote his whole time during the factory season to the inspection, which will enable him to make frequent visits to each factory and spend the necessary time with those most needing instruction. The condition of the factory and surroundings, appliances, process of making, curing, boxing, condition of milk, and other details will receive his watchful attention. The Dairymen's Association and the Boards, or factory owners, unite in providing the remuneration. Inspector T. B. Millar will be relieved of the supervision of the factories in the Syndicate, thus allowing him a little more time for the extensive work under his charge, thus enabling him to give closer supervision to detail, which strikes us as a move in the right direction.

The duties of the Syndicate Inspector, outlined by the Western Dairymen's Association, are as follows:—

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Syndicate Instructor to visit each factory in the Syndicate as often as his time will allow, and to give such instructions and advice to the maker as he may consider beneficial and helpful in improving the quality of the cheese and of assistance in carrying on the work connected with the factory.
(2) In cases where the maker in any factory in the Syndicate has some special difficulty which he cannot overcome, it shall be the duty of the Instructor to visit that factory as soon as possible and to do his utmost to remedy the difficulty.
(3) In no case will the Instructor be expected to test every sample of milk when he visits a factory. If desirable, however, he will make a test of samples which the maker or committee, from a previous test, may consider to have been tampered with.
(4) Neither the Instructor nor the Association will be responsible for the quality of the cheese

made on the day of the Instructor's visit, or for any cheese made during the season when following the instruction given, as there may be conditions connected with the milk and the curing of the cheese over which the Instructor has no control.

(5) In short, it shall be the duty of the Syndicate Instructor to supervise and oversee the operations of the factories comprising the Syndicate, and to use his best judgment in advising such ways and means as will bring about an improvement in the quality of the milk; a better class of factory building and equipment; a more uniform article of cheese, and better methods of curing the same; and to use his best endeavor to enhance the value of the cheese in the district represented by the Syndicate, and to make it more uniform throughout.

(6) When any special difficulty occurs, makers and others are requested to notify the Secretary of the Association, Mr. J. W. Wheaton, London, Ont., or the Instructor, at once, so that the matter may be attended to without delay.

Carried on as we trust it will be, this Syndicate—which will be known as the Middlesex Cheese Factory Syndicate—should prove of material and early advantage to the factories co-operating for the purpose of securing an output of cheese at once high in quality and uniform.

What British Farmers Have Done for Themselves.

To the individual farmer distinct gain often comes from a survey of the operations of a neighbor, so we may benefit by a study of the conditions and methods, reverses or successes of farming as conducted in other lands.

In an exhaustive treatise on "Recent Changes in Farm Practices," published in the journal of the English Royal Agricultural Society, Mr. W. J. Malden reaches the conclusion that the chief factors that have sustained many on the land during the past twenty years of ungenerous seasons and falling prices have been: 1, the more frequent cropping of the soil; 2, laying down arable land to grass; 3, live stock improvement; 4, the employment of improved machinery; 5, greater intelligent energy; and 6, reducing personal expenses.

Increasing the pasture land for live stock involved changes in the old rotations. Catch crops, such as vetches, rye, winter oats and barley, etc., sown from June forward, and consumed before that time the following year, are cultivated much more widely than they were a few years ago; and this breaks the old rotation. More frequent cropping necessitates closer attention to working the soil, and dead fallowing is not practised to nearly such an extent as formerly. There is also a tendency to apply a greater proportion of manure to pasture and meadow land, the need for which we believe is drawing near, if not already at hand, in some portions of Canada. Barren meadows here and there begin to tell the tale. It is believed that in England a still larger proportion of the manure will yet find its way to the grass land. Growing out of this is the more general and skilful use of artificial manures on the tilled land, particularly for catch crop growing. The proportion of home-grown grain consumed in stock feeding on the farm has largely increased, but at the same time Mr. Malden states that the quantity of imported foods has very much increased.

Converting arable into pasture land was one of the earliest remedies suggested when growing grain for sale became unprofitable, and during the twenty years ending 1894, 3,280,000 acres were added to the area of pasture in Great Britain, temporary pasture being also augmented. The corresponding shrinkage was largely in wheat land. Despite the increase of pasture, however, we find that there were 4,454,000 fewer sheep than in 1874, but a small increase in cattle (222,000). The conclusion is therefore inevitable that the laying down of arable land to grass has not been a complete success, and further, that the plow and grass must go together. The Old Country farmer finds, too, that the winter must be reckoned with. For stock feeding on a large scale, roots, litter, etc., are necessary if the pastures are to be stocked. Without good winter feeding, good-bye to early maturity, which is every day becoming a more imperative requisite of all stock destined for the butcher.

Great advantage has come to British agriculture along the line of live stock improvement, its pure breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine being famed the world over, and with the progress of which the establishment and maintenance of various associations, with their carefully conducted stud, herd and flock books, have had so much to do. In fact, it might be said that the records constitute an essential feature of these important organi-

zations and have been largely instrumental in insuring their permanent success.

The use of improved machinery has lessened the need for hand labor, facilitating the handling of larger crops more expeditiously; but how much it has lessened the general outlay is another question.

Great attention has been paid to the development of dairying, market gardening, and fruit growing. The production of specialties also claims attention, but the demand for such is more restricted than in case of the great food staples, and their growth and handling requires vastly more skill.

In this connection Mr. Malden indicates the greater extent to which farmers read on questions relating to their own business, and though an imperative necessity growing out of the changed conditions for farming, it is yet an encouraging sign of the times. Despite this, a Scottish contemporary points out the lamentable absence of the agricultural journal in many a British farm home, whereby the tenant farmer loses the advantage of an ally not to be secured in any other way.

Canadian Mutton.

A Canadian who recently visited New York City was impressed with the apparent appreciation of the products of his country, which was shown by prominent signs in many of the best butcher shops—"Canadian Mutton." The same quotation was also noticed on the bill of fare of the best restaurants. Upon indulging in some of the home-grown meat, the question arose mentally, Why do we not get such mutton at home? Probably the smaller Canadian markets are too often supplied with the scrub stuff that is not fit to ship, and, indeed, which the shipping buyer does not care to handle. If our local butchers, as well as our local cheese dealers, would handle only first-class goods, the quality offered would do a great deal toward increasing the consumption and therefore the demand of these two nutritious articles of diet. The stringy, dry, so-called lamb so generally put upon the hotel table causes the consumer to vow that he will not again ask for even "spring lamb."

A Notable Standard-bred Horse Portrayed.

The illustration given the place of honor in this number represents a noted horse. This portrait is true to the life, which proves the falsity of the statement often made, to the effect that a fast-going Standard-bred horse is assuredly an ill-shapen, homely individual. Conformation, substance, and general style were too long sacrificed on the altar of a mere "record" by trotting horse breeders, but a different policy is now being pursued. This engraving depicts the Standard-bred stallion, Wildmont, who has proved himself, in race contests and in the stud, to be justly entitled to high honors as a superior individual and getter of handsome roadsters and race-track winners. He was foaled in 1890, and at four years old made for himself a record of 2.27. His breeder was Nat. Bruen, Burlington, Iowa, and he is now owned by Fares & Cochrane, Morden, Manitoba.

Wildmont is a beautiful brown in color, 15½ hands high, and weighs 1,170 pounds. He has neck and head of rare elegance, and shows a girth, back, loin, flank, and such prominence of chest that fully explain the wonderful vital force and endurance that have been exhibited by him. He stands upon strong, sound limbs and feet, and is a game and resolute fellow. In his 30 public engagements he placed 24 to his credit. At Chicago, in 1883, in his three-year-old form, he not only won his race but was awarded diploma for State of Illinois as road horse. Since his arrival in Manitoba he won 1st prize at Winnipeg Industrial Fair, 1893; he was beaten at Winnipeg Industrial Fair, 1895, but went on from there to Portage la Prairie and won 1st and diploma, to Brandon and won 1st and diploma, then to Regina at Territorial Fair, where he again met and defeated the 1st prize winner at Winnipeg Industrial, winning 1st in a good field of horses. Wildmont's colts are large, handsome, and prize winners in the show ring.

Pedigree.—Wildmont 2271, by Egmont 1828, by Belmont 61. Egmont has to his credit six in the 2.20 list, namely: Lobasco, 2.10½; Combination, 2.16½; North-West, 2.15; Trigo, 2.16½; Clear Grit, 2.19½; Lady Campbell, 2.17½; and 28 others in 2.30 or better. Dam Advance, by Administrator 357, one of the great brood mare sires; he by Hamiltonian 10.

Wildmont has proved himself the sire of speed as well as of beauty, being the sire of Chloe, 2.17½ in a winning race, and can trot in 2.10; Ruth, 2.24½; Nulla Bona, 2.29½, champion three-year-old of Manitoba and the Northwest, with only ten months breaking in and handling; she can trot in 2.25; and several others that can go into the 2.30 list when called on to do so.

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