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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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CLEAN AND HONEST MILK

Some of the legislation asked for by boards of health and city authorities in their desire to secure better milk for people of our cities and towns is to say the least, ludicrous. The bill recently introduced into the Ontario Legislature, and which fortunately was placed in committee, is a case in point. This bill asked that a minimum standard of 12 per cent. total solids and not less than 3 per cent. butter fat be fixed for all milk sold for consumption in towns and cities.

Will the promoters of this bill tell us how the enactment of such legislation would ensure a better quality of milk for the city consumer.

Under such a law what is to prevent the producer of milk showing 3.5 per cent. butter fat from reducing it to 3 per cent. fat. He could do this and the law could not touch him. What the consumer wants is normal milk just as it comes from the cow. Whether it contains 3 or 4 per cent. fat, it matters little, so long as it is honest milk. If the law, as it at present stands, does not compel city authori-

ties to compel the supplying of honest milk to citizens, then let it be amended, in such a way as to make it effective in so doing. Any changes in the law in this direction will be approved of by the honest milk producer. But to stipulate that milk, to be fraudulent, must be under a certain minimum standard is opening up the way for dishonesty of the worse kind.

Milk consumers should not lose sight of the fact that impure milk will cause infinitely more harm than dishonest milk. Pure, wholesome milk with only 2 per cent. fat is infinitely better as a food than 4 per cent. milk that is impure and contains the germs of disease. This principle is at the root of the city milk supply question. Guard against dishonesty in the product as much as possible, but at all hazards make sure that the supply is pure and free from all disease producing germs.

Producers of milk for the city trade should bear in mind the latter phase of this question. The day is coming when the consumer will demand a guarantee that the milk he buys is absolutely pure and free from disease germs. In fact there has been a marked advance in this direction during recent years. People will accept anything so long as it is milk. The producer must prepare for this growing demand for cleaner and better milk, and govern himself accordingly. A question which he will have to face sooner or later is that of tuberculosis and its transmission to the human family in milk. So far Canadian herds have escaped rigid inspection in this particular. But they may not always be so favored. "Put your house in order" would be a good motto for the producer just here. Weed out all disease in the herd and make the sanitary conditions at the dairy as perfect as possible.

LITTLE THINGS IN CULTIVATION

While cultivating the land we are prone to lend ourselves to routine rather than to make a study of the soil conditions with which we have to deal. How often we see a field rough and clod covered after the work of the cultivator. In a dry season, the extra labor entailed in reducing these lumps is considerable. Much of this labor would have been saved had the simple spike-toothed harrow preceded the cultivator. Then, some of us, especially those who have recently purchased improved cultivating machinery, become too enthusiastic in the work their implements can accomplish, oftentimes digging up the soil to too great a depth. For spring seeding the soil should be cultivated to the depth we intend sowing the seed, not deeper. The seed when sown will then rest upon the moist, undisturbed earth. Here it will have an available water supply from below, while above it there will be a good mulch preventing loss of moisture by evaporation.

An implement, the use of which is often abused, is the roller. If we had a proper appreciation of the value of

our time this would not be so. The roller is frequently used at a disadvantage and too often at a loss. By compacting the soil and leaving a smooth hard surface, the roller puts the soil in a condition when it is subject to heavy losses of water, from evaporation. This untoward action can be readily overcome by dragging the land with a harrow, after the roller. In fact, it is a safe axiom to lay down that the drags should invariably follow the roller.

Our chief aim in spring cultivation should be always to make mulches to prevent the evaporation of water stored in the soil from the precipitation of winter. To this end, time and labor spent in harrowing our fields after the drill, after the roller, and in many cases even after the grain is up, will be repaid many fold.

THE DEAD MEAT TRADE

Some returns brought down in the House of Commons recently show the uselessness of further advances from Canada in asking for the removal of the British Cattle embargo. Our government has met with refusal after refusal to do anything from the British government. Things have now reached a point where further efforts would be futile, and both the government and the Canadian people should turn their attention to developing our cattle trade under conditions as they now exist or upon lines that would make it independent of embargos of any kind.

The development of the dead meat trade supplies a line of action, both for the government and the cattle raiser. There may be difficulties in the way of developing this trade that at present seem insurmountable. But they are not of such a nature as should deter action, especially as it is generally admitted that a dead meat trade established on a sufficiently extensive scale would be of very great benefit to our cattle trade. The dead meat industry of the United States has largely been the making of the Western States. It has for years supplied a steady market for cattle at remunerative prices, which the rancher and the cattle raiser have taken advantage of and the country generally has benefited thereby. The Argentine, Australia and New Zealand, the last two more in the line of frozen mutton, have also benefited by the establishment of this industry. Why not Canada? A dead meat trade would save the western rancher from disaster and add materially to the profits of the cattle feeder in Eastern Canada.

It is estimated that Canada should be able to supply 1,000 head of suitable cattle a week, before the government would be justified in taking action towards assisting in the establishment of a dead meat trade or the capitalist warranted in investing in the business. Perhaps so; but what inducement is there for the cattle raiser to increase his productions to this amount under present conditions? The way to induce the cattle raiser to increase his production is

to provide a steady market for his output at remunerative prices. This he has not got, though cattle prices rule high at the moment. Let the government lend its assistance towards establishing the dead meat trade on a permanent basis and the farmer will produce the cattle. Had our pork packers taken this view of the hog supply, the bacon trade of this country would never have been established. They erected their packing establishments, provided a steady market for the right kind of hogs, and our farmers began producing them. The cheese industry furnishes another case in point. A cheese factory established in a new section does not get its full supply of milk the first year or two. The building is erected, a market provided for milk, and the farmer begins to produce milk in larger quantities. The same principle holds good in the establishment of the dead meat trade.

Quite a large percentage of our cattle are suitable for this trade. Establish the business, provide a steady market and this percentage will be increased.

A liberal appropriation to put this industry on its feet would do more good to the country at large than many of the lavish expenditures that are being made to-day by our governments, both Dominion and Provincial.

FRUIT MARKS ACT AMENDED

The Hon. Mr. Fisher has introduced his amendment to the Fruit Marks Act. A fine of \$500 will be imposed for the third offense. This should have a deterring effect upon the fraudulent marking and packing of fruit.

As we pointed out last week, drastic remedies are needed if Canada's good name for honest and fair dealing is to be preserved. The bill might have gone further and made a third offense punishable by imprisonment. There are some packers and shippers who have been deliberately breaking the act ever since it came into force. They have counted on paying so much fine money each year and figured this as an outlay in the business. To such a fine of \$500 for a third offense may prove effective but imprisonment without the option of a fine would be nothing more than they deserve.

CARE NECESSARY WITH VICIOUS BULLS

The frequency of accidents to farmers by vicious bulls makes it imperative that more care should be exercised in handling animals of this class. Very often accidents of this kind are due to carelessness. The animal has been on the farm a long time, daily attendance has made his vicious nature less noticeable, and the attendant takes risks that often lead to serious injury and sometimes death. Such risks should not be taken. One never knows when the animal's treacherous nature may be aroused, and he will wreak vengeance upon anyone who may be within reach. Proper precautions should be taken at all times in handling animals of this class.