

However, there are one or two observations which I feel like making, as while they will not wholly solve the problem may set some one thinking who can. These are as follows:

(1) The producer of beef is not and has not for some time been getting an increase in price proportionate to the increase in the prices paid for other commodities. In other words, while the cost of nearly all the other necessities of life has gone up enormously the price of beef has increased only slightly.

(2) As the middleman has to buy approximately 2 pounds of the live animal to get 1 pound of saleable meat, according to the illustration which you give, his additional profits are going to the producer.

A 1,200 pound steer, we will say for the sake of making the figures easy, will dress 50 per cent. (most of them will dress slightly more). And I think you will find that while the best cuts have increased in price to the consumer the poorer ones have not and in fact the poorer ones are hard to get rid of in the summer, but must go as they cannot well be kept. So that in the case of a 1,200 pound steer it ought to figure out something like this:

1,200 pounds live at 1c. increase, \$12.00

600 pounds dressed at 2c. increase, \$12.00.

If these figures are correct and I think they are approximately so the producer is getting nearly all the increase. I think, however, that these figures do not quite indicate what is wrong—but that more likely the true evil will be found in paragraph (1).

(3) I conclude, especially as the middlemen (except perhaps the large packers who really make their profits on the by-products), are not as a class making fortunes, that either the producer will have to realize that the by-products are valuable and get a corresponding increase in the price of his animal, or the consumer will have to pay more, especially in these times of high prices for everything the producer of beef uses, for his beef and the greater part of the increase will have to go into the pocket of the man who produces the animal.

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Dairying vs. Beef Production

Editor, The Farming World:

I have read with interest your editorial of recent date entitled "Dairymen Must Make Good." \$84,000 is a very large sum of money to spend in a single year for the fostering of any one industry. For many years the dairy interest has been a plank in politicians' platforms everywhere throughout Canada, and one kind of appropriation has followed another, until the Government seems to dig up money for this purpose just as it runs into debt, viz., from force of habit.

Almost every hundred producers of milk have a cheese factory or creamery, and the Government sends an official round ever so often to see that things are running right, and to instruct the manufacturer and his assistants in all that is new and up-to-date; schools are established; legislation empowers the compulsory production of the right kind of goods all along the line.

A subsidized refrigerator service lands the dairymen's produce at the inspected cold storage, whence it is shipped in cold storage to its foreign market, and who knows how many dollars have been expended sending delegations to develop foreign markets and to further the interests of the Canadian dairyman there? When the dairyman exhibits at such a show as the Winter Fair at Guelph, popularly known as the Guelph Fat Stock Show, he takes his cattle into a place where fires keep them warm at night, he can sleep in the building, he can sell his milk, actually make money out of the trip (and incidentally do more kicking than all the other exhibitors), while the exhibitor of fat stock has to pay for accommodation at a hotel, is shut out of the building at a certain hour every night, and then after all this, one is repeatedly told, both by dairymen and others in a position to know, that the average dairy cow in Ontario does not pay for her keep. I notice also that your next article is entitled "Shipping Green Cheese," which would seem to add evidence.

Possibly this vast amount of money is, as you suggest, well spent. Possibly as might appear, more might be spent to good advantage in the interests of this departure also. But I am on the other side of the fence, a breeder of beef animals, and a producer of market beef. I can imagine how much could be

done for the good of that great branch of agriculture by the expenditure of a similar amount of money and solicitude in its behalf.

Have we anyone, like Mr. Ruddick, a monitor to tell us when the wrong kind of goods are shipped to the market, organized associations under Government patronage to instruct in what is right and what methods of procedure are wrong, inspectors to see that carefully devised laws for the protection of our industry are enforced and that all which tends to deteriorate the quality or reputation of our goods both at home and abroad is as far as possible eliminated?

The live stock freight car must make way for the refrigerator car. When it reaches its destination it is bought and handled by companies well enough organized in their own specialty, that of making the goods turn into the almighty dollar for them. They can buy it, kill it and market it in any unrestricted manner that seems to them most profitable, and it is an undeniable fact that the dealer and butcher can and do make more profit in thirty days from each carcass than the farmer ever does in the three years which it requires for him to produce it. The inducement to produce the best and only the best is a small one in the case of the feeder and grazer. It always costs a little more to do anything well than to do it ill.

If it pays better to do a thing well, it must always be because there is a demand for the best at an enhanced price. The beef producing industry is surely, as wide and important as that of dairying. Yet it has never received a tithe of the consideration which dairying has. Its possibilities need no further illustration than the cities of Chicago, Kansas and Omaha can give with their wide tributary territories, flourishing and prosperous, where land is worth more and is worked at half the cost, though only half as old, as in Ontario.

It is high time that more organized effort was made on behalf of the meat producing industries of Ontario, and of Canada generally. There may not be grounds for the imputations often heard and sometimes published, that our packing houses and handlers of market stock are a consolidated band of legalized public robbers, but there can be no doubt in the mind of any intelligent man in any de-