

Ottawa Milk Test

Mr. E. McMahon, secretary of the Central Canada Exhibition Association, Ottawa, sends us for publication the following letter received from J. W. Hart, superintendent of the Kingston Dairy School, who conducted the test at the last exhibition, dealing with some criticisms which lately appeared in these columns in regard to the basis upon which the awards were made:

"Your valued favor of 25th inst. has been received. At the time the test was made a full report was sent you, and it has also appeared in FARMING. I saw the letter in FARMING to which you refer, but, under the regulations of your association, could not write to that journal in reply.

"In answer to your question, I will state that I do not consider that the test was conducted strictly and literally as advertised. Section 272 of the prize list states that a special prize will be given 'for the cow being the largest producer (products from milk only to be considered).' Now 'products from milk' would approximate the quantity of milk given by each cow. If that interpretation were the one meant in the paragraph, Mr. Clemons' cow 'Queen De Kol 2nd' should have been awarded second place, as she stood second in yield of milk. No one claims, however, that the strict construction of the regulation was intended. I understand that the intention of the management was to award the prize to that cow having the best 48-hour record in the test. I can find nothing in section 30 to indicate that any arbitrary standard such as the total capacity of solids in the milk was to govern the test. If the intention of the association had been to award the prize to the cow giving the largest quantity of solids in her milk, a very few words would have sufficed to express the idea, and no misunderstanding could have arisen in regard to their meaning. Section 30 is worded, probably purposely, so as to allow the person conducting the test some discretion in his decisions. If the 'milk test' is to be a feature of an agricultural exhibition, it should be conducted so as to bring out the best points of the competing cows, prove instructive to the owners, and interest the general public. The earlier milk tests of our fairs were *milk tests*, pure and simple. A long step in advance was to base the awards on the total amount of the solids contained in the milk, the standard used at your exhibition of 1898.

A further step has been taken at many of our public milking trials in estimating the fat of the milk as being five times as valuable, pound for pound, as the solids not fat.

Under the conditions governing the test it seems to me that the fairest test would be one based on the commercial value of the products of the milk. The regulations state that the products from milk are to be considered, that is, they are not to be taken as being equally valuable, pound for pound. In the scale used by me the fat was estimated to be ten times more valuable per pound than the solids not fat.

To show how the different standards compare, take 100 lbs. of milk, and suppose it contains 3 lbs. of fat and 8.5 lbs. of solids not fat, which is not far from the average of the milk given by the cows in this test.

Value the fat at 25c. a pound, we figure as follows:

Scale used at Ottawa exhibition, 1899.

Value of fat, 3 x .25..... .75

Value of solids not fat, 8.5 x .025..... .21

Total..... .96

Scale where a pound of fat is estimated as being five times as valuable as a pound of solids not fat:

Value of fat, 3 x .25..... .75

Value of solids not fat, 8.5 x .05..... .42

\$1.17

Scale where all the solids of the milk are estimated to be equally valuable, Ottawa, 1898:

Value of fat, 3 x .25..... .75

Value of solids not fat, 8.5 x .25..... 2.125

\$2 875

The above comparison will show the justice of basing the awards upon the value of the product, and the unfairness of a standard where the skim-milk is estimated as being three times as valuable as the butter fat. In conclusion, I will state that I tried to conduct the test to the best of my ability and understanding of the regulations governing the same, and regret that any dissatisfaction should have arisen in regard to the awards.

If you see fit, you are at liberty to publish this letter.

Yours truly,

(Signed) J. W. HART.

Kingston, Ont., Oct. 25, 1899.

Important Dairy Exhibit

In connection with their second annual convention which is to take place at Ingersoll, Ont., on January 31st and Feb. 1st, 1900, the Cheese and Butter-Makers' Association of Western Ontario will hold an exhibit of cheese and butter. Special efforts are being made to make this exhibit one of the best of its kind that has ever been held. Cheese-makers should make a note of it and select their show cheese before the September goods are shipped from the factories. The entrance fee is fifty cents and entries are open to members only. Entry forms and full particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. John Brodie, Mapleton, Ont. Entries close on January 21st.

The prizes will be awarded as follows:

Class 1, section 1—1 cheese, white, 15 to 30 Sept. and 1 cheese 15 to 31 Oct.—1st, \$25; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

Class 1, section 2—1 cheese, colored, 15 to 30 Sept. and 1 cheese 15 to 31 Oct.—1st, \$25; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

Class 2, section 1—1 56 lb. package winter creamery butter—1st, \$25; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

Class 2, section 2—10 one pound prints winter creamery butter—1st, \$15; 2nd \$10; 3rd, \$5.

Class 3, section 1—1 case of six bottles Hansen's Danish Rennet Extract, donated by D. H. Burrell, Little Falls, N.Y., for the cheese scoring the highest number of points made with Hansen's Extract; winner to hand the secretary a certificate to that effect.

Class 3, section 2—1 case of five cans Hansen's "Columbian" Butter Color, donated by D. H. Burrell, Little Falls, N.Y., for the butter scoring the highest number of points colored with "Columbian" Butter Color; winner to hand the secretary a certificate to that effect.

Cheese competing for special prize must be made during the first ten days of September.

Butter competing in class 2 will not be eligible for special prize.

Prize winners will be required to sign a declaration that the cheese was in factory named and within dates specified.

Agricultural Education

This subject is receiving more attention in Great Britain of late. By way of accomplishing something definite a strong Agricultural Education Committee has recently been formed, composed of some of the leading agriculturists and those interested in the United Kingdom. At the first general meeting of this committee, held last month, Sir W. Hart Dyke, M.P., presided, and there was a large attendance. The chairman pointed out that the committee was formed with a view to influencing public opinion in favor of changes which they deem necessary in the system of elementary education in agricultural districts. It was agreed that the education now given in rural districts was not such as to tempt the laborers to remain in the places in which they were born. Considerable discussion took place, and the expressions of opinion of those present in regard to agricultural education were crystallized in the following resolutions:

"That proper provision should at once be made at certain of the teachers' training colleges for giving to those who desire it both theoretical and practical instruction in subjects bearing on agriculture and horticulture."

"That, after a certain date to be named in next year's code, instruction in the elementary branches of natural science bearing on agriculture should be made compulsory in rural elementary schools, and that such instruction should be accompanied and illustrated by experiments, and, where possible, by practical work in plots of ground attached to the schools."