

The Ontario School of Agriculture.

The prizes and certificates of honor were awarded at this institution on Thursday, the 29th day of March. There were about forty pupils present; also, Dr. A. Smith, Veterinary, and Mr. J. R. Craig, the new Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Arts, from Toronto, besides several of the leading farmers from the vicinity of Guelph and a few divines and doctors. Mr. Johnstone, the Principal, gave a very good address; J. Massie, M. P. P., Prof. Brown, the Farm Manager, Drs. Smith, Cowan, Grange and others made a few remarks. D. McCrae gave the scholars some practical questions regarding agriculture to answer; the veterinary surgeons also gave them many questions. These questions were of a practical and useful nature, and the boys answered them in a highly creditable manner.

There is a very marked improvement in the management and instruction of the pupils. Mr. Johnstone appears by far the most efficient instructor that has yet been there, and the boys must have been improved under his instruction. The course is somewhat different to that of a common school, but much that is taught there might and should be taught in many school-houses in Canada. The principal attention appears to have been paid to the Veterinary Department, as in this the boys were able to describe the anatomy of an animal. A large building has been erected for this department.

As this school has been sanctioned by both this and the former Government, as both have as yet been very unfortunate in its management, and as the expenditure and results will not bear scrutiny, it is not our desire to laud or condemn the institution which the highest in our land have sanctioned. There is no doubt but good may be done by it; it should, from the amount of money expended on it, be a grand centre from which agricultural information might be expected. We for years labored to get a somewhat similar institution established, but we desired to make it as it should be, self-sustaining and a source of profit. We are fully convinced that quite as useful an institution could be established in many localities by farmers under judicious management; in fact, we believe the best thing the Government could do with this school at the present time would be to sell it to any company of practical farmers that would give them half the price paid for the land, and agree to maintain it as an experimental, test and educational establishment. This has been and will be a political shuttle-cock; the best farmers we meet shake their heads at it; strong political parties blow hot or cold at every step, just as they happen to be in or out of power; office seekers and speculators hover over it like vultures expecting a bone to pick, and some have already had fat pieces.

We shall be pleased to give our readers any useful information that may be furnished by any of the staff of officers or by any of the pupils. Of course others may differ with us in our views; we do not wish all to see through our spectacles, but we allow a moderate space for correspondents to discuss the pros and cons on any subject pertaining to their agricultural interests.

We are pleased to note the improvements that have taken place, but we cannot conceive how any real farmer can be satisfied that his money should be expended on this institution. The cost and interest should always be kept in view; the instruction and information that have come from it are not at all equivalent to such a cost.

Hints to Dairymen, No. 15.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate, by J. Seabury.

We often hear the remark made: "I would keep more cows, for it pays me better than anything else, but my wife and family do not like it."

I have often thought that if the man who made these remarks (for we often hear them) would consider the subject in all its bearings, he would find that the fault lay with himself and not with his wife and family.

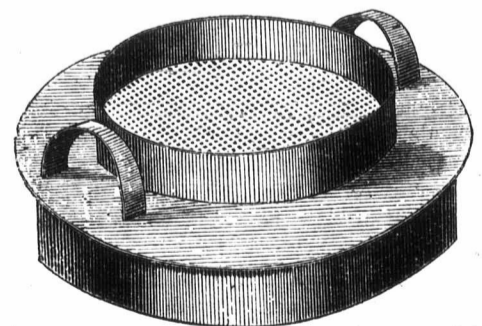
Too many of our dairymen and farmers, too, treat their wives and families more like hired servants than members of their families, who should have an interest in all that is going on about the farm. There should be a thorough organization, and each one should have his particular duties to attend to in each department. Before the factory system came into use, the farmer's wife had the management and control of the proceeds from her five, ten or more cows, and when the wants of the family were supplied, she disposed of the surplus butter and cheese and furnished her house with various necessaries and comforts, and often had a snug little sum of money put by for some particular occasion or event. But now she exclaims: "Alas! things are changed; I scarcely ever have a dollar, and what I get is given to me in a very reluctant manner." Here is the cause why she does not like keeping so many cows. This should not be. Every dairyman should allow his wife the proceeds from the same number of cows that she had formerly at her disposal, and if the wants of the family have increased, allow her more. There is no woman but what likes to have the management of her own house, and by all means give her sufficient to carry on that management. In nine cases out of ten she will do it very much better than you can. Every woman who has the management of a house should have her own purse, with a regular monthly or quarterly allowance. Let every dairyman give his wife and family the proceeds from a portion of his herd, and he will soon see a change in the state of affairs and very much more interest taken in matters connected with the dairy. Every member of the family should have their own purses, with something in them, too. It is just as necessary for a young person, either boy or girl, to be educated in the proper use and expenditure of money, as it is to know how to hold the plow or cook a dinner. These things cannot be acquired without practice. Commence by learning your sons and daughters when young to keep a cash book showing where all their pocket money comes from and goes to, and encourage them to be careful and think twice before spending, and to lay by a certain portion, be it ever so small. By doing this you may save them from becoming reckless and spendthrifts.

A great many farmers and dairymen wonder why it is that their sons and daughters do not like the farm better. The reason and causes are to a great extent in their own hands, and they have the moulding and making of their tastes for the farm. Many parents treat their sons as if they wanted to drive them away from the farm, and if they had wanted to accomplish that object, could not have pursued a better course. There is nothing tasty or attractive about their house, barns or surroundings. Their tools and machinery are all old-fashioned, as is also their way of doing things, and if the boys suggest anything new or any improvement, it is met with a gruff refusal. The boys know little or nothing about their father's intentions, not even what the next day's work is going to be until the morning. They are kept closely at home, seldom getting out, and then only for a day or part of one, and have never been any distance from home. What better course could a parent pursue, if he wanted to give his sons a distaste for farming, or drive them from it altogether? Now, my idea is that if a farmer or dairyman wants his sons to stay with him on the farm, and become farmers and dairymen, he must make it as agreeable as possible for them, and not as dis-

agreeable. He could increase and draw out their interest very much by giving one the proceeds from a small piece of land, and another the increase and profit from a few sheep. In that way he would be laying the foundation of a taste for farming. Of course he should make them keep an account of the cost of raising, keep, &c. Make your sons companions, and get their opinion on all matters connected with the farm. Do not let "the boy's head get too large for the father's hat." Study up your work and profession, and keep pace with the times, being alive to the improvements of the age.

By the time this reaches the dairyman three-fourths of the factories will have begun operations. I would advise every factoryman and cheesemaker to make a good, fair, square start with himself, his factory, and his patrons. Any good resolutions that you have formed with regard to yourself and the care and management of your factory, by all means carry out. Also, whatever rules and regulations you have laid down for your patrons, see that they are carried out. They may cause a little unpleasantness at the time, or it may be rather up-hill work, but you will be thought none the less of in the end for being firm and carrying your point. A cheesemaker, to succeed, must be decided and firm, having a fair share of intelligence, with the will to use the same. You cannot impress too strongly on your patrons the importance of taking the utmost care and cleanliness in the handling and delivering of their milk; especially in the airing and cooling of it down to a temperature of about 70°. If the warm milk is poured back and forth out of one pail into another for a few times, it will very much assist in cooling and deodorizing it. Every dairyman should have sufficient pails (and they should be tin) to hold all of each milking. Set your patrons the example, by keeping your factory and its surroundings neat and clean and tidy outside as well as in. The fact is, you cannot be too particular about your factory and its surroundings. It is much better to be remarked for being over particular than not particular enough.

A great deal of ingenuity has been displayed in trying to invent a ventilated milk-can, and one that will do its work as the milk is on its way to the factory. Among them all I have seen none that would seem to answer the purpose so well as that of Prof. Arnold, given in his book on "American Dairying," a cut of which is given just below. I cannot do better than describe it in his own words, and would strongly recommend every factoryman to have a few cans fixed with this arrangement and give it a fair trial:



"It is made by cutting a circle out of the centre of the cover and soldering over it a piece of coarsely perforated tin or wire cloth, and giving it a moderate depression in the middle. Around the outside of the wire cloth is soldered a flange of tin two inches high, to prevent any milk which may dash through the cloth from wasting. The only objection to this mode of ventilating is a possibility that dust may occasionally fall through it into the milk. It ventilates perfectly."

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