

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

Published by The Rural Publishing Company Limited.



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TOO MANY SOCIETIES

In view of the fact that the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions has decided to ask the Ontario Government to increase its yearly direct grant to the societies from \$70,000 to \$100,000 a year, or by over forty per cent., it is advisable that the whole question shall be looked into very thoroughly.

The first agricultural societies were formed over 100 years ago. Most of them were established in the days when most parts of the province were just emerging out of the woods and out of the wilderness. At that time there were few railroads and the common roads of the country were so bad it required a day to travel only a few miles. In those days the county or local fair was the great event of the year. The settlers used to throng to it from all directions. Many of them

took three days to attend the fair, including a day going and another returning. They attended largely with the object of meeting friends whom they were able to see about only once a year. The lack of railroads and the poor roads made it impossible for people to attend from any great distances. The result was that societies sprang up in all parts of the province until there were some 400 of them.

During the last thirty or forty years conditions have changed completely. The country has become gridironed with railroads. Immense swamps have been drained and millions of dollars have been spent improving our country roads. The result is that it is now easier and cheaper, owing to the low excursion rates given, to go 100 miles over the railroads, to attend our large exhibitions than it used to be to drive 35 miles to a local exhibition. For the most part, however, our small local societies continue to exist although the need for many of them has long since disappeared. There are many small exhibitions that are doing splendid work. There are others at which almost nothing but grade stock is shown. That stock, often, is of the most inferior character. The prize offered by the societies are so small that it does not pay either farmers or breeders to exhibit. They do not encourage improvement.

What we want is fewer but larger and better exhibitions. Ontario would be better off if it had about only one half the number of agricultural societies that now exist. Even then there would be about three exhibitions for each county. The remaining societies would then represent larger districts, they would—on the present appropriation—receive about double their present government grants, they would be able to offer larger prizes and there would be a general improvement in the character of the stock and articles shown. This would all tend to make the exhibitions of greater educational value.

Instead of increasing the total grant to the agricultural societies the government will do well to encourage the holding of fewer but larger and better exhibitions. Our agricultural societies now receive grants in proportion to the amounts they expend for agricultural purposes. At present, none are allowed to draw a grant exceeding \$800. By increasing the maximum grant to \$1,500 or \$2,000 it would enable our larger and better societies to expand and improve, and in this way the poorer societies would gradually die as they failed to do enough work to justify their existence.

KEEPING THE CATTLE CLEAN

Now that the stabling season is at hand, some effort should be put forth to keep milch cows in a clean sanitary condition. Much can be done towards this end by clipping the flanks of the cattle with a pair of horse clippers. The rough hair from the brush of the tail up should also be clipped off, as well as all tags and coarse hair on the udder.

Frequently the stalls are too long, thus catching the droppings and making it impossible to keep a cow properly bodded. In such cases, the time required to shorten these stalls

and make them more suitable for their occupants will be well repaid. It is not only unpleasant to see filthy dairy cattle but it is highly unsanitary as well, for much of it is bound to drop off during the process of milking.

The Ontario Government has employed its sanitary inspectors to inspect dairy stables and where the conditions are not what they should be, to take action to be remedied. We may as well recognize and meet the great need for properly caring for cattle in this respect. Then should an inspector drop in, there would be nothing to be sorry for. At the beginning of the season is the time to attend to this matter.

CERTIFICATES FOR MAKERS

In considering this topic the question naturally arises, what is to be done with the maker now managing a factory but who cannot qualify for a certificate? It would be a hardship to deprive a man of his livelihood and prevent him from pursuing his calling, and in which he may have spent many years of his life. Some allowance would have to be made to meet cases of this kind. In fact it is doubtful if any body of legislators could be induced to pass legislation that would prevent a man from pursuing a calling in which he has lawfully engaged for many years. An interim certificate might be granted and a chance given the maker to improve.

We question, however, if there are many makers in Ontario, who have been in the business for a number of years and who have risen to the status of managers who could not qualify for a certificate under a pretty stiff examination. With regard to the few who could not qualify, the situation would work its own cure. It would not be necessary to prevent such from making cheese. The very fact that they were not possessors of certificates would make factory-owners hesitate about engaging them and it would not be long until they were out of the business altogether and engaged in some other calling.

So far as apprentices are concerned a law compelling makers to secure certificates would not inflict any hardships on these even if it came into force at once. If they could not qualify this year they could next, and if there was no possibility of their ever being able to do so, the industry would gain a great deal more than they would lose by withholding a certificate altogether. The dairy schools are some of the best factories in the land are open to such, and they have every opportunity to perfect themselves in their chosen calling. It is different with a married man with a family, who has been managing a factory for a time. He may find it difficult to get away even for a few weeks to attend a dairy school. If he could afford the time he might not be able to find the means to do so. The very fact that he has been engaged in the business for some years, and is not able to qualify for a certificate, would be an indication that he has spent his time in some small out-of-date factory, where there is no money in the business for anybody. Great leniency will have to be exercised towards these in

any legislation looking to the establishment of a system of granting certificates.

But this is of minor importance as compared with the greater advantages to be derived from such legislation. As we pointed out in a previous issue, the position of makers generally would be greatly improved by the granting of certificates. Their calling would be on a higher plane, there would be less competition for better standard of wages would prevail. The factories as well as the makers would be benefited. It would be worth something to a factory to know that the man they engaged to manage the business was qualified for the work. Factories could afford to pay a higher rate for making under such guarantee as to the quality of the product to be made.

Nevertheless, the devising of a scheme for granting certificates requires careful consideration. The standard must not be so high that it will shut out capable men on some mere technicality. Then again it must not be so low as to make the certificates of little value for the purpose for which they are intended, that of raising the status of the cheese and butter-makers of this country. A start might be made by granting certificates to makers who could qualify, but not making it compulsory for factories to engage only men with certificates. After a year or two a further step might be taken and allow no one to manage a factory unless he possessed a certificate.

HOME-GROWN MANGEL SEED

Attention may profitably be directed to the experiments recently carried on by the Experimental Department of the Ontario Agricultural College in connection with home grown mangel seed. These experiments are of particular interest just now owing to the partial failure of the mangel crop this past season, which failure was attributed in many instances to the inferior grade of seed that was on the market last spring. Mangels are becoming more and more popular on account of their freedom from pests, and the great difficulty experienced, of late years, in growing a profitable crop of turnips due to plant lice, rot and blight, to which they are heir.

If it is possible to increase our yields of mangels over ten tons an acre by means of home-grown seed, as some in the Experimental Department of the Ontario Agricultural College last past year, it surely would be worth while to produce and use such seed. Although the practice of growing the seed in this climate is attended with considerable extra labor, a single root under favorable conditions produces a large amount of seed. Thus it is possible for one to produce at least all the seed required for his own use.

Considering the growing importance of the mangel crop to our dairy interests as well as to other branches of the live stock industry, the possibility of improving the yields, by so simple a method as outlined on another page of this issue, is worthy of note. Those who are all extensively engaged in the production of mangels for their stocks would do well to save a few