

The Future of the Dairy Industry

A. A. Ayer, Montreal, Que.

The reason for the diminution in the make of cheese and butter, taken as a whole throughout the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, demands serious attention of the country in general, and of dairymen in particular. During the year 1903 the total make of cheese in these two Provinces amounted to over 3,000,000 boxes, while during the year 1908 the production was reduced to about 2,100,000. While we have not exact statistics to prove it, the general impression is that more butter is being made than was made five years ago. Personally, I do not think that the increase in make has been greater than the increase in population. It is well known that the new Western Provinces have vastly increased in their make during that period, and that the receipts in Montreal during the past year have been a great many thousand packages greater than for any previous year. This alone will account for the surplus in Montreal this year. The general report is, that the drought affected the make of both cheese and butter throughout these two Provinces, and also, that there are less cows in milk than in former years.

PREPARE FOR CONTINGENCIES

It seems to me that it is high time that our farmers did their farming in such a way as to be prepared for droughts and other contingencies. The number of milch cows is not so important as the quantity of milk given per cow. It is well known that there are quite a number of farms where more milk has been produced from less cows in 1908 than ever before. What these farmers have done every farmer in Canada can do. What have they done? These successful farmers are practising a system of "Rotation of Crops." They have come to realize that in dairy farming they must grow a large quantity of corn and keep succulent feed in silos thus being prepared for contingencies. They have learned that clover hay is a far better feed for cows than timothy, and that by practising a system of "Rotation of Crops," the product of the farm is vastly increased.

I do not need to point out the necessity of weeding out the poor cows, grading up the herds, and keeping absolutely nothing but thoroughbred bulls, and generally improving the condition of the dairy. The system of testing dairies and the practice of it, showing up the poor cows in the herds, is now so well-known that every first-class farmer is practising it.

GIVE SUFFICIENT FEED.

The great lack among nineteen-twentieths of all farmers, is not giving the cows sufficient feed. It is impossible to expect that a cow will do her best unless she is fed the utmost and best possible. I am quite satisfied that our dairymen could easily increase the production of their dairies at least 50 per cent. by better feeding and keeping a better class of cows. Fifty per cent. would mean an addition to the yearly income of the farmers in the two Provinces of fully \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

The next great necessity, more especially in the butter-making sections is, greater cleanliness in milking, greater care of the milk, and its delivery to the creameries, or factories, in an absolutely pure and sanitary condition. The Agricultural Departments of the Dominion and of the two Provinces should give their special attention to the sanitary condition of all our butter and cheese factories, and more especially to those who practise the gathering of cream. In order to make this effective, the farmer should first be visited and restricted to sanitary conditions of dairying.

A great deal of attention has been given by instructors and makers to the improvement of the quality and to expert making, so that Canada is well up to the mark in this direction. The next improvement, therefore, must be in the

quality of the milk delivered. The great majority of our farmers give little or no attention to the condition in which the milk is kept. It would be a good idea for the readers of Farm and Dairy to give you if they could any instances where the maker in any factory could honestly say that every farmer, or even the majority of farmers, in his factory or creamery, kept and delivered their milk in real sanitary and first-class condition.

Lasting Increase Quite Impossible

H. C. Van Pelt, Supt. of Dairy Farm, Ames, Iowa

From the letter of Mr. J. G. Mann appearing in Farm and Dairy April 8th, it would seem that in the one particular instance the percentage of butter fat was increased by the use of the feed stuffs, pea chop and bran and later with oat chop and bran. It would not be safe to say, however, that the use of these feed stuffs would in all cases increase the butter fat percentage as it did in this instance. Oftentimes cows that are not receiving a sufficient amount of nutriment to produce at the limit of their ability will increase not only in milk, but also in percentage of butter fat when their feed is increased to the necessary amounts.



Another Co-operative Cheese and Butter Factory in Friesland, Holland

Danish butter makers, with their superior equipment and more carefully produced milk, have a better chance to produce good results than have our butter makers. Danish butter is very uniform and reliable and it is said that practically all sells at the same price. A glance at the structure illustrated, as well as its well-kept surroundings, gives us an inkling as to why Danish butter is good and uniform. This illustration and the one in our Dairy Number, April 8th, were kindly furnished us by Mr. J. A. Ruddle, Dominion Dairy Commissioner.

This is a subject that has been greatly discussed for a great many years and oftentimes feed stuffs have appeared that would apparently increase the percentage fat test, but later it has been found that to make any lasting increase in the percentage test with any regularity was almost, if not quite impossible.

In this instance where one cow only was used the resulting increase in percentage test might be accounted for in two ways. First, that the cow was not accustomed to being fed a ration so rich in protein and fat, and secondly that this individual cow might be influenced greatly by the changing of feed. It might be interesting were this experiment carried out on a larger number of cows for a greater length of time.

A Prominent Money Producer

D. Foster, Prince Edward Co., Ont.

The dairy cow is probably the most prominent money producer in Ontario. Is she as perfect as we can make her? No. Those who missed our

short course in stock judging at Picton were losers by a great deal. Knowing how to select a dairy cow or calf is of first importance, next is her feed and care. The average cow will respond to a great deal more care than she receives. The more you do for a cow, the more she will do for you. Regularity should be the watch word in the dairy. Cows will give much better returns when milked and fed at the same time each day. Clean, fresh water in front of the cow at all time, and plenty of good wholesome food are prime requisites. It never pays to feed second quality hay, grain or silage. Grooming should not be neglected; it pays. Plenty of bedding is also a good investment.

Calves should be grown to a large size. The stunted half-starved calves found on many farms can never make profitable cows. Calves can make good use of skim milk until they are a year old. Plenty of coarse feed should be provided so that they will grow up hardy and with plenty of capacity. It is a mistake to turn them on to skim milk when too young. They require new or whole milk for the first four weeks at least. We make use of scalded flax food in the skim milk until they are six months old. Dry grain is given them after their milk. Feeding them grain after

they get their milk prevents them from sucking each other.

An Effective Horn Stop

G. H. Caughill, Elgin Co., Ont.

We find after using it for three years on our valuable calves, Gillett's lye is a safe and sure horn killer. It is the cheapest, surest and most humane mode of de-horning. We herewith give our fellow dairymen our method. We tie the calf by itself so no other can rub or lick it. Take as much of the powder as can be held on a five cent piece; moisten it to a salve with some spittle; clip off the hair over the small lump of a horn, then wet it with spittle and apply the paste. Rub it well in with a knife. It will give pain for an hour or so. It soon heals over, however, and makes a much prettier head than cutting or sawing off the horns at a more matured age.

The operation should be performed at about as near three weeks old as possible. The horn is sometimes hard to locate before this, and if left till much older they become too hard for the lye to entirely destroy them.