

More on the Milking Machine

Canada is not the only part of the British Empire that is impressed with the need of a milking machine. The following from The Dairy, London, Eng., shows what is being done in Australia in the way of testing the milking machine:

Mr. H. W. Potts, the Principal of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, New South Wales, is most emphatic in contending for the use of some kind of apparatus to milk cows. Milking machines are a tried and proved success in Mr. Potts' experience. He says that a very large proportion of infantile mortality would be obviated if milking cows by hand was abolished. This conclusion Mr. Potts has arrived at after several years' research into the bacteriological condition of cow's milk, and he is of opinion that infantile diarrhoea—which is held to be the chief cause of infantile mortality—would practically disappear with the abolition of hand milking. It is important to note that many dairymen in the colonies now use milking machines. Mr. Ridd, of Taranaki, New Zealand, says he has been using a machine for three years with good results. It was a great saver of labor, and he is of opinion that his cows are milking better by machine than by hand. He

NOTICED NO ILL-EFFECTS

in the cows from the use of the machine. Mr. Edward Savill, of Millbrook Farm, Christchurch, New Zealand, says, in a letter dated 10th May last, that he had begun to use the most recent type of machine, of which he speaks very highly. He says: "My twelve-year-old son can fix and adjust the machine with the greatest ease. I find that the majority of my cows yield their milk freely even the first time they are milked by the machine, and the most nervous and timid of them are quite content and chew their cud in the most natural manner, even after the third or fourth milking. The great value of the latest type of milking machine lies in the fact that, although rubber tubes

are used to convey the necessary action to the teats, the milk does not flow through them, but is delivered straight into the bucket. The most advanced type of dairymen in this country, although naturally conservative regarding any change in the practice of milking by hand, are fully alive to the necessity of placing new milk on the market in the purest possible condition, as it is felt the demand for fresh milk would increase if the public had more assurance as to the purity and quality of the milk supply."

Mr. Crowe, of the Victoria Dairying Department, in a report on the subject of milking by machinery, gives some interesting information as to the results achieved during a two years' trial by Mr. W. Brisbane, of the western district of Victoria. Mr. Brisbane used two machines for his herd of seventy cows, the plant costing £105. The plant consists of two machines and a three-horse power horizontal boiler, fitted with a steam injector to create a vacuum, and a small vacuum reservoir. The difference between

THE NEW AND THE OLD METHODS

as regards cost, is thus represented. By machinery: Wages and keep of two men, £3 a week; firewood, oil, etc., 4s.; repairs and renewals, 3s.; interest at 5 per cent. and depreciation

at 10 per cent., 6s.; total, £3 13s. a week. By hand, four men, £6 per week. There is thus a saving by machinery of £3 7s. per week, or £120 per annum, making a yearly saving per cow of £1 14s.

Another report states that a new milking machine, the invention of Mr. G. Hutchinson, lately a master at Wellington College, has lately been perfected and placed on the New Zealand market. Several machines are now installed by farmers near Christchurch, where the machines are made. This machine, says the "Sanitary Record," is highly praised by experts. It is a mechanical imitation of hand-milking, and requires very little power. Cows take kindly to it, and let down their milk freely, and there is no need for hand-stripping, as it milks clean. A most important consideration is that it ensures absolute cleanliness in the milk. The milk passes through no tubes, but goes direct from the cow into the bucket. One man or boy can attend to four machines, and can milk from four to five cows in twenty minutes, or about fifteen cows per hour, as many as eighteen cows per hour having been successfully handled. These mechanical methods will be a great boon to dairymen, not merely on the ground of cost, but also because they will add greatly to the purity of the milk.

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