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EDITORIAL.

Licensing Cheese and Butter Factories.

Time sifts and evolves ideas. In 1904 "The Farmer's Advocate" aroused widespread interest by launching editorially a proposal to license cheese factories. One of the particular objects in view at that time was to extend the system of dairy instruction to all cheese and butter factories instead of leaving it confined to the three-quarters or so which had hitherto voluntarily paid to the Ontario Dairymen's Associations the requisite instruction fee. Another purpose was to place in the hands of the Provincial authorities a means of insisting upon satisfactory sanitary conditions, such to be stipulated as a condition of license.

These two objects have since been achieved in Ontario without licensing, by the Provincial Government taking over from the Dairy Associations two years ago the work of instruction, administering it from Toronto, through the two Chief Instructors at London and Kingston, and at the same time making each instructor a sanitary inspector, with power to insist on cheese factories, creameries and patrons' dairies being kept in satisfactory sanitary condition. This proposal, by the way, was also first publicly launched through "The Farmer's Advocate," although it had been discussed for years among the instructors and leaders in the dairy industry.

But while all the factories now receive instruction and sanitary inspection, there still remain one or two strong reasons to be urged on behalf of the licensing system. One is the threatened increase in the number of factories in districts already well served. In the eastern extremity of Eastern Ontario, one of the greatest drawbacks to progress has been the large number of small cheese factories, entailing a high cost per cwt. for manufacture, tending to the employment of cheap, comparatively inefficient makers, and rendering unduly burdensome and expensive the introduction of such improvements as cool-curing rooms.

If reports are to be relied upon, the high prices for dairy produce that have prevailed of recent years, have led to proposals to erect several new factories in Western Ontario, some of them in districts hitherto lacking in co-operative facilities, but others in districts already well served by factories or creameries. If such is the case, the effect will be not only to impose a hardship on those who have invested good money in building and equipping the existing factories, but to entail a whole train of unfortunate consequences on the industry in general. Needless duplication of cheese factories involves increased cost of making, tends to the employment of inefficient makers, retards the introduction of improvements in equipment and methods, and works out badly in every way. The maintenance of as large creamery and cheese-factory districts as are consistent with economical hauling, is a condition to be desired. How can it be secured?

It has been suggested that if a law or regulation were enacted, designed to bring prospective builders and organizers into touch with the Provincial dairy authorities before taking action, persuasion and reasoning would, in most cases, avail to head off the erection of factories in districts where they were not needed. Where persuasion did not avail, recourse might be had to authority. A system of licensing, with a nominal license fee, would accomplish this object. At the same time, suitable conditions as to site and sanitation could be stipulated.

A good deal of interest attaches to the dairy policy of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, which has adopted what is virtually a

licensing system. In Saskatchewan there are no cheese factories, and in the case of creameries a policy of centralization is being encouraged. No creamery may be built within twenty miles of an existing one without special permission from the Dairy Commissioner, and not only location, but plans and site must be approved. Before a permit is issued the milk of 400 cows must be guaranteed by the prospective patrons. The Government gives the makers a minimum monthly guarantee of salary, and is prepared to assist the enterprise by a loan of \$1,200 at 3% interest, repayable in instalments within five years, and secured by a first mortgage on the property.

The Saskatchewan legislation may not be entirely applicable to Ontario and Eastern conditions, but it would seem as though something along the same line is needed. A drastic law, prohibiting the erection of a new factory within a specified distance from an old one would not be advisable, as it would tend to monopoly in the business, and would place a lever in the hands of proprietors and makers who might be disposed to take advantage of their patrons, but a moderate measure, leaving the matter of a permit at the discretion of the Provincial authorities, would be largely free from such objection. Furthermore, it is understood that a licensing system would not aim at closing any existing factory, but merely at preventing the development in other sections of conditions which have proven a bane to the industry in the East. At the Dairymen's Convention in Brantford, Geo. A. Putnam, Director of Dairy Instruction, intimated that while the Government would probably not see its way clear to initiate legislation, it would be open to consider suggestions emanating from the dairymen themselves. The subject will bear discussion.

The Senate's Responsibility.

The Dominion Senate must be thoroughly proud of itself over the recent accident at Grimsby, Ont., when a sleighload of people was struck by a G.T.R. express at an unguarded level crossing, four of the party being instantly killed, one dying shortly afterwards in hospital, and the two others sustaining injuries liable to prove fatal. This is the second serious accident at the same crossing, three young men having been sacrificed there in 1902. It seems that in this location a train approaching from the west cannot be seen, owing to the blocking of the view by the station building, and a high east wind is supposed to have prevented the victims from hearing the whistle.

There are a large number of other crossings in Canada which are veritable death traps, and numerous fatalities are constantly occurring, while many narrow escapes are made, and a great deal of suspense and discomfort entailed besides, owing to the danger. In 1907 the number of people killed at these crossings was 73, 74 others being injured. For the years 1905, 1906 and 1907, one person was killed for every 17 such crossings.

With a view to minimizing this awful toll of death, E. A. Lancaster, M. P. for Lincoln and Niagara, has for years past been pushing a bill in Parliament designed to protect level crossings in the neighborhood of towns and villages. After four years of hard fighting the bill passed the Commons, only to be thrown out by the Senate, upon which body, therefore, jointly with the railroads, responsibility for these accidents must rest. Thus does the second chamber thwart the will of the people, yielding rather to corporate pressure and the corporate point of view. In effect the Senate says railroad dividends are above human safety and human life. How much longer will the people of Canada permit an irresponsible appointed body of senile obstructionists to brook the popular will?

We sympathize with Mr. Lancaster's reported wish that it had been seven senators who were struck, and can only hope public opinion will rise up in its might and insist on the abolition, not only of unguarded level crossings, but of the Dominion Senate as well. If the Senators' salaries and the incidental expenses of the second chamber were applied to the protection of crossings, it would be much more in the country's interest.

In the Eastern United States separation of grades has become an accepted policy. In Massachusetts and New York the expense is divided among the railways, the State and the municipality, the share of the latter being small. Whatever the arrangement deemed equitable in Canada, something must be done, and done at once.

Store Ice.

Next to more scrupulous cleanliness, the greatest need of the co-operative dairy industry in Canada is the cooling of milk and cream by cheese-factory and creamery patrons. Cleanliness and cooling are the two requisites for the delivery of satisfactory milk or cream. The more cleanly one's dairy practice, the less the need of ice; but, with the very best of care, some bacteria will gain access to the milk, and, to prevent or retard their development, prompt cooling is necessary. Careful experiments, made by Geo. H. Barr this past summer, under farm and factory conditions, indicate the immense importance of prompt cooling of milk, and establish the principle that cooling, and not aeration, is what milk requires in order to make it keep well.

There are various means of cooling milk, but, on not a few farms it is impossible to lower the temperature as quickly or as thoroughly as should be done, without the use of ice; while, for the deep-setting system of creaming milk, as well as for the keeping of cream to be delivered for creamery or city trade, ice is almost a necessity, unless one is so fortunately situated as to have an abundance of cold spring or well water.

And not only in the dairy, but in the kitchen and house-cellar, a supply of ice is of great advantage. For keeping butter, cream, milk, meat and other victuals in hot weather, a supply of ice and a homemade refrigerator would often go quite a way towards repaying the cost of storing the whole supply, to say nothing of the immense convenience to the housewife and comfort to the family.

An icehouse is one of the simplest structures on the farm. A shell of a building, with an ante-room in front for the storing of sawdust, is all that is required. In some parts of Eastern Ontario they are building a platform in front of the icehouse, this being enclosed by latticed work, making a sort of combined icehouse and milk-stand. The roof should be shingled, and the site reasonably well drained. Sawdust is the best material to keep the ice away from the warm air. A foot of sawdust in the bottom, eighteen inches of it at the sides of the ice, and two feet or so on top, will answer. A little less will do in a cool or shaded location. Some ventilation should be provided to allow circulation of air above the ice, otherwise the air in the gable will become heated by the summer sun, thus warming the sawdust on top, and melting the ice faster than would otherwise be the case.

The cost of cutting, drawing, packing and sawdust should not, under ordinary conditions, exceed \$1.00 per ton of ice, as the work can be done in a slack time; and twenty tons of ice will suffice for an ordinary dairy and farm household, one to two tons per cow being a reasonable allowance for the dairy. Can you invest twenty dollars a year to better advantage? Prepare to