

Regulating Drovers' Shipments

Among live stock shippers the great "bugbear" is the fear of landing their goods in a "loaded" market. When he starts from his locality for Toronto or some other market, the drover has little or nothing to tell him how many others have done the same thing. He was guided in the price paid for his purchases by the market quotations, and held down to pay the last dollar on which he could expect to make a living profit by local competition, and he has then to run the risk of about an exactly equal loss in case of the market having more receipts that day than the buyers immediately require. "Some days," remarked a shipper recently, "when arrivals are a little bit light, the butchers and buyers are around you in a flock to get what they need, and then again, when two or three carlots more than the day's demand are on hand, they can hardly see you at all."

A shippers' association, with a representative on the ground, whom each was bound to send from 24 to 36 hours' notice of his shipment, might help to remedy this situation. The representative, spending his time on the spot, could gather a very accurate idea of just what the market each day would require, and could benefit both shipper and buyer in keeping the market in a healthy condition, without too many "dull days" for either of them. The drover would know what he was doing when he bought, for market quotations would then have more value to him. The butcher or the buyer would know pretty nearly what he would have to pay for the kind of goods he would want, while the incentive to do business on the spot, without running any chances of "holding over," would not be lessened in any degree.

To bring about these conditions should be well worth the small amount of reciprocity in a matter of common interest, and the annual yearly fee necessary to support it. It would help the farmer who has cattle to sell by giving him a more stable market.

Housing Farm Help

It will pay every farmer who tills 150 acres or more to pay attention to the proper housing of his men. It is neither wise nor best for either the employer or employed to try to crowd themselves all into his own home. This course is taken usually on the basis of economy, assuming that the labor of the wife and mother costs nothing. Too much labor and too long hours with too little sunlight has prematurely broken down many a Canadian mother. Every mother thus crippled or killed outright is (besides being a cruel blow to the husband and father) a distinct loss to the country.

Why not divide this labor and give the laborer a chance to make a home for himself? To do this it is necessary to make provision by the nec-

tion of a house suitable for the purpose. Many people imagine that to pay for board is too expensive, but it really costs the same in either case. Let any farmer sit down and work out the calculation as to the difference in paying for board or providing it in his own home, and he will find, especially where there are two or more men, that the cost of board is about the same in each case. The laboring man can save more money where he boards himself at a low rate than where he boards in the farmer's home. But we admit something depends on the thriftiness of his wife as to the result reached. It is, however, the ideal plan, and in many sections can easily be worked out. All parties like it better. The laborer has more of comfort in his own home, and the farmer's wife is saved from an attempt to keep a small boarding house and raise her family at the same time.

A very good arrangement is effected on some large farms, where a married man or in some cases a widow arranges to board from two to six farm hands. If the wife has the talent of a good boarding-house keeper the scheme works out satisfactorily all round. She thus earns a good living for herself and family; is permitted to have her husband in her own home, where he belongs, and the farmer's wife is relieved from trying to accomplish in one house what very properly should be divided in two or more. The men employed are more comfortable when housed together in a home presided over by one of their own class than when in a home where there are frequent visitors belonging to another class. Married men, also are inclined to remain longer at one place where the situation is agreeable than single men without anything to tie them to a home. One great difficulty in carrying out this scheme in some places will be the lack of convenient houses, but this can be overcome when the proprietor has made up his mind that quiet satisfaction and comfort in his own home is of greater value than to add a few hundred dollars to the bank account.

The New Agriculture

In the course of rather a good lecture given recently in Toronto by a prominent American educationalist, the statement was made that knowledge was advancing with such rapid strides that it was no longer safe to preach or practice what was taught us even four or five years ago. As an illustration of this he stated that until quite recently when the farmer required to restore fertility to his soil he applied to it a mixture of various chemical and organic fertilizers, but agricultural science had now shown

this to be a cumbersome and expensive method, and now all the farmer requires to do is to manure his land with a lot of little bacteria, and these will extract nitrogen from the air and apply it to the soil. "The world do move."

Improving The Output

The program for dairy instruction work this season, as outlined elsewhere in this issue, has several important features. The decision of the Department of Agriculture to have the instructors visit every factory in the Province is to be commended. The work of the past few years, effective though it may have been in improving the quality of the cheese and butter made in the factories or creameries visited, has been lacking in that it has not covered the whole list of factories. And the "outsider," as a rule, is the one that needs instruction the most. The inferior quality of product made in these factories when exported injures the reputation of Canadian cheese abroad, and to this extent lessens the price which the factories turning out the finest quality of product should get. The efforts of the Department, therefore, to reach all the factories is certainly to be commended, though it is a question whether all this instruction and inspection should be given to the factories free of all cost.

Sanitary conditions need to be looked after, and the clothing of the instructors with the power of sanitary inspectors will undoubtedly meet a long felt want. If this power is not abused it should prove effective in remedying a lot of evils existing at the present time. Where persuasion and explanation are of no avail the law can well be enforced to bring about better sanitary conditions both at the factory and on the farm.

A wise provision is that which relieves the instructor from testing milk at the factories. If the instructor is any good at all his time is too valuable to be frittered away in looking up dishonest patrons, who add water to or take the cream off milk supplied to a cheese factory. If this work has to be done let it be done by the person in charge of the factory. The best way to solve this problem is to pay for milk for cheese-making according to its quality. It is, however, more important that the maker should have a supply of pure, clean flavored milk, and the energies of all concerned should be bent in the direction of securing it. Of course, only honest milk should be supplied; but the injury from dishonest milk only affects the patrons of the factory concerned, while the injury from tainted or bad flavored milk affects every dairyman in every other factory in the country in that, if made into cheese, it injures the country's reputation for a good quality of dairy products.

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