

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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THE INSPECTION OF MEATS FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION

That the question of establishing public abattoirs and the inspection of meat in connection with home consumption is being seriously considered by various city councils is cause for some concern in the minds of the farmers who produce the meat. The figures recently handed out and made public through the drovers' deputa- tion which waited upon the veterinary inspector-general and which are given on another page of this issue, show an alarming state of affairs and prove conclusively the need of inspection to protect the health of our citizens. If, for a period of seven months, such numbers of carcasses, for export only, were condemned on account of disease, what must be the number of diseased animals consumed daily throughout our country where we have no inspection enforced? There is truly great cause for concern on the part of the meat-consuming public, and cities are

quite justified in agitating this question.

It is difficult, unless upon thorough examination, sharpened by expert knowledge of the business, to detect diseased meat. To the ordinary individual, or even to butchers who have had long experience in the handling of meats, meat may, upon casual notice, seem perfectly free from disease, but at the same time be badly infected and dangerously unwholesome. Under a system to be adopted in connection with the proposed abattoirs, this would be shown up and its consumption prevented.

That physicians of the city gave the proposed abattoir their unanimous endorsement emphasizes the importance of this matter from a sanitary point of view. If the meats handled by packing establishments are killed and treated under rigid Government inspection, the cities ask, why should other meats be exempted? They say that the health of their citizens is of first importance and when a certain percentage of the cattle in the country are known to be affected with tuberculosis and other diseases, certainly too much care cannot be taken in regard to a proper inspection and a rigid enforcing of the sanitary laws in connection with all meats being offered for sale.

What does this all mean to the farmer? Simply this that if cities adopt a system of meat inspection in conjunction with central abattoirs, all rejected animals will be referred back to the producer and he will have to bear the loss. Even were the rejected stock to be the loss of the dealers or butchers, the loss would fall upon the producer indirectly, because the buyer would have to make allowance for such losses when purchasing.

Viewing this abattoir and inspection scheme from the standpoint of cities, it is evident that there are two sides to the question. The establishing of public abattoirs would add to the cost of the meat to the consumer as the charge of \$1 per head for slaughtering cattle, while it might be a good thing for the abattoir company, it would be bad for the butchers, most of whom have invested money in private slaughter houses. The building of abattoirs would interfere with the sale of meat by farmers upon the market and from this the public would suffer as it has been frequently noticed that the price of meat has been appreciably moderated as a result of the farmers selling meat on the market in the winter. Then, too, the granting of a monopoly is a dangerous thing in itself and should the city council grant a franchise to a company for a period of years, they would be practically establishing a monopoly, the evils of which would have to be endured by their citizens for years to come. However, these are details which the cities may be trusted to work out for themselves.

It might be asked, "what can we do to help ourselves in this matter?" Without a doubt, public abattoirs and

a system of meat inspection are bound to come. We, as producers, may as well prepare ourselves now to meet the demands of meat inspection. This can be done by doing away with all suspected animals in our herds, making more use of the tuberculin test and refusing to breed from reacting stock, practising sanitation and ventilation in our stables and wherever it is warranted, pasteurizing all milk that is fed to young stock. Should meat inspection such as proposed, come into force, producers with large herds that are infected with tuberculosis would be heavy losers as they would be unable to dispose of their stock for anything but fertilizer. From the foregoing it will be seen that there never was a time that we should pay greater attention to the eradication of disease from our herds than now.

THE SPRAYING OF ORCHARDS

Spraying is of little value as carried on by the average owner of a few apple trees. In fact, many do not make any pretense whatever to spray. On the other hand, it is too frequently made only a "pretense" on the part of those who do spray.

All authorities, together with men who have had long years of experience in spraying, are of the one mind that spraying pays. Some have even gone so far as to say that it is a blessing in disguise that we have to spray. In the face of this, however, some still doubt the benefits of spraying. Others, while firmly convinced of the advantages of this work, do it in such a shiftless way and so infrequently as to make it doubtful whether or not such spraying does pay. With some, the job has been accomplished to the best of their ability and belief, if the orchard receive but one or possibly two sprayings in the season, these to come at any old time when the owner feels so inclined, or has time at his disposal that he thinks might be put to good use in this way. While not decrying the advantages of even such desultory spraying, it is doubtful if such applications return more than the labor spent.

If one is going to spray at all, why not spray thoroughly? Where one has a spraying outfit of any kind, a fairly thorough job can be done if it is the desire of the operator. Where modern spraying machines have not a place upon the farm as yet, it is high time that the procuring of such should receive serious consideration.

As will be seen from the article upon another page siring up the apple growing industry, the prospects are not overly bright for large prices next fall. But even so, we cannot afford to take any chances with our crop. If the prospects for next fall are not as bright as they might be, it is all the more reason why we should take every precaution now to insure having a crop of first class fruit to put upon the market. In no way can we insure ourselves a good sample of fruit that will be in demand, no

matter what the price may be, better than by giving every attention possible to the effective spraying of our orchards.

Although in many sections it is now too late to administer the first application, which should have been applied before the buds opened, it is not too late to follow with the succeeding sprayings. The spraying which should follow the fall of the blossoms is in many ways the most important one. It catches the apples before they have turned down, the poison thus being held in the calyx of the fruit, where it will put an effectual end to the codling moth that attempts to burrow into the fruit from this direction. At the same time the young leaves will be covered with the poison, thus putting a stop to the depredations of the tent caterpillar and other insects, besides protecting the leaves from various kinds of fungus growth.

Where farmers have not modern spraying apparatus, it will be well for them to consider the proposition that has been made by the Ontario Government in regard to offering grants to co-operative concerns who purchase spraying outfits and thoroughly spray their orchards this coming season. A copy of the regulations governing the distribution of these grants appears on another page of this issue. If it is possible to form a co-operative association in your district, in order that you may reap the advantages of this liberal offer, now is the time to think about it and no time should be lost in acting in this matter if anything is to be done towards the ultimate reaping of the benefits of this grant for the coming season. Application for a grant must be made before the first of June.

THE MODERN FARM IMPLEMENT

The improvement in farm implements in recent years have been many and of a varied character. The tendency is towards greater efficiency and labor saving. One needs to go back only ten years to show the advancement that has been made in this direction. The list is too long to enumerate here. For the cultivation of the soil, for gathering the hay crop, for harvesting the grain crop, for combating insect pests, for the poultry yard, and for every conceivable line of work on the farm, new devices and new machinery have been brought into general use during the past decade.

What this means to the farmer of to-day few realize. Take away the self-binder, the hay loader, the side delivery rake, the hay tedder, the hand and power sprayer, the incubator and brooder, the cream separator and other new and useful devices of to-day and farming would be little better than a modified form of slavery. Not only that, the products of the farm would be lessened, the quality inferior, and the profits in the business reduced to a minimum. Farm work could not be properly carried on, seeding operations would