

### **CURING-ROOMS IN QUEBEC.**

#### ***Means adopted for their improvement by the Local Government.***

In our issue of March 7th last we pointed out that the Quebec Government had made arrangements to make a grant of \$50 to every cheese factory that would put in a sub-earth duct to regulate the temperature in the curing-room. In a bulletin recently issued by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, a copy of which came to hand last week, the same Government is offering premiums, ranging from \$100 to \$200, according to the size of the curing-room, to cheese factories making certain improvements and complying with the conditions laid down by the Department. In order to induce the building of larger curing-rooms and better ventilated buildings no premium will be granted to any new factory to be erected that has a less curing-room floor space than 700 square feet. In old buildings the premium will be \$100 where there is a floor space of from 400 to 700 square feet. For new and old buildings of from 700 to 1,000 square feet of space the premium is \$150, and for curing-room space over 1,000 square feet it is \$200.

The conditions laid down for obtaining these premiums provide for a great improvement in the construction, ventilation and regulation of the temperature in the curing-rooms now existing and the ones to be built, and if by this plan a large proportion of the factories comply with these conditions there must result a marked advance in the quality of these cheese made in Quebec from improved curing facilities. The conditions are summarized under four headings, as follows: Those relating to the construction of the factory and to that of the curing-room in particular; those relating to the ventilation of these rooms, to their cooling in summer and their warming in the spring and fall; those which concern the general laying out of the factory; and those relating to the manufacturing and to other questions.

The principal point emphasized in the first of these conditions is the location and size of the curing-room, which should be on the ground floor. The outside walls should have a double linings of boards and two layers of felt or building paper. Over the double inner lining of rough boards, one layer of felt paper should be first applied, and on the paper, strips two inches wide and one inch thick should be nailed. On this is

nailed another thickness of lumber, then two layers of paper breaking joints, and last, a double thickness of planed, tongued and grooved boards. This mode of construction will be required as well in the case of the inner walls separating the curing from the working and other rooms in the factory as well as in that of the outer walls. Special instructions are given regarding the ceiling and floor, the latter of which must be waterproof. In the construction of the curing-room no strong-smelling should be used.

In regard to ventilation, cooling, heating, etc every curing-room must have a special ventilator, a description of which is given. Each room must be provided with a cooling apparatus. The plans advised are the placing at one or several points of the room, cylinders of galvanized iron which are filled with ice or a mixture of ice and salt, or the placing of these cylinders at the bottom of the ventilator shaft. Detailed description of these plans are given. In heating, if a stove is used a screen should be provided around it for distributing the heat. Where practicable it is recommended to heat the room by steam pipes fed from the boiler. For increasing the degree of humidity there should be a steam pipe in the curing-room, the end of which should be flush with the inside surface of the wall and have a small valve. In dry weather the valve should be slightly opened so as to diffuse the necessary humidity.

The conditions imposed in the construction of the factory necessitate building on high land where the drainage is good and the drainage of the factory perfect, so that all drainage waters can be carried off in an underground drain with a sufficient slope to prevent their stagnation, and altogether the plant should be sufficiently good to permit of the manufacture of first-class cheese.

In regard to the manufacture and other points to obtain a subsidy it is necessary: (1) That the factory should, if possible, belong to a syndicate if there be one in the region where it is situated. If there be none, the person in charge of the factory shall submit to its being inspected whenever the Government requires; (2) It shall bind itself not to ship any cheese which has been less than a fortnight in the curing-room; (3) The manufacturer shall bind himself to wash out the whey vat every day; (4) He shall keep a record of the temperature on blank forms to be supplied him by the Department of Agriculture; (5) The water used shall be as pure as possible.