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## RULES GOVERNING CITY MILK SUPPLY.

W. F. Stephen, *Huntington, Que.*

The writer of this article is the Secretary of the Montreal Milk Shippers' Association. The points he makes are important in view of the proposals that have been made that a standard test shall be established for milk shipped to cities.—*Editor*

ALMOST every city on the American continent is giving greater attention to its milk supply, and rightly so. With such a universal article of diet, especially for infants and children, it is well that there should be some restrictions to prevent an unwholesome milk being sold to the public. All the regulations drafted and adopted are intended to govern the sanitary production and delivery of this valuable food.

Rules and regulations, some of them overacting, have been drafted by many cities and towns in the United States. In many cases they are practically a dead letter, as they cannot be enforced. Such has been the case with the rules adopted by Quebec Provincial Board of Health, and such may be the case, also, if the rules governing dairies and so forth, now before the Ontario Legislature, are passed without amendment.

In the affairs of daily life what is desirable is modified by what is possible. This obvious truth has frequently been ignored by those who draft rules for the guidance of the milk and cream producers. To carry out many of these rules in effect would mean that our cities would go without milk, farmers would send to the factory instead, as few producers could meet them.

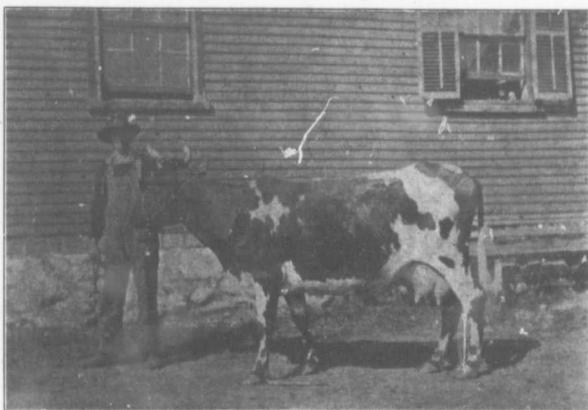
Some cities call for stables with five feet of glass to every 50 feet of floor and 600 cubic feet of space to each cow. Such stables are rare. There are a few, and the number slowly increases. To meet this initial requirement 10 out of every 20 producers would have to build at a cost of \$2,000 to \$4,000. Would the investment, assuming that they had the money, pay? Not with milk and feed at present prices. Were the rules as to buildings and surroundings changed so that no farmer who keeps a filthy stable and yard, and the water of whose well has been condemned by a chemist as impure, would be allowed to send milk into our cities, there would be a workable rule. The inspectors can easily pick out such producers.

The requirements as to the tuberculin test are purely fanciful. Producers may consent to a system of inspection of herds by a qualified veterinary surgeon, who would be asked to give a certificate of the health of the herd, but when

our cities attempt to enforce a by-law compelling each producer to test his herd once each year with tuberculin they stir up "bad blood" at once. This may come, but it must be educative rather than compulsory.

### TOO EXACTING

In a Canadian winter carrying the manure 500 feet away from the stable, as some rules require, would be an onerous task. The daily grooming of cows, the cleaning of pails, cans, and so forth, a self-contained milk house, and other minor requirements, while necessary, mean more labor.



AN AYRSHIRE COW, WITH A LARGE MILK RECORD

This cow, Winona of Brook Hill, No. 7497, owned by J. N. Greenshield, Danville, Que., gave 9,843 lbs. of milk and 371.08 lbs. of butter fat last year in the test for the Record of Performance, conducted cent. under the supervision of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. While not an ideal dairy type, her record proves her to be an excellent performer.

Possibly the most absurd rule is the one governing the quality of the milk. To say that at all seasons the milk must contain from 3.50 to 3.75 per cent. butter fat and 9. to 9.75 per cent. total solids is absurd, is overacting, and is an impossibility. The tables, prepared by Prof. Farrington, in his report of the Dairy test at the St. Louis Fair in 1904, possibly the most concise and complete test of the kind ever conducted, where the milk from each herd was weighed each day and tested for per cent. of butter fat and solids, not fat, are interesting in this connection.

The test commenced June 16th and closed Oct. 16th, lasting 120 days.

The 25 Jersey cows never tested below 4 per cent. fat and showed from 8 to 8.9 per cent. solids not fat until August 5th. From that date

until the end of the test they stood from 4.6 to 5.3 per cent. butter fat and 9 to 9.4 per cent. solids not fat.

The Channel Island breeds are not milk breeds, but are cream and butter producers, therefore we must note the quality of the milk breeds in this discussion.

### SHORTHORNS, 29 COWS

During 15 days of June, the butter fat test varied from 3.1 to 3.6 per cent. and the solids not fat from 7.8 to 8.4 per cent.

During July, the butter fat test varied from 2.3 to 3.8 per cent., and solids not fat from 7.0 to 8.4 per cent.

During August the butter fat test varied from 3.5 to 3.7 per cent., and the solids not fat from 8.5 to 8.9 per cent.

During September, the butter fat test varied from 3.6 to 4 per cent. and the solids not fat from 8.7 to 9 per cent.

During 13 days of October, the butter fat test varied from 3.5 to 3.9 per cent. and the solids not fat from 8.7 to 8.9 per cent.

### BROWN SWISS, 5 COWS

During 15 days of June, the butter fat test varied from 2.9 to 3.4 per cent., and the solids not fat from 8.4 to 8.9 per cent.

During July, the butter fat test varied from 3.1 to 3.8 per cent., and the solids not fat from 8.1 to 8.9 per cent.

For two days, the milk in August tested 3.4 per cent. butter fat and after that from 3.5 to 3.9 per cent., with solids not fat for 12 days, 9 per cent. and over, and the balance of the month, under 9 per

cent. During September, the milk varied from 3.6

to 4 per cent. butter fat, and solids not fat from 8.9 to 9.3 per cent.

During 13 days of October the butter fat varied from 3.7 to 4 per cent. and the solids not fat from 8.9 to 9.3 per cent.

### Holsteins, 15 cows.

During 15 days of June, the butter fat test varied from 3.2 per cent. to 3.7 per cent. and the solids not fat from 7.5 to 7.9 per cent.

During July, the butter fat test varied from 3 to 4 per cent. and the solids not fat from 7.5 to 8.2 per cent.

During August, the butter fat test varied from 3.2 to 3.7 per cent. and the solids not fat from 8 to 8.3 per cent.

During 15 days of September, the butter fat varied from 3.5 to 3.8 per cent. and for 16 days,