

**Is Our Hog Industry in Danger?**

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Until recently I believed that the hog market would improve in the spring, but since visiting some of the custom houses, and finding American pork is being brought into Canada, and purchased by the packers, I have changed my mind, and have come to the conclusion that unless the tariff is increased, the hog business is doomed. It is now two cents a pound on pork in Britain, three cents a pound on green. The value of pork in the United States is so low, our packers have every advantage over the farmers here. They are able to draw from the United States sufficient supplies for at least half, or more, of their trade. This leaves the Canadian farmers at the packers' mercy. They have to accept whatever price they see fit to pay for hogs.

One of the subjects that might be discussed with profit in the columns of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, "Is the hog industry of Canada in danger of deteriorating. If so, what is the cause, and how can it be remedied?" My answer would be, Let the farmers run their own business under Government control, on the co-operative plan. Every share per to be paid for their goods according to quality and value, when ready for Montreal and the United States are the only two countries that do not brand their products going into the English markets. The fact that Canada does not brand its products, allows Americans to send their goods to England and to put them on the market as Canadian products. While in England I found many stores the thick, fat American corn-fed hog being sold as Canadian pea fed.

If the packers had acted wisely, or even fairly, they would have been second to no country in the world in producing the kind of bacon that suits the Englishman's taste. We should discuss this very important question—give the devil his due, and let the chips fall where they may.

**Are Testing for Themselves**

The Government report, that was issued recently, and which indicated that the milk sold in Toronto is about the poorest produce for any leading city in Canada, has aroused the officers of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association. Recently they obtained 11 samples of milk for themselves, from different loads of milk. These samples were sent to Guernsey, and tested. The lowest tested 3.2. One tested 4.5, and another 4.5. It was thought that possibly the two last mentioned samples were taken from the top of the can, and therefore they are not counted with the rest.

The average test of the 11 samples was 3.72, the average test of the nine samples, not including the two highest, was 3.5. The average is considerably higher than that given in the Government report. The officers of the Association, purpose having more samples tested in the same way.

**Buying Seed for the West**

The Steele-Briggs Seed Company, of Toronto, is purchasing considerable quantities of seed in Ontario on behalf of the Dominion Government for shipment to the North-West. As will be remembered, the Dominion Government recently appropriated three million dollars to be devoted to the purchase of seed for those farmers in the West who last year failed to grow seed of their own. So far, the Steele-Briggs Seed Company has forwarded five cars of strictly selected seed oats, and more are being purchased. A firm at Kingston is also purchasing considerable quantities of the seed.

The seed is purchased through agents in the country, and is being

inspected by Mr. T. G. Raynor of the Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Mr. Raynor is inspecting the seed for purity at the farmers' barns. All the seed purchased has to comply with the requirements of the Seed Control Act, for purity. It must not contain more than one-fifth of any of the 14 noxious weed seeds mentioned in section 8, of the act. Among those for which oats are condemned are wild oats and wild mustard. The fact that in some districts where more or less clean farming is done, some of the farmers' seed was refused, because of its impurity, teaches the important lesson that the source of seed supply should be very carefully selected for purity. The farmers who have a good, clean, supply of seed, are being paid a better price than obtains for ordinary feed oats.

"In some localities," said Mr. Raynor, to a representative of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, "where some of the best seed oats have been purchased, probably not more than 50 per cent. of the farms could be considered safe to buy seed from. In the Grand River Valley, for instance, where the river overflows its banks, scarcely any of the seed oats which have been examined, were free from mustard. Apart from that, this district seems practically free from wild mustard and wild oats. There are comparatively few districts in Ontario, in which this can be said."

Mr. Raynor stated that the Government is buying considerable quantities of seed in the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba and Southern Alberta. The seed being purchased in Canada is being inspected by officers of the Seed Division, and being rushed through to the West as rapidly as possible.

**The Special Prizes**

Besides the general prizes given in The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, three special prizes amounting to \$50, were donated by the City Dairy, Toronto, to the three highest competitors, sending their milk to the City Dairy. The first special prize (\$25) was won by Mr. D. J. McClure, Churchillville, who won also the third general prize of \$50. The second special prize (\$15) goes to Mr. Thomas Hartley, Downsview, who stood sixth in the general list. The third special prize has not yet been awarded.

A description of the two leading farms, Mr. George McKenzie's and Mr. David Duncan's, will be given in the next issue of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World. This description will comprise full information on the methods pursued by these men in the management of their farms and dairies.

**Mr. Robinson's Jersey Herd**

In looking over the Inland Revenue Department Bulletin, No. 142, dated September 24th, 1907, lately issued, which gives reports of the quality of milk sold in different parts of the Dominion, we note that sample No. 29,560, taken on August 22, 1907, from a 15 quart can in delivery wagon, belonging to Fred P. Robinson, Proprietor of "The Nashwaakias Dairy Farm," Fredericton, N. B., showed 7.56 per cent. of butyric fat, milk 16.30 per cent. of total solids. This is the highest in butter fat, with the exception of two of the entire samples tested in the Dominion, and these two are not quoted as taken from a delivery wagon.

Also, Mr. Robinson's milk shows more than double the percentage of matter fat in the average sample supplied in the city of St. John, and nearly double of that supplied in the city of Fredericton; and, in fact, is more than twice as rich as standards required in any city in the Dominion.



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