

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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DOMINION.

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assist—nay, more, it is our duty to insist—on having our whole educational system recast and better adapted to our needs; and let us never forget that the paramount material need of Canada has been, is, and probably always will be, more good farming.

THE DAIRY INSTRUCTOR'S AUTHORITY.

The year 1907 introduces a radical departure in the system and method of dairy instruction which has been carried on in the Province of Ontario the past few years. In 1903 the Dairymen's Associations of Eastern and Western Ontario, aided financially by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, undertook what has been called the system of syndicate instruction in cheese factories and creameries. Each factory, for a moderate fee, could have the services of one of the Association's corps of expert practical instructors, who would visit it occasionally throughout the making season, assist the maker to overcome difficulties when possible, and advise him generally. The instructors also did not a little testing of milk for adulteration, and on the strength of their findings prosecutions of patrons were sometimes instituted. Thus a wrong impression gained ground among the patrons, who came to think of the instructors rather as inspectors or spies, whereas their chief duty was not milk-testing, but practical help for the makers. Under Chief Instructors Barr in the West, and Piblow in the East, two of the most devoted and capable men who ever gave their time to the public service, a marked improvement was effected in the manufacture of butter and cheese. Two obstacles remained, however, to further improvement. First, the quality of the raw material delivered by a minority of the patrons at nearly all the factories was not what it should be. Overripe and bad-flavored milk, due in most cases to carelessness and dirt, often defeated the makers' most earnest efforts to produce a gilt-edge quality of goods, and resulted, moreover, in a reduced make

of cheese per vat of milk, entailing a really serious loss on all the good patrons. The man at the weighstand was lectured about his duty to return overripe or bad-flavored milk, but he generally erred on the side of leniency, fearing to drive away a patron, especially when the latter happened to live on the boundary of another factory district. Some makers rose to their responsibility, and educated their patrons to deliver better milk and cream; but, for the most part, there still remained great room for improvement. In the hope of getting to the heart of the difficulty, the instructors were directed to spend less time in the factories and more in visiting the patrons. In Western Ontario a good deal was done on the farms in 1905. What were the results? The patrons whose dairies and practices were the worst laughed at the instructors' recommendations. Did they move their milkstands away from the pigsty when asked? A few did; more did not. Did they provide ice to cool their milk, or take any pains to keep it clean? Many made not even a pretence at improvement, and when next they sent sour milk, chances were the maker accepted it as of old. The patrons despised the authority of the instructors with impunity, and went on in the old ruts. The other thorn in the side of the export business was the minority of factories—almost invariably the poor, little ones—which refused to employ the instructors. Here inferior cheese and butter were manufactured, which went to the British market as Canadian, to the prejudice of our national reputation.

The system of instruction as heretofore organized had gone about as far as it could go. Something was required to get after the shiftless patrons and factories. Accordingly, some additional legislation was passed by the Legislature a year ago, in the form of an amendment to the Act to Prevent Fraud in the Manufacture of Dairy Products. This, in substance, simply required patrons and factories to be cleanly in handling dairy products. To enforce the law, two sanitary inspectors were appointed by the Department of Agriculture. These men were absolutely distinct from and independent of the regular staff of 35 or 40 instructors engaged by the Dairymen's Associations. During the summer the two sanitary inspectors accomplished quite a little good in having the drainage and water supply of factories improved, in having milkstands moved away from unwholesome quarters, and in other ways seeing that our goods were manufactured in sanitary surroundings.

It soon became plain, however, that two sanitary inspectors were altogether inadequate to cover the ground. Besides, it savored of supererogation to have one staff of instructors and another of inspectors. It was, therefore, mooted, first through "The Farmer's Advocate," that the two offices be combined in one staff, and that all the instructors be given legal authority to act as sanitary inspectors, in order that they might enforce their recommendations where necessary. To the mind of the Minister of Agriculture this involved complications and possibly trouble, for some of the inspectors might take too much upon themselves, and apply unnecessarily drastic measures. Then, too, it would be awkward to ask a factory to hire an instructor-inspector who might find himself called upon to require the proprietor to go to expenses for improvements. The upshot of it all has been that the Department of Agriculture has taken over the administration of the whole system, and will henceforth handle it from Toronto, in co-operation, however, with the Dairymen's Associations.

The work will be carried on in much the same way as before, but the instruction fee is abolished, and every factory in the Province will be visited. To lessen expense, the number of instructors will be cut down; but as they will be given power to insist on sanitary conditions on farm and in factory, it is expected their work will be more effective than ever before. Where conditions are found unsatisfactory from a hygienic standpoint, instructions will be given how to improve them, and a reasonable time allowed in which to effect the change. If the producer or proprietor does not comply, an appeal will be made to a board of arbitrators, consisting of the local director of the Dairymen's Association, the Chief Instructor,

and a representative of the Department of Agriculture. These men will finally decide what improvements must be made, and allow a reasonable time for their completion. The Department is determined to allow nothing unreasonable or unjust to be done, but is awake to the necessity for insisting that all factories shall come up to a reasonable standard so far as sanitary conditions are concerned. The same is true as regards the farms where the raw material is produced.

It has been decided not to have the instructors devote their time to testing milk for adulteration, except where the authorities of a factory or creamery state that they have clear evidence of milk having been tampered with. Then the instructor will be allowed to assist in making a further test.

In short, the object of the instructors' work is and always has been helpfulness to maker and patron. They are not detectives nor constables, but instructors, with just enough authority in reserve to bring indifferent or obstinate proprietors, patrons and makers to time. The new system is an excellent one, and Hon. Nelson Monteith is to be congratulated on having effected the desired change, while at the same time providing against unnecessary friction or the semblance of political interference. To the patrons it will work only benefit, resulting in a higher average standard of quality in exported products, and ultimately in the enhanced prices which uniform excellence is always in a position to command.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

If we are without specific information on any matter of public utility, at least—in these days, it is largely our own fault. We were rash enough a few weeks ago, to write that some outspoken critic of the Experimental Farms stumped us with a demand for anything of permanent value they had done for agriculture in the country. Our impression was that they had done much, but it was not so easy to produce the arguments. Some were produced, it is true, but what is asserted without proof is denied without proof—Quod gratis assentitur, gratis negatur, as we say in dialectics. Now, the other side is to be heard, as is right and proper. Last week's mail brought me a letter from a much-respected official of the Farms in question, in which we find the following, which is significant enough for anything: "I do not know whether you have yet received a copy of the Inter-Report of the Experimental Farms. There have not been many published yet. I send you one, as it is a good thing to have by you when people ask you what the Experimental Farms have done for the country. I notice that in one of your Maritime Letters you said that you were at a loss to say at a moment's notice just what the Farms have done. This will be a good pamphlet to carry about with you." Could anything be done more innocently? Then copies from others came flocking in upon us.

Well, we embraced the very first opportunity of using this life-preserver, in pamphlet form, and feel that it is but right that we send the answer, as far as the question which the doubter of yesterday proposed. This report seems to have been gotten up as an answer to just such doubting Thomases as he whom we encountered on the Mainland. It resumes the whole condition of agriculture in Canada since the finding of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1884; remarks upon the establishment of experimental farms through the action of Sir John Carling in 1885, and claims that in the couple of decades since there has been "an unprecedented advancement" along all lines, for which, after giving due credit to the O. A. C., at Guelph, to the Farmers' Institutes, agricultural circles, dairy, live-stock and fruit-growers' associations, agricultural and horticultural societies, and the work of the Commissioner's Branch of the Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, there still remains the largest measure to make the ample justification of the Farms. This progress, Director Saunders freely asserts, "has resulted in a general improvement in the condition of the agricultural population all over the country, and in a vast increase in the exports of agricultural products."

"The experimental work which has been done at the Farms since their organization," he con-