

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established
1866.

Vol. XLIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 15, 1908.

No. 838.

EDITORIAL.

HOW DAIRY INSTRUCTORS EARN THEIR SALARIES.

The system of dairy instruction maintained by the Province of Ontario costs between thirty-five and forty thousand dollars a year. In 1907 the figures were \$36,478.10. Thirty-one instructors are employed, twenty-three in the Eastern and eight in the Western part of the Province, the disparity in numbers being partly due to the largenumber of small factories that abound in the Eastern extremity. These two staffs are directed, each by a Chief Instructor, namely, G. G. Publow, at Kingston, and Frank Hems, at London, Ont.

The immense value of the services rendered by this capable, devoted and hard-working body of men is too scantily appreciated. While, happily, they are no longer regarded by factory patrons as spies or enemies, very few patrons, and not all the makers, realize what vast practical uplift they have given the dairy industry. This is partly because the general public are not well informed as to the nature and extent of the work they do, and partly because a negative benefit is not so convincing or so impressive as a positive one. The trouble and loss from which the industry has been saved by the timely assistance of the dairy instructor are almost incalculable. Then again the results of dairy instruction in gradually improving factory methods, in bringing about, by suggestion and otherwise, improvement in factory buildings and equipment, and in raising the standard of quality and uniformity, and, consequently, the prices of butter and cheese, are not realized by the general run of patrons, who, if they think of these things at all, complacently attribute all the credit to themselves, or, more rarely, to the maker, or, perhaps, to the assumed absence of any particular difficulties. The contrast between conditions, markets and prices, as they are, and as they would be but for the dairy instructors' suggestion, counsel, object-lesson and practical advice, seldom or never comes home to us.

Now and then, however, a case occurs in which everyone can perceive the tangible assistance of the dairy instructor in helping maker and patrons out of a difficulty. This summer, at a factory in the Ingersoll district, a serious case of bitter flavor developed in the cheese. It was so bad that it seemed almost impossible to make cheese at all. On July 24th Chief Instructor Hems visited the factory and noted the conditions. The whey tank was situated about ten rods from the factory (from which the whey was conducted through a pipe), making it very inconvenient, if not impossible, to heat the whey. The maker was told that if he would move his tank up, pasteurize the whey, and enlist the co-operation of his patrons, the instructor staff would do its best to help him out. Accordingly, an instructor was sent to see the matter through. The tank was at once moved up to the factory and given a thorough scalding; steam connections were put in, and next day the whey was pasteurized to a temperature of 155 degrees. During the day when the tank was being removed, the instructor made curd tests of the milk from each of the 62 patrons, as a result of which only ten were found free from the yeast which causes the bitter flavor. The patrons were all visited, and the situation explained to them. They heartily co-operated with the instructor in every way. Twenty new cans were purchased to replace rusty ones, and particular pains taken by the patrons to scald their cans. In all, 98 curd tests were made by the instructor. In five days the bitter flavor disappeared. On the eighth day it reappeared in one curd, but since then there has been no further trouble.

Another case happened in a factory near Aylmer. The maker was in trouble; his cheese were not right, being affected with the yeast flavor. The whey tanks were examined, and found in bad condition. Instructions were given to put in steam connection and pasteurize the whey. The maker was instructed how to handle the curds. Within three days the trouble had disappeared, and has not occurred again this year.

A factory near St. Thomas had been troubled with the bitter flavor on and off for fourteen years. In this case the whey tanks had always been kept clean, but, of course, the germ life and yeasts in the tank had never been completely destroyed, and the tank was, consequently, a means of disseminating the yeast among all the patrons. Last year pasteurization of whey was adopted. Within seven days the trouble disappeared, and the factory has been rid of it since.

Cases similar to the foregoing could be cited from every instruction group in Western Ontario. Pasteurization of whey has proven a wonderfully effective means of controlling these bitter and other flavors caused by yeasts. Of course, pasteurization is no excuse for carelessness in the washing of milk cans, nor for carelessness in making or inattention to the tanks, as regards keeping them clean, but it is an excellent supplementary means of improving conditions for both maker and patrons, and in advocating this one idea alone the dairy instructors have been of great assistance to the cheese industry. In many other ways they have rendered equal or greater service. The dairy instructors of this Province are not overpaid.

THE IRISH STORE-CATTLE TRADE.

Ireland's interest in the British cattle embargo is set forth this week by our Irish correspondent, "Emerald Isle," in a lucid, closely-reasoned argument. While admitting that protection of the health of the herds of the United Kingdom is the main consideration that weighs with the British Government in its maintenance of the embargo, he naturally devotes most space to discussing the more purely local or Irish phase of the situation, and in advancing the belief that removal of the embargo on Canadian feeding cattle would jeopardize and restrict the Irish store-cattle trade with England and Scotland, his argument under this head naturally resolves itself into a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages to Ireland of such a trade.

Without pretending that the store-cattle business represents a highly-ordered system of agriculture, our correspondent explains that the exigencies of the local situation have led the Irish farmer to resort to it. Climatic vicissitudes tend to restrict the area devoted to grain, and to that extent lessen the facilities for fattening his own stock. Impecuniosity and shiftlessness, resulting from a blood-sucking, disheartening system of land-tenure, and a generally depressed condition of the agricultural class, have tended to prevent the development of a more enterprising and profitable system of stock husbandry, and the peasant has been glad to realize a little ready money on his yearlings and stockers. In short, as we read it, the Irish farmer has dropped into the store-cattle rut, and any innovation which threatens his continuance in this path is anticipated with alarm. While not fully sharing the general apprehension, our correspondent, we fear, is not wholly free from it himself. To our mind, a complete revolution of Irish agriculture, that would shake it rudely out of its beaten paths, would be about the best thing that could happen it, though the change, of course, would be unpleasant. Canadian experience has been that hos-

tile tariff walls and other dilemmas have eventuated to our great advantage by compelling attention to superior lines of effort which our own individual enterprise was insufficient to persuade us to take up.

Our correspondent endorses the wisdom of devoting increased attention to dairying and pig-rearing, but remarks that dairying means a large annual crop of calves. Quite true, but the best Canadian practice, in districts where dairying is the specialty, and where a special-purpose breed of cows is kept, calls for the vealing of the calves, or, if veal prices do not warrant, knocking them on the head when born. What Ireland clearly needs is more special-purpose dairy cows and more bacon nogs. Beef-raising, we should say, except, perhaps, for the local markets, and, to a small extent, for export, the Irish farmer had better leave to other countries.

WHAT WILL KEEP BOYS ON THE FARM.

Again and again the plaintive quest is heard, "What will keep the boys on the farm?" Will money-making do it? No, for the exceptionally clever boy can generally make more money in the city, where a certain number of opportunities are found to realize on the labor of others. Will the introduction of urban facilities and privileges into the country keep the boys there? Will rural telephones, rural mail delivery, improved roads, multiplication of electric lines, modern-fitted country homes, more liberal spending allowances, daily newspapers, and the various other fruits of modern civilization keep the boys on the farm? No, for, improve these as you will, the city will still keep several notches ahead in all such privileges and creature comforts. Will the multiplication of rural educational facilities keep the boys on the farm? No, for their tendency has ever been citywards. Much may be accomplished, though, by a reformation and balancing up of our educational systems, so as to overcome the prejudice with which it now inclines so many pupils from farm to city.

Will enlarged opportunity for political and other public service keep the boys on the farm? No, for in this respect the city man, in closer touch, as he must always be, with large business interests, will naturally have and continue to have an advantage.

What, then, must we do to keep the boys on the farm? Mainly this, arouse and cultivate their interest in the farm and in the distinctly rural advantages of country life. The science of agriculture, the natural processes and mysteries of forest, field and stable, the nobility and fascination in co-operating with nature for the production of increasingly larger and better products of all kinds—this must be the keynote of any gospel calculated to impress the rising generation with the advantages of farm as compared with city life and occupation. With this should go a cultivation of the appreciation of the beauties of the country, the grace and sweep of its landscape, the tang of its fresh, crisp air, the sympathetic interest in the gradual unfolding of plant, animal and bacterial life; the leisure, the sanity, the sweet goodness and wholesomeness of the country life, as contrasted with the sordidness and inherent hollowness of aims centered merely on material ambitions and dollars.

The introduction of modern conveniences in the country, the enlargement and broadening of country life socially and otherwise, and the provision of freer economic conditions under which the farmer's toil will be more generously and fairly rewarded, these things are good as helping to mitigate the disadvantages of country as compared with city life, but we must not depend on them