

## Where Dirt Comes From

CITY health officials, when endeavoring to improve the municipal milk supply, generally lay most stress, when formulating systems of inspection, on the cleanliness of the cow stables and barnyard. The farmer with the clean stables and the clean cows gets the highest score. Now along comes the University of Illinois with the statement that this is all wrong, that the most of the dirt in milk does not come from the stables or the cows, but that the main contamination is from improperly cleaned utensils. Their conclusions, after extensive studies, are summarized in a recent bulletin as follows:

"The fact that the dirt which falls into milk at the barn is readily visible in the milk has led to the conclusion that the barn is the principal source of the bacteria in milk. The results of this study, however, show that it is the utensils, rather than the barn, that are largely responsible for the excessive bacterial contamination of milk. The extent of the contamination of milk by the utensils is strikingly illustrated in one of the experiments in this study: when all the utensils commonly used for handling the milk at the barn and in the dairy were thoroughly steamed, the bottled milk had uniformity only about 5,000 bacteria per cubic centimeter, but as soon as the steaming was omitted the bottled milk frequently contained several hundred thousand bacteria per cubic centimeter."

"The cans used for shipping milk are a particularly prolific source of bacteria when they are washed at the dairy and returned to the farm without being thoroughly steamed and dried. The number of bacteria usually added to the milk by such cans is many times larger than the number that would ordinarily get into the milk at the barn; the addition of a million bacteria per cubic centimeter of milk by such cans is not uncommon."

"A detailed comparative study of the effect of the various other utensils at the barn and at the dairy suggests that the greatest contamination comes from the more complex apparatus, such as the clarifier and the separator. In one of the experiments in this study, it was found that pails added approximately 11 times as many bacteria to the milk as the barn influences, the strainer one and one-half times as many, the clarifier 30 times as many, the cooler 10 times as many, and the bottle filter 60 times as many—a total of 112 times as many added by the utensils as by the barn factors."

"It seems to the authors that in an attempt to produce milk with low germ content too much stress has been laid on practices of minor importance, and the influence of utensils poorly steamed and not dried has been commonly neglected."

## The Housing Problem

SEVERAL Ontario cities and towns have a housing problem on their hands. War orders have concentrated business in a few centres. More families have moved into these centres than there are houses in which to properly accommodate them. What are the cities going to do with this surplus population? Already the Ontario Provincial Government, having headed the problem over to the Organization of Resources Committee, a special housing sub-committee have drawn up concrete plans for providing greater housing facilities in cities and towns. "But the committee feels that it would fail in its efforts if it did not take very thoroughly into consideration housing conditions in the rural districts of the province," Professor Dawson, a member of the committee, told Ontario's District Representatives when they recently convened at Guelph.

"There is no permanent labor supply in rural Ontario," stated Professor Dawson. "Until it is secured, we will have year after year, a lack of labor, farmers working too long hours and general discontent. I would call your attention to the fact that 50,000 houses are to be built by the government in rural England. How are we going to meet the need here?"

"I know of at least one Ontario farmer who hires several men, lives near a couple of good towns where there is much war work going on and yet has no labor problem," said Dr. G. C. Creelman in continuing the discussion on rural housing. "I refer to Will Dryden of Brooklyn. This spring Mr. Dryden found that he would need several men. He had it announced in one of the factories in Oshawa that he needed these men and on the day appointed he went down and took his pick. The men were willing to leave positions where they were getting several dollars a day for the positions that Mr. Dryden offered them at \$40 to \$60 per month. The drawing cards were good cottages to live in, a garden, milk, etc. I believe that the rural labor problem is going to be solved in this direction."

"We have looked into this problem of rural housing in connection with some of our surveys," F. C. Nunnick of the Conservation of the Commission told the gathering. "We visited 100 farms in each of four counties. We found that the farm labor difficulty was being overcome most successfully by those who had houses on their farms for their help, suitable houses. I mean; some were not fit to live in. A good cottage, however, always enabled a farmer to get good help and keep it."

Mr. Nelson Meath, ex-Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, under whose administration, the representative movement was launched, concluded the discussion on rural housing. "One of the first things I am on leaving Guelph to go back and run the home farm was to build a house for the hired help. It has been a good proposition. I have always secured a class of help that mingled with the society of the community and left me only when they went on to farms of their own," said he.

## Paint the Car at Home

(Continued from page 1.)

and then we applied the special body finish that we had gotten for the purpose and gave the top a coat of special top finish. I should say that the whole job, sand, papering and all, represented one and a half days' work for two of us. Cost of materials, \$1.50.

My own car looked pretty shabby so it was natural that the same subject came up for conversation when I ran in to see Peter Smith, who also lives near Stratford. "I have painted my car every spring since I got it," said Mr. Smith, "and that's about five years ago. This spring I got a paint for 90 cents at Eaton's, and it is a nice, easy job to do in a holiday at."

I won't say that any of these cars has as smooth a finish or a finish that would bear as close inspection as a professional car painter would have given them. Seeing them pass on the road, however, one could not tell the difference from a professional's job. So now we have the top dressed to the body finish and any quantity of sand paper. The next time we go out in our car there won't be a coat of rust on it to be ashamed of.

## Cheese Factory Burned

WHILE attending the meeting of the Cheese Board at Brockville, Norman Tackaberry was notified that his cheese factory, situated at New Dublin, caught fire and was destroyed. The factory was one of the largest and best equipped in the district. It received between 8,000 and 10,000 pounds of milk daily.

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