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EDITORIAL.

Licensing Cheese and Butter Makers.

Coming, as it does, so soon after our editorial on the proposition of licensing cheese and butter factories, Mr. Parry's contribution on licensing the makers will be liable to cause some confusion, unless the reader keeps clearly in mind that the two proposals are entirely different, although having, to some extent, at least, a common purpose. The main object aimed at in licensing the factories would be to prevent the development of new ones in districts already well served with co-operative facilities, where additional factories or creameries would prove a bane to the industry. The object of licensing makers seems to be primarily to raise the standard of the profession, by requiring dairy-school certificates from all would-be head makers. It is argued, further, that, by excluding a proportion of poorly-trained or inefficient makers, the scale of remuneration would be raised, and some of the superfluous small factories in Eastern Ontario, being unable to pay the advanced wages demanded, would be obliged to close down, to the advantage of patrons, makers, and the industry in general.

Mr. Parry refers to the resolution passed at the Eastern Ontario Dairywomen's Convention at Prescott, suggesting that we reprint it, and asking what action the Western Ontario Dairywomen's Convention has taken in the matter. The resolution passed at Prescott was as follows:

"With a view to improving the position of cheese and butter makers in Ontario, and also to placing the owners and managers of factories and creameries in a position to secure well-qualified makers, this Association, in convention assembled, respectfully request that legislation be enacted setting forth the qualifications of makers who may be allowed to take full charge of the manufacture of either cheese or butter."

No such resolution was passed at the Western Dairywomen's Convention, and no official action has been taken, save that, at a directors' meeting in London, on February 2nd, the matter was discussed, and a committee appointed to meet and confer with a similar committee from the Eastern Association, regarding this or any other dairy legislation that might be proposed.

It may be stated candidly that the makers of Western Ontario are not enthusiastic concerning the idea of licensing makers. At the district dairy meetings, held last fall, they could not, in any case, be persuaded to pass a resolution on the subject. This is largely explained, perhaps, by the fact that no tangible, clear-cut proposition has been placed before them defining the conditions of license or its plan of execution. They say, in effect, that, as it seems to be in the Eastern part of the Province where the conditions obtain that call for licensing of makers, let the Eastern Association come forward with a concrete proposition, and then, if it meets the views of the Western men, they will consider it.

Meanwhile, we cannot overlook the fact that a license based on satisfactory passing of a dairy-school examination might cut out some of the very best practical makers; while, on the other hand, it would qualify some who would fall short in actual factory work; and the suggestion that provision should be made for withdrawing licenses from those who proved incompetent factory managers is easier made than carried out. It is freely admitted that dairy-school training is good

and desirable for every maker, but, after all, the emphasis in this, as in farming, or any other occupation, must be placed on the man, rather than on certificates of training.

It may be that a workable and commendable plan may be thought out, though it is fraught with difficulty, for, to make the standard high enough to exclude the inefficient makers, would raise strong protest; while, to make it low enough to let everyone in, would accomplish little good. And the avowed object of thinning out the small factories by arbitrarily raising the salaries of makers, does not appeal as the best way of approaching this desideratum. It is, however, up to those who believe in the licensing or certificate plan to propose a definite and practical scheme.

Profit or Loss From Steers.

That the question of profit or loss in connection with raising cattle for beef purposes depends largely on the feeding of the young stock, was clearly shown by two lots of steers at the Live-stock and Poultry Show, at Ottawa. One bunch of four represented the specimens commonly found on the farms throughout Eastern Ontario, while four others from the Central Experimental Farm were typical baby-beef animals, though not by any means the best that could be found.

Following are the details, conspicuously posted by the Experimental Farm authorities for the benefit of visitors as they scrutinized and contrasted the two lots of steers:

Central Experimental Farm, baby beef from dairy Shorthorn cows: Steers, 20 months old; average weight, 1,135 lbs.; cost to feed from birth, \$46.00; present value, \$60.00; profit per steer, \$14.00. Each steer consumed in 20 months, silage and roots, 14,729 lbs.; hay, 1,609 lbs.; meal, bran, corn, gluten, oats and oil-cake meal, 1,865 lbs.; skim milk, 1,638 lbs.

Average, Eastern Ontario steers: Average weight, 660 pounds; probable cost to feed from birth, \$28.00; present value, \$22.00; loss per steer, \$6.00; feed has consisted probably of silage and roots, 10,000 lbs.; hay, 800 lbs.; meal, 500 lbs.; skim milk and whey, 1,000 lbs.; pasture for ten or twelve months; straw, 1,000 lbs.

This was a most important feature of the show. No man interested in cattle could examine the specimens without feeling that the contrast was not overdrawn, even if he did not agree with the figures in detail. At the Experimental Farm it was possible to have accurate data; in the other case the figures are largely problematical, but admittedly a reasonable average. The placing, then, of these animals and of this information side by side, cannot fail to impress those who keep cattle with the fact that proper feeding is to a great extent responsible for the difference between profit and loss.

The importance of breeding is not overlooked. While the Experimental Farm steers were not great massive youngsters, such as are found on the farms of leading breeders of beef cattle, they showed the impress of beef-breeding qualities. But even the average steers of Eastern Ontario, if given food and care similar to that accorded to the Experimental Farm lot, would be in condition to give a profit instead of a loss. The average farmer, as is shown by the figures, saves \$18.00 in cost of feed, and thereby loses \$38.00 in value of the animal at an age of twenty months. This is a brand of false economy that demands attention in rural Canada.

Prince Edward County, Ont., has eleven Farmers' Clubs organized, and all doing good work.

Increasing Orchard Profits.

Orchards in many parts of Ontario, and in some of the other Provinces of Canada, are unprofitable only because no precautions are taken to insure cropping. Nothing pains an orchardist more than to drive along a country road and see an area planted to orchard trees, the branches of which are so thick that it is scarcely possible to see through them, even when the leaves have fallen. The long, straight limbs, towering high in the air, show that, from the time the trees were set out, no attempt has been made to prune them to give approved shape of top, or to encourage fruit production. The skilled orchardist looks below the trees, and, if the snow is not too deep, finds that the land has been allowed to go to grass, and that a tough sod has been formed.

These are two conditions which, outside of the recognized fruit districts, are commonly found, and to which may be credited, to a great degree, the unpopularity of orchards throughout the farming districts. Both can be remedied, at very little expense.

A fruit man, at a Farmer's Institute meeting in Ontario, recently, was heard to remark: "A man never should prune his own trees." This is a safe motto for the man who has not made a study of fruit-growing. With trees that have been left unpruned for several years, very few owners will cut out enough limbs and branches. The fear seems to exist that sufficient branches will not remain to bear fruit in quantity. It is forgotten that a free circulation of air and sunshine is essential to high-class fruit in abundance. When trees have run wild for a few years, a severe pruning or cutting back may not be followed by encouraging results the first season, but such practice is necessary, in order to bring the trees to desirable form, and the returns for succeeding years amply make up for the apparent loss.

The fact that, except in the severest climates, pruning can be done any time during the winter or spring months, reduces the labor cost to a minimum. Suitable saws, pruning shears and knives can be had at a comparatively low figure, and many trees can be trimmed during a season by taking advantage of spare hours. Ideal form of tree can be obtained most easily when a start is made while the trees are young, but even with older trees much can be done by anyone who interests himself in fruit production to make improvement.

That cultivation is an important factor in fruit yields, is shown by the orchard surveys conducted in New York State, where a five-year average from otherwise well-cared-for orchards, tilled for ten years or more, stood 337 bushels, giving an annual income of \$189, whereas orchards in sod ten years or more averaged 232 bushels, and returned only \$117 as yearly income per acre. The five-year average for all orchards (which class would include those that had been neglected as regards pruning and spraying) in sod for ten years or more was 176 bushels, and an annual income of \$87 per acre.

The results of the survey showed a gradual increase both in yield and income in almost every grade into which the orchards had been placed, according to the cultivation given. The series of classes were: Sod, ten years or more; sod, five years or more; sod, three years at least; tilled three years at least; tilled five years or more, and tilled ten years or more.

Not only did the yield from the trees increase as the cultivation given was more thorough, but prices, also, were higher. The prices paid by buyers for fruit off tilled orchards ranged from 15 cents to 18 cents per bushel more than for apples from orchards that were in sod.