

Milk may become tainted from:—

1. Feed unsuitable for milking cows.
2. Injudicious feeding.
3. An impure water supply.
4. Want of salt by the cows.
5. Absorption of odours.
6. The germs which get into the milk during and after milking.

FEED UNSUITABLE FOR MILKING COWS.

There is in Canada an abundance of good wholesome food available for cattle feeding purposes. The natural pastures are, on the whole, excellent, and it is only in limited districts, or at certain seasons of the year, that trouble is experienced with weed flavours. Among the cultivated foods, turnips and rape are two prominent exceptions to the rule of suitability which applies in general to Canadian fodder crops. While they are undoubtedly valuable in a ration for growing or dry cattle, if turnips and rape are fed, even in limited quantities, to milking cows, there is a likelihood of imparting to the milk a taint which cannot be eliminated by any process known to the buttermaker's art.

INJUDICIOUS FEEDING.

Some first-class foods if fed alone, and to excess, will cause indigestion, and thus indirectly affect the milk. One example of this kind is found in green clover.

AN IMPURE WATER SUPPLY.

An abundant supply of pure water is one of the essentials for the production of good milk. When cows are compelled to drink the water of swamps, muddy ponds, or sluggish streams and ditches, in which there is decaying animal matter, including their own droppings, there is a constant menace to their health, and unless cows are in good health they cannot give first-class milk. Moreover, the mud, often full of foul germs, which collects on the legs, flanks and udders of the cows, and falls into the milk at the time of milking, is a direct source of infection, which is often overlooked.

WANT OF SALT BY THE COWS.

When cows have free access to salt at all times they will give more milk, which will have a better flavour and keep sweet longer than when they do not get any at all or receive it only at intervals.