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EDITORIAL.

Licensing Cheese Factories and Creameries.

To protect the fruit industry of our country it has been deemed advisable to pass legislation regarding the packing and shipping of our apples, etc. Why, then, should not this principle be applied on behalf of the dairy industry? Generally speaking, we Canadian people do not like to be compelled to do things by the law, yet, to protect our country and the reputation of our products and to facilitate trade, law sometimes becomes necessary. To have our cheese factories and creameries in a proper sanitary condition is a question in which the public are interested. The time has arrived in our dairy industry when the reputation of our dairy products is in danger from unsanitary conditions and impure water at factories and creameries.

Anyone who has visited the factories and creameries must know that a great number of them cannot have pure water under the existing conditions around the buildings. At the present time many of the factories which are doing a very good paying business have floors which leak and cause conditions under and around the buildings which are simply awful.

In the interest of dairying and public health, should such conditions be allowed to exist because some proprietor or company is careless or indifferent to the requirements of the trade and public health? At the present time about three-quarters of the Ontario cheese factories and creameries are paying a fee for instruction. All the instructors can do under the present system is to point out the defects, and leave the matter in the hands of the factorymen. Many of the factories not paying anything, or not employing the instructors, have very much greater need of them than those who are.

To overcome this condition, the question of licensing plays an important part, and should be fairly considered. If every factory and creamery had to be put up to a certain standard before being allowed to manufacture cheese or butter then they would have to be in a sanitary condition. The fee paid for a license could be applied to pay for proper instruction, and each factory would receive equal instruction and attention. The department under which the work would be carried on would know exactly how much revenue would be derived from the factories, and arrangements could be made to engage the required number and properly qualified men to carry on the work satisfactorily.

Many of our progressive dairymen are in favor of some such scheme to improve the conditions of the dairy industry, as the present conditions are not satisfactory, because all factories are not on an equal basis. One man or company may have their factory or creamery so situated that they are compelled to keep it in proper repair, while their next neighbor may have his buildings in such a location that filth and rubbish are not so noticed by the public, and the business is run on much cheaper lines, thus causing unfair competition.

If each factory paid an equal fee, and this fee would guarantee them proper inspection and instruction, the difference between our best factories and our poorest ones would become very much less, and the average standard would be raised greatly. The quality of the goods could not help being more uniform, and our reputation in the foreign market would improve, as nothing will enhance the reputation of dairy goods as quickly

as the fact that better sanitary conditions exist, and greater cleanliness, along with up-to-date methods, is being practiced.

Australia has found it necessary to take up the question of licensing factories and creameries, and Wisconsin has been compelled on behalf of the public and the dairy interests to enact rigid laws regarding clean and sanitary factory conditions. When we consider the enormous magnitude of the export trade of Canada in dairy products, and the vast sums invested in cows, buildings, apparatus for manufacture, curing refrigeration and transport, the country is assuredly warranted in taking such legislative precautions as will secure the permanent success and safety of the industry. The "Farmer's Advocate" would be glad to have an expression of the minds of men concerned in the well-being of this great industry upon the necessity and practicability of the licensing proposition, which carries with it a universal and thorough system of instruction, with suggestions also as to the speedy enactment and carrying out of such regulations.

The Street-fair Evil.

Western Ontario has been having an experience with what is termed "street fairs." Several towns have shown their "enterprise" by entertaining the promoters of and chief actors in these functions. Street fairs systematically organized to operate in various towns are institutions capable of incorporating within themselves features having many shades of moral, intellectual and educational color. Those which have visited Ontario towns suffer badly by investigation. In one case diagnosed by the "Farmer's Advocate," the whole aggregation of "attractions" consisted of a collection of the most blatant, vulgar and loathsome fakers that have dared to lift their heads in the presence of people having a reputation for decency, morality and intelligence, in any civilized community. The individual features that compose the "street fair" are lady minstrels (ladies not admitted), a company of gaudily-dressed incompetent clowns and brazen women; a strong man who lies upon a table, and by the rigidity of his muscles endures the strain of a team of horses as they tighten the traces; a revolting optical illusion of severing a head from the trunk, and returning it again; four listless colored performers who do a very weak and uninteresting stunt; an electrical theater which might be considered passable; some old and worn freaks and curios from different parts of the world, principally the States; a man who had been buried alive for five days; another who had the misfortune to lose his hands and feet, who, under the glare of a gas jet, shows how to remove a suit of dirty clothes, write, and perform other every-day duties. These different distractions are conducted in several different tents, before which the nauseous faker harangues the assembled public, while bands play, wheel-of-fortune gamblers and other types of sharpers shout, peanut vendors scream, and all around a miniature pandemonium reigns.

Everyone who has ever attended a fall fair has seen this sort of thing before, but the performers at the "street fair" are the most debased and baneful class of fakers extant. If there were any excuse for such things on the ground of entertainment, or as any other form of recreation, we should not be so positive in our denunciation of them. Such disgusting exhibitions have not a shadow of excuse for parading Canada. In many places across the line, where they originate, they would not dare expose themselves, but in our land of greater liberty they take advantage of condi-

tions, and abuse the privileges we prize so highly. Canadians do not want these vile troupes of ignorant, semi-gypsy knaves promenading through the land, and the power of excluding them should be exercised by those in whose hands it is vested.

What's the Matter at St. Louis?

A recent letter from St. Louis stated that the buildings for the live-stock exhibit were yet on paper, and not seeing them even in course of erection, many were led to doubt whether there will or can be the shows proposed. The dairy cow test, though greatly delayed, is now under way, and the authorities owe it to themselves and the public to give some definite assurance as to whether or no the other great live-stock competitions for which such elaborate preparations have been made are going to materialize. Explanations have been given in some of the States papers that the delays have arisen partly in consequence of the resignation of Chief Coburn, of the Live-stock Department, and the length of time elapsing before his successor, Mr. Mills, got into harness. The Canadian Government, though not undertaking any national exhibit of live stock, has promised to duplicate any prize money which might be won by individual breeders making an exhibit. The inadvisability of embarking in a national exhibit, as pointed out by a writer in the "Farmer's Advocate" nearly a year ago, rested on three grounds, viz.: that the prospective returns in the way of future business were too elusive to warrant the necessarily large expenditure; second, the restrictions imposed upon the entry of Canadian live stock into the Republic have become so rigid and vexatious as to be practically prohibitive; and, third, the danger of contracting some of the dangerous southern live-stock diseases. As the live-stock exhibition is not due to open till August 22nd, the American capability to hustle will, no doubt, be equal to the emergency of getting the buildings ready before that date, if the show is to be an actuality.

In the Country.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

A trip to the country in the leafy month of June is a real treat to a denizen of the city. The copious rains of spring and summer so far have rendered the foliage deep colored and dense, and that benediction of nature, grass, is abundant and luscious everywhere one travels. Cattle and other live stock are revelling in the plentitude of the supply, the cows yielding largely of milk to meet ever-increasing demands for that health-giving product, and the beef cattle growing rapidly into money or money's worth, the only detraction from perfect contentment being the plague of flies, which, however, owing to the coolness of the weather, has not, as yet, been so serious as in some former seasons.

A twenty-mile drive in Middlesex County in Old Ontario, north of London, reveals a country rich in natural wealth of soil, of woods and grass and running streams, making a paradise for farm stock: the majority of farms well kept, the buildings substantial and of modern make-up, and the indications of thrift and prosperity evident in every aspect. The common complaint of scarcity of suitable help is given as the analogy for an excess of thistles and other weeds in the grain crops, marring the pleasure, in some places, of looking on the fields, as they will detract from the comfort of handling their products in the harvesting. Cutting off the thistle tops above the grain, which was being done in many cases, makes a