

# The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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## Licensing Cheese Factories

**O**WING to our columns being overcrowded during the past few weeks with the reports of the Fairs, we were forced to drop the discussion upon the licensing of cheese factories for a time. This discussion began in *The Farming World* of August 26th last, in which a letter appeared therein, from Mr. Geo. H. Barr, Government Cheese Instructor, in Lambton County, in which he strongly advocated some system of licensing that would bring about more control of the factories and consequently improve the sanitary and other conditions that are so much in need of improvement at the present time. A paragraph from Mr. Barr's letter will serve to refresh the memory as to some of the reasons he puts forth for taking this position:

"It is a disgrace, but nevertheless a fact, that many of our cheese factories are not fit places in which to manufacture an article of human food. The proprietors make the excuse that they cannot afford to put them in proper repair, but if a business cannot be conducted properly, it should not be conducted at all."

In this issue we publish several more letters on this subject which will no doubt be read with interest by dairymen generally. Prof. Dean though strongly favoring a system of licensing factories does not think the dairymen are ready for such a radical measure. More education on the subject is needed. Mr. Zufelt, Instructor for the Eastern Dairymen's Association, deals with the question in a more exhaustive manner. He emphasizes the need of more education of the farmer in order to secure better milk. His proposal to place cheese and butter-making upon a professional basis and require each maker to take out a certificate of qualification strikes us as being a very good one and one that should work in very well with the licensing system. A plan for the licensing of makers is being discussed at the present time in Minnesota so that the idea is not a new one. Mr. Publow, the Government Instructor in Eastern Ontario, puts the case very strongly. If the patrons or factory owners will not remedy matters themselves, then some higher power should step in and seek to effect a remedy. Mr. Johnston, a maker of long standing and a director of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, strongly advocates a system of licensing and the expendi-

ture of all money derived therefrom upon instruction.

These letters cover pretty fully the arguments to be advanced in favor of licensing factories. We have yet to hear from anyone who is opposed to such a system and who believes that it would not be in the best interests of the dairy industry to have such a system in force. No doubt there are such among the dairymen of the country. If so we would be glad to hear from them. There is no desire on the part of those advocating licensing to force this thing upon the people against their own good judgment. But the reasons for such a system are so strong and the need of some definite action along the line of improving the sanitary condition of many of our factories so urgent, that if the question is put fairly before them, the large majority of our dairymen will approve of the scheme. The "bugaboo" that may prevent many from giving it their entire approval is the fear that if placed under a license law a large amount of money would have to be expended in fitting up the factories. To a large extent this is true. There are many factories in operation today, that are in anything but a fit condition for making cheese and butter. If it required a large expenditure to put these factories in proper condition under a license system, such expenditure would have to be made or the factories would have to go out of business. But whether there be a license law or not, a factory not in condition for making the finest quality of product will eventually have to make the necessary expenditure or go out of business. The needs of the trade at the present time demand it and we believe the time is not very far distant when the buyer will refuse to take cheese at all from filthy and unsanitary factories. The license system would hasten the matter somewhat, and through it, factories would have the advice of skilled and practical men in rebuilding or putting their factories in good working condition.

A question that should not be lost sight of in discussing a licensing system is that of instruction. Those who have the best interests of the industry at heart at the present time, believe that effective instruction in the factory and in the milking yard cannot be had until all factories are visited by instructors. To do this will require a much larger amount of money than the Dairymen's Associations have at their disposal or that is being

received for dairying purposes from Government grants. As the factories and the dairymen will benefit most by such instruction it is reasonable to suppose that they are willing to pay their share of the cost. What more simple and easy way could they pay it than by an annual license fee of say from \$20 to \$30 for each factory. A fee of \$25 a year would never be missed by the patrons of any factory in the province. It would mean a tax of about 25c levied upon each patron, a very insignificant amount when compared with the great benefits to be derived from a uniform system of instruction and inspection throughout the province.

## Concentrating the Cattle Trade

The crowded condition of the Toronto cattle market and the proposal of the city commissioner to enlarge the market by taking in a portion of Stanley Park, brings the question of the concentration of the cattle trade of the province again to the front. There is no doubt that a concentration of this trade at Toronto under suitable conditions as to accommodation and room for expansion would greatly enhance the price which the farmer obtains for his fatted stock. We are still of the opinion, however, that this cannot be done through the Toronto city cattle market even if the three and one-half acres are added to the present market. People, who advocate this, have little conception of what such concentration of effort means. Even if the proposed additions are made they would only help matters out for a year or two, and in the meantime the city will grow and the vacant lands be taken up, thus affording no room for further expansion or development. If a concentration of the cattle trade in Toronto is desirable there must be no lack of room for growth and expansion in the years to come. And if Toronto is to become the Chicago of Canada, we must look beyond a crowded cattle market in the centre of the city confined in its limits to a few blocks at most. To attempt concentration under such conditions is, in our opinion, to court failure and to shut off expansion at the very outset. The proposition that presents itself to our mind as being the most likely to assure success is that of the Union Stock Yards Co., at Toronto Junction. The stock yards are being equipped there, with ample accommodation and room for expansion for many years to come. A concentration of effort in making