

Dairy School Work in Ontario

Our readers are doubtless well aware that there are in this province three well equipped and well managed dairy schools. These educational institutions fill a most important position in connection with the dairy industry of this country. Their value to the industry cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Perhaps, the best way to estimate their real value would be to discontinue their regular sessions for a year or two. If this were done the work that our dairy schools are accomplishing would be more appreciated by the rank and file of our dairymen. But such a procedure would not be advisable under any circumstances. There is too much at stake in maintaining the quality and prestige of Canadian dairy products in the Old Land to allow of the good work they are doing being discontinued for a moment. Nor is there any great need of demonstrating their value to the most progressive of our dairymen. The makers to-day who are the leaders in the business and who are turning out the finest quality of product are those who have had some training at our dairy schools. Of course there are exceptions, and here and there we find men who are making the finest quality of cheese and butter who have never attended a school. And so we have skillful men in professional life also, who have never had the advantage of a university training. But how much more skillful those same men would have been had they had this special training. And the same line of reasoning will apply to the training obtainable at our dairy schools. There is not a maker in Canada to-day who would not be greatly benefited by spending a term at some one of these schools.

In discussing this matter in the way we have we do not wish to be considered as trying to prove that the work of our dairy schools is not appreciated by the dairymen of the country. The large number of makers and farmers' sons and daughters who attend these schools every winter is proof against such a contention. But what we do say is that there are many makers and many dairymen, who by absenting themselves from these schools show a great lack of appreciation of the advantages to be derived from spending a few weeks in special training for their work. In these days when the work of the skilled scientist must go hand in hand with the work of the maker in solving some of the problems confronting the industry to-day added importance is given to the training and instructions which a well equipped dairy school can impart. The knowledge that a maker will obtain of the conditions affecting the keeping quality and flavor of milk arising from bacterial sources at these institutions alone, will repay him many times over for the trouble and expense of a term at a

dairy school. We would therefore bespeak for the schools this year a largely increased attendance. The needs of the industry demand it, the best judgment of the leaders in dairy thought will approve of it, and the lesson that the experience of those who have attended in the past teaches is: "go thou and do likewise."

The Ontario dairy schools are located at Guelph, Kingston and Strathroy. The Central School is an important branch of the Ontario Agricultural College and is presided over by the Professor of Dairy Husbandry, H. H. Dean. Because of this connection it gives many advantages in the way of lectures and practical work on subjects akin to dairying.

The fall term for creamery men only, in which winter butter-making will be given special attention, opens on Dec. 2nd and closes on Dec. 21st. The full course term begins on January 3rd and ends on March 27th, 1902. Two important features of the course this year will be special instruction in poultry-raising and home economics. These will be of special value to farmers' sons and daughters, taking the farm dairy course. Applications should be addressed to the president of the college.

The Kingston school is presided over by Supt. J. W. Hart, to whom application should be made. Five distinct and complete courses will be given all of about three weeks duration, with the exception of the third which extends from Jan. 16th to Feb. 26th. The first short course extends from Dec. 2nd to Dec. 21st; the second from Dec. 30th to Jan. 15th; the fourth from Feb. 27th to March 19th and the fifth from March 20th to April 5th. A special feature of the courses here is special lectures on bacteriology.

Supt. Arch. Smith is in charge of the Strathroy School, and to whom application for admittance should be made. Three courses are provided at this school. The first one a special creamery course, extends from Dec. 2nd to Dec. 21st. A full short course begins on January 2, and closes on January 30th and a long course from January 31st to March 28th. Lectures on bacteriology, treatment of live stock, etc., are provided in addition to the regular work in all branches of practical dairying.

Discrimination in Freight Rates.

Among those who appeared before Prof. S. J. McLean, Commissioner appointed to investigate any grievance which may exist in regard to railway rates in Canada, was Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, Alexandria, Ont. As many of our readers are well aware Mr. Wilson has taken a great interest in the question of railway freight rates for several

years past and is in a position to give most important evidence before any commission looking into the question. He has made a special study of this subject as it affects the interests of the farmer, and the information he has been able to obtain shows pretty clearly that the Canadian farmer is being discriminated against with a vengeance, and that some remedy is urgently required if he is successfully to compete with the farmers of the United States in supplying the world's markets. A strong, active railway commission seems to be about the only solution to the difficulty.

Mr. Wilson gave a number of instances in his statement to show the necessity of some definite action being taken. Among others he showed that the rate for cattle from Toronto to Portland, is 28 cents per hundred pounds. The rate from Chicago to Portland, over 500 miles further, is nominally the same, but there is a rebate on export shipments of about four cents, making the real rate twenty-four cents. That is to say, that the Ontario farmer, although 500 miles nearer the seaboard, has to pay four cents more per 100 pounds than the American, over the same road, in the same direction, to the same destination. This applies to the main line, but on some branch lines in Ontario the rate runs up to 32 cents, making the discrimination against the Ontario farmer still greater. The average distance from western American shipping points to Portland is 1,105 miles, and the average distance from Ontario shipping points to the same place is only 681 miles, and yet the rate is the same, namely 28 cents, with the additional advantage of a rebate of four cents in favor of the American shipper. The Grand Trunk Railway has a graduated rate from Chicago to Port Huron, beginning at 28 cents and running down to 22 cents, and yet across the river, in Canadian territory, at Sarnia, the rate jumps up again to 28 cents, and remains there throughout Ontario. A rate graduated through Ontario in the same proportion as between Chicago and Port Huron would scale down from 22 cents at Sarnia, to seventeen cents in Glangarry, instead of the present rate of 28 cents from that county. That is to say that the Glangarry farmer, although 800 miles nearer the seaboard than the Chicago man is charged the same rate. The result is, he says, that Ontario loses the advantages of its geographical position, and is moved back on the prairies west of Chicago, so far as railway rates are concerned.

These figures show pretty clearly that the Ontario farmer in regard to this one item of cattle is placed at a decided disadvantage as compared with his competitor in Western States. Surely it is time that something were done towards making the railways deal fairly with the people who have aided them so largely in building their roads.