

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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Let Us Hear From You.

THESSE long evenings afford a splendid opportunity to the readers of The Farming World to send their experiences in connection with the past season's operations for publication. We are always open for letters dealing with any features of farm work or giving new experiences. Let us then hear from you. Never mind about the grammar, the spelling or what you think is poor writing. Fear of these things keeps many a good thinker from being a good writer. What we want are facts, gathered from your experience during the summer. Something about the crops, how the dairy panned out, what you are doing in beef cattle, sheep, swine or poultry. There are also topics presented every week in The Farming World that many a farmer could give some good hints upon. A long letter is not necessarily the best. A short, concise statement of the case will do. Send it along. Let us hear from you.

Improved Cheese Factory Methods Urgently Needed.

Elsewhere we give a short summary of a few dairy meetings held in Eastern Ontario at which a few of the speakers told the dairymen some very plain facts which it is hoped they will take into serious consideration. The cheese branch of our dairy industry is in rather a serious plight at the present time. The market is dull, the Englishman does not appear anxious to buy our cheese and everything points to a rapid falling off in the consumption of cheese in Great Britain.

But what are our dairymen doing to remedy matters? Several authorities have recently stated that this year's cheese is not of as good a quality as a few years ago. Prof. Robertson, at Ottawa, a few days ago, and Mr. Ruddick, who is the chief dairy expert of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and who should know something about our cheese, at the meetings already referred to, both state that Canadian cheese shows some deterioration in quality during the present season. Mr. Ruddick ascribes this gradual deterioration in quality to the warm competition between small factories and to the low wages paid which is driving good men out of the business and at the same

time offers no inducement to the young man with energy and brains to learn cheese-making. Another reason advanced by Mr. Zufelt was that the compelling of every maker to give a guarantee as to quality only tended to help the poor maker who would sign anything so long as he got a job and if he were forced to make good losses on bad cheese would get even with the factory in some other way.

If the causes assigned by these experts for this lack of improvement in quality are correct then a very grave responsibility rests upon the dairymen of this country. Are they going to stand idly by and see the industry that has been their pride and the source of a large share of their prosperity for a quarter of a century deteriorate and eventually lose its hold entirely on the English market? Surely not. But why hesitate so long about making the improvement in factory buildings, etc., which every authority during the past five years has claimed must be done if Canada is ever to maintain her present position, let alone advance to greater things and a higher standard of excellence in her cheese products. There is no money in putting it off. In fact, as Prof. Robertson pointed out to the Ottawa dairymen recently the expenditure of \$400 required to put the average curing room in good shape could be made up in a single season by the improvement in the quality of the cheese and the saving from shrinkage in hot weather. Our dairymen are therefore losing money every day by neglecting to make the necessary improvements referred to.

To unite the smaller factories into larger and better equipped establishments is a much harder task even than to bring about improvement in the factories we have. But Mr. Ruddick's reasoning is quite clear. A small factory cannot pay sufficient wages to employ a good maker, neither can it be run as economically to the patron as the larger factory. A little co-operation on the part of these small factorymen could effect a great deal in this direction. These small factories, which are, perhaps, more numerous in Eastern than in Western Ontario, were built years ago and have now reached a stage when they must be replaced by new and better ones. Would it not therefore, be the most economical and common sense plan for two or more of these small factories to unite and put up one new and thoroughly up-to-date building that

would serve all? We think it would and would strongly urge it upon the dairymen interested.

As to the wages paid cheese-makers we quite sympathize with the movement for advancement in this line. Good men are not going to remain in a business at which they can barely make a living. A cheese-maker who guarantees to make a first-class quality of cheese in the average Canadian cheese factory under present conditions as to equipment, quality of the milk supplied, etc., is undertaking a responsibility that no individual in any other business or calling would assume for a moment unless paid extremely well for so doing. This question as well as that of wages should be fully discussed at the dairy conventions this winter. In the meantime we would be glad to have the views of dairymen and others on the points raised.

Coarse Grains at a Premium

One of the striking features in this fall's market conditions has been the high prices for coarse grains. Not for many a year have prices run as high as during the past month or two for oats and peas. The latter is now selling at from 10c to 12c per bushel higher than wheat while oats are fully 20c per bushel higher than at this time last year, and notwithstanding those high prices the demand keeps increasing and prices moving upward. The following table from the Trade Bulletin shows the prices paid last year and this for four of the leading feeding stuffs:

	1901	1900
Oat	51 1/2c. to 59c.	30c. to 39 1/2c.
Peas	81 1/2c. to 85c.	60 1/2c. to 67c.
Barley No. 2	54 1/2c. to 55c.	45 1/2c. to 47c.
Wheat	\$ 8. to 18.50	\$11.50 to \$15

The cause of these high values, is not because these crops have been a failure in Canada this year. The failure of the corn crop in the United States and the consequent demand for other kinds of feeding stuff has had something to do with it. In addition to this there has been an extra demand from Great Britain where the prices for peas and oats have advanced rapidly during the past month. The large shipments of oats sent to South Africa have also had something to do with advancing prices for that commodity.

However, the farmer need concern himself but little as to the cause of these high prices so long as he is able to take advantage of