

Problems of the Farm

Contributed by Grey County Department of Agriculture

Egg Grading.

As with all other legislation relating to the grading of produce, considerable criticism is heard everywhere. This is to be regretted as there has been nothing enacted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture which will redound to increased consumption of the commodity with the inevitable resultant increase in price.

Bacon, butter, cheese and eggs are now graded. There are Nationally Standardized Grade Names that must be used only on the quality which that grade embraces.

Clause 4 means that every case, package or container of eggs that is shipped or delivered by those who receive eggs on consignment or buy eggs for resale must be labeled or tagged on both ends.

Clause 5 means that any person selling eggs, offering eggs for sale or displaying eggs for sale, or delivering eggs direct to consumers in a public place or public manner shall mark, label, or tag such eggs or containers in which they are held with the name of the class and grade of such eggs, using conspicuous letters on such labels, tags, etc.

Clause 6 states that an allowance will be made not exceeding 6 1/2 per cent. for eggs found in parcels of eggs which are below the grade stated, this to be an average allowance and apart from breakage.

Clause 7 means that every retailer of eggs shall cause to be displayed in a prominent place in his place of business a card setting forth classes and grades of eggs as defined by the Canadian standards, for the information of consumers so that they may know what these classes and grades actually mean as regards the quality of eggs according to the Canadian standards.

Clause 8 means that the class and grade of all eggs offered for sale must be as described according to the Canadian standards as regards quality and weight, but the eggs may be better than the class and grade they are described as being.

Clause 9 states that no person shall buy for sale or resale, or expose, offer for sale, or sell eggs which are unfit for human food. This means that those selling bad eggs will be held responsible for so doing.

Clause 10 specifically states that all persons who receive eggs on consignment or who buy eggs for resale in making returns for same must make returns for such eggs on a graded basis, making accurate returns of the grading according to the Canadian standards.

Clause 10 (2) means that anyone to whom eggs are consigned wishing to transfer them to another party without candling and grading them must do so within 48 hours from the time the eggs are received.

Clause 10 (3) means that those in charge of the enforcement of the regulations may demand to be notified in the case of a transfer, for the purpose of candling and grading, and may prescribe the conditions under which such transfer may be made.

Clause 11 states specifically that any inspector charged with the enforcement of the regulations may enter any premise or conveyance and make full investigation to ascertain whether or not the egg regulations are being violated in any way.

The above explanations refer to the principal clauses in the amended egg regulations as affecting domestic trade in eggs or eggs for home consumption.

Schedule "A" referred to above, is the form of grading statement prescribed in Regulation 10, of the regulations, and is attached to all copies of the regulations issued by the Federal Government.

The placing of the grading of eggs for home consumption on a legalized standardized basis would appear to open up a wonderful opportunity for all concerned and interested, from producer to consumer, and while no doubt just at first there will arise some difficulties in the application,

administration and enforcement of the regulations, it appears evident that those entrusted with the enforcement of the law are anxious to render all possible assistance to all concerned.

Grading Farm Produce.

One of the best bulletins ever sent from Ottawa has just come to hand from the Dairy Branch, Department of Agriculture. It is a resume of the observations made by Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, on a three months' trip through New Zealand and Australia.

These two colonies have come to the front in the supplying of Great Britain with cheese and butter. Canada has been forced to take second place with a possibility of losing entirely her market for cheese to New Zealand. Is it not time something was done to awaken Canadian farmers?

Briefly, Mr. Ruddick's chief points are as follows:

- 1. Payment by test for all milk delivered to cheese factories.
2. The factories are under efficient, well-paid management.
3. There is no antagonism between cheese and butter factories and milk condensaries as in Canada.
4. The quality of produce produced is placed equally on producer and manufacturer.
5. There is a nationally standardized grade which must be stamped by Government Inspectors on every shipment regardless of its size.
6. Producers take a keen interest in the marketing of their products.
7. Legislation providing for inspection of dairies, factories, etc., registering of marks, stamps, brands, condemnation of all unclean, unsanitary dairy apparatus and equipment etc., has been enacted.
8. Owners of dairies and farms must give within reasonable time any and all information demanded by the Minister of Agriculture.
9. All dairy produce MUST be graded and stamped with Government grades. Cheese must be over 14 days old before removed from storage for shipment, and butter must be left in cold storage for three days.

The above are a few points clearly emphasized in the bulletin. His conclusions are far-reaching as they are concise, but should command the attention of every producer of milk for cheese, or cream for butter production.

- 1. There must be keener appreciation of the supreme importance of quality.
2. The apathy engendered by the lack of competition in the past must be dispelled and a new spirit aroused to meet the remarkable change of situation that has come about in the last two or three years.
3. The universal grading and more frequent deliveries of cream for buttermaking and the proper maturing of cheese in suitable temperature before shipment should be put into effect as soon as possible.
4. Some reorganization of the factory end of the business is imperative. The old ramshackle building with its poor equipment, of which there are too many, no matter how well it may have served in the past, must give way to something more in keeping with the modern needs of the business. Every factory must

have sufficient revenue to provide efficient equipment, including cooling curing rooms and decent salaries for competent cheese and butter makers. This will cost some money but it is worth while and will pay in the end.

5. There must be the fullest co-operation between all the elements that make up the dairying industry in Canada. Private or selfish interest must not be allowed to stand in the way of any improvement that has for its object the general good of the industry. The making of butter and cheese should be recognized as an important manufacturing business which it is, and should be treated accordingly.

6. Finally, I would insist with all the emphasis possible that the unfair and demoralizing practice of holding cheese- and butter-makers financially responsible for "cuts" in the sale price of butter and cheese on account of defects in quality should be dropped as quickly as possible.

In the Imperial Food Bulletin in a recent issue commending the grading regulations the following appeared: "Canada will always be up against formidable competition both within and without the Empire and her Dairy policy will have to be well nigh faultless to regain lost ground and gain anew her former prestige." This applies equally to eggs, bacon, grain, etc. Farmers of Canada, this is a challenge to you! Farmers of Grey County! Will you accept that challenge? It is for you to say. Results can only be obtained by giving your whole-hearted support to the men and regulations which will eventually raise your produce to the premier position in the British Market with its attendant high remuneration.

Ebenezer.

(Our own correspondent.)

Another wet spell has again delayed harvesting, some here not having finished yet, but will in the course of a few days if the weather permits.

Mr. Charles Lawrence and son Alvin of Grimby spent a few days' vacation at the former's old home here.

Miss Mary Alexander spent a week end recently with her friend, Miss May Hopkins of Hutton Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Sharpe and two children of Mulock were recent visitors with Mrs. Sharpe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wise.

Miss Eva Adam is spending her summer holidays at present with her sister, Mrs. Secord Switzer, Toronto.

Master Cameron Bailey and sister Miss Jean, of Owen Sound, are holidaying with their cousins, the Alexander and Mervyn families.

Mr. and Mrs. Newton Phillips of Park Head motored down on Thursday of last week to attend the garden party at the home of the latter's father, Mr. Thomas H. Lawrence.

Miss Hazel Johnston spent Sunday afternoon with Miss Mary Alexander.

Miss Christine McCulloch spent a few days' holidays with relatives in Durham.

We are very glad to hear that Mr. Moses Donnelly is improving, though very slowly. We are pleased for the change. We hope for a more rapid recovery in the near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Clunis McKean and four children of Ravenna, Collingwood Township, motored over on Sunday and spent the day with Mrs. McKean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reay. The three elder children remained over to spend a short holiday.

The garden social held at the home of Mr. Thomas H. Lawrence on Thursday evening of last week was a great success. The program was the main entertainment of the evening, although the weather was rather cool for sitting out of doors. It was, however, seemingly enjoyed by all. Miss A. C. Macphail was present and delivered a twenty-minute address which was listened to with great interest, as was the speech of J. J. Morrison. Rev. Kendall of Dundalk also addressed the crowd for a short time. A recitation by Miss Nettie Byers of Hampden was much appreciated, and music furnished by the Campbell's Corners orchestra and also the Rocky and Neustadt orchestras. Mr. John Whiteford, President of our U.F.O. Club, acted in his usual capable manner as chairman.

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