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ACROSS THE ISLAND

1910 Butter Machine Was Real Invention

By NEIL A. MATHESON

I GET OLD newspapers, old periodicals and all sorts of old things from interested readers. That's what helps to keep this column interesting.

A few weeks ago my new neighbors, Warren and Arlene Hood, were doing some renovating work on their home which is just across the field from mine. They found some old newspapers and brought a parcel to me.

This week I found an item in a Guardian of June 6, 1910 which is a real dandy. It was an advertisement addressed "To the Farmers of Prince Edward Island".

It told of a "butter separator" that "separates butter from sweet milk in one operation . . . and leaves the remaining milk perfectly sweet."

Gets Butter In One Operation

THE DEVICE, the advertisement claimed, "does the work of a cream separator and churn in one operation".

The advertisement said the butter keeps better, is easily cleaned.

Another paragraph said the machine could "separate butter from seven gallons of sweet milk in five to eight minutes, after a little practice".

Added was the fact that it also separates butter from sour milk, sour cream in one operation.

I am concerned particularly with the fact that a little more than 58 years ago The Joshua Brown Company of Pembroke, Ontario was advertising to the farmers a machine that would separate butter from sweet milk in one operation.

Some 12 years ago John Simmonds of Central Creameries told me they had installed a continuous butter-making operation – I believe the trade name may be "Golden-Flo" and that was the first in the Maritimes. John told me this week he thinks the first installed in a modern dairy in Canada was installed only two, or three years before that.

Yet we have the same general idea advertised to farmers a half-century previously. As John said, the operation to which the old paper refers would not do what the modern machine does. But the fact they did have such a machine back in those days is interesting.

What Happened To The Machine?

I'M WONDERING what happened to that early device. Apparently it did not work out successfully for nobody to whom I have talked ever heard of it. It sold for \$38.00.

If any reader has ever heard of the device, let me know. I will visit you to get some further information.

I WAS talking this week to Charlie MacLeod, Alliston who recalled the day early in the 1920's when he took a can of cream to Murray River. He wanted to ship the can to Charlottetown but the station agent didn't have any idea what to charge him and the men on the train didn't know either. The result was that Charlie took the can of cream home with him. I believe he got it shipped the following day.

Mr. MacLeod says that means he was the first man to ship a can of cream from the Murray River Station. Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod are staying in Charlottetown for the winter.

'Kiss Not' Button Unpopular

THE SAME Guardian that carried the dairy one-operation churning machine also had this rather unusual item:

A news item from Chicago reported that the World Health Organization was trying to stop kissing. The group was distributing "Kiss Not" buttons which were intended to stop transmission of tuberculosis, or consumption as it was called then.

The WHO had this pledge which they required members to sign:

"In order to encourage good health and lessen the spread of consumption, I desire to join the World Health Organization, and hereby pledge myself to discourage the custom of kissing on the lips whenever it is in my power."

Indeed the health organization distributed a circular on "Why Not Stop Kissing?" But kissing has continued to be one of the world's most popular indoor pastimes. Indeed kissing is not confined to indoors.

I showed the item this week to an attractive young lady on our news staff and asked her what she thought of the idea.

Lady Dislikes 'No Kissing' Idea

"I'M SURE glad that tuberculosis has ceased to be a threat to health", she replied with an impish smile that told more than she said in words.

In the same newspaper that Warren loaned me was an item announcing a Dairy herd competition. Competition would be for the largest quantity of milk delivered at the factory from June 1, 1910 to June 1, 1911. The other competition was for the largest quantity of butter fat delivered at a factory in the same period. The factory, incidentally, was at Kensington and entries were to be addressed to John Anderson.

No Christmas Cards

AFTER CONSIDERABLE thought I have decided not to send the usual large number of Christmas cards this year. So I take this opportunity of extending sincere greetings to all of my friends.

My sympathy goes out to all of you who have been bereaved during the year. I think of many friends who have suffered such losses. My neighbor, Lou Henry, died just as I was preparing this column. There are many others. To all of those families my heartfelt sympathy.

I'm Leaving For Virginia

I EXPECT to leave tomorrow for Virginia where I shall be spending a week with my daughter and son. Jack Crelling is my son-in-law to be technically correct, but I always think of him as my son. The plane leaves here at 12:45, I spend something more than an hour in Halifax, 45 minutes in Boston and still get to Washington at 7:02 p.m. When I was a boy one would reach Tignish in that time.

This means there will be no "Across the Island" column next week, nor will my Farm Column appear either. Hope to have both of them back again on the following week.