

The Egg Industry.

Messrs. D. Gunn Brothers & Co., provision merchants, Toronto, have recently issued their seventh annual egg circular. It contains a fund of valuable information of practical value to every poultry raiser. The importance of the egg trade is not sufficiently appreciated. No definite statistics have been prepared as to the extent of the egg industry in Canada. American statisticians place the total value of the eggs produced in the United States in excess of that of dairy products, cotton, wheat, the mineral output or other staple industries of the country. Eggs are valuable as an article of food. Their value in this respect is more appreciated in Great Britain than anywhere else, as the following quotation from the circular will show:

The inhabitants of the British Isles appreciate more than any other people the value of eggs as food. In addition to the enormous consumption of domestic laid eggs, nearly \$15,000,000 is spent each year in purchasing foreign supplies. France, Belgium and Denmark contribute more than two thirds of this supply, and the monies received in the trade represent a great deal to the farmers and peasants of those countries. Although the consumption of eggs in Canada is capable of vast expansion, there will always be, as there is to-day, a surplus available for exportation. In competing for the egg trade of the United Kingdom it has always to be borne in mind that scrupulous care and pains must be exercised if the trade is to succeed. A fast steamship service and cold storage carrying facilities will do much to offset the advantage which continental producers have over Canadians. But something more is required to win a good place for Canadian eggs in British markets, viz., the unanimous co-operation of producers, merchants and exporters in marketing eggs in the best possible condition.

The circular points out that it is the little things that often make or unmake an industry. By selecting the best breeds and feeding the hens in the proper way the production of eggs may be largely increased. It is possible by this means to raise the egg production per hen from 150 to 250 eggs per annum. The average yield in Ontario is only about 100 eggs per hen, so there is room for great improvement along this line.

There is a great loss of eggs from improper handling. The slightest crack renders the egg valueless for pickling or cold storage purposes, and causes a loss of from two to three cents per dozen. Proper egg carriers should be used for transporting eggs. Egg cases can be purchased for about 25 cents for a thirty-dozen case. Then the eggs should be kept clean.

In regard to prices for the export trade the present season, Messrs. Gunn Brothers have this to say:

We do not pretend to be able to prophesy as to the course of the egg trade in Great Britain this coming season. It, however, does not require any prophetic gift to make a forecast of large receipts and comparatively low values the season through. The prospects are that in the British Isles the production of eggs will be larger than ever, while in addition to the usual supplies from France, Belgium and Denmark, a phenomenal movement of eggs from new sources in Russia is predicted. Although these eggs are inferior to those of Canada and cannot be shipped to Great Britain under as advantageous conditions, they must be counted as entering into competition with our product and will, beyond doubt, have an adverse effect upon market values. Last year, it will be remembered, the Americans made a somewhat spirited bid for the export trade, and it is estimated that they sent more than a million dozen eggs to Great Britain. This year it is reasonable to expect very large shipments from the United States, as last year's operations were in the nature of an experiment. Egg dealers in that country have suffered serious losses for a number of seasons by the cold storage of eggs, and now prefer to divert a portion of their stocks to British markets.

The prices for eggs at New York and Toronto at the end of March during the past eight years are given as follows:

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Toronto,	16c.	14c.	17c.	16c.	15c.	16c.	11c.	10c.
New York,	24½c.	14½c.	18c.	14½c.	12c.	11½c.	10½c.	10c.

The Export Trade in Winter Butter.

For the two months ending Feb. 28th, 1898, 542,386 cwt. of butter was imported into Great Britain. Of this amount Canada only contributed 4,725 cwt., while Denmark shipped 216,647 cwt., Australia 109,271 cwt., and the United States 8,410 cwt. Some in the trade look upon these figures as an indication that the winter creamery business in Canada is not doing what was ex-

pected of it in the way of developing the butter export trade. Perhaps it has not come up to the expectations of those particularly interested in the export trade. We know, however, that the number of winter creameries has gone on steadily increasing since the first one was operated in Oxford county in 1891. Besides, the quantity made has increased each year and we venture to state that during the past season the production of winter creamery butter has increased almost one-third.

There is therefore absolute proof that the production of winter creamery butter is increasing every year. The question then comes, why has not our export trade in winter butter shown a corresponding increase? The answer is, we think, quite clear. The demand for fresh made winter creamery butter in our towns and cities has increased much faster than the supply, and the result is that our dairymen have found a good market at home without seeking one abroad. During the past two months especially the supply of fresh winter creamery butter in Toronto and Montreal has not been more than would supply the local demand. Besides, it is only during the past winter that the export market has afforded as good prices to the dairymen as the local markets, and in fact during March factorymen could do better by selling locally, though one or two good factories which have been shipping regularly realized as good values abroad. There is therefore no ground for alarm in regard to the future of winter dairying in Canada. As soon as the local markets are supplied the winter-made butter will go forward to England in greater quantities and we are sure, as has already been demonstrated, it will command a good price and please the consumer.

However, notwithstanding the unfavorable comparisons above mentioned, the exports of butter from Canada during the two months already quoted made a gain of 1,482 cwt. as compared with the corresponding period last year. This is encouraging and leaves no room for doubt in regard to the future of the winter butter trade. After a few years, when more of the farmers who are engaged in winter dairying have adapted themselves to the conditions necessary for carrying on winter dairying in the most profitable way, there will be a much better showing.

Manitoba Agriculture.

The report of the Department of Agriculture for Manitoba for 1897 has been issued. It shows that in nearly every branch of the work there has been progress. The yield of wheat was not up to the usual average. But this was more than compensated for by the higher prices obtained and by the favorable weather for harvesting and threshing. The prices for cattle were good, a large number of stockers being sold to go to the United States. This should induce a boom in the stock business the coming season and be an incentive to the Manitoba breeders to improve their stock, and we believe that many of them are now making large purchases of stock from Ontario and elsewhere for the purpose of replenishing their herds. However, as we pointed out in last week's issue, this selling of stockers so largely may have an injurious effect upon the live stock trade in that province during the next few years. It will, at least, take three or four years to raise cattle for the export trade, and if the young stockers now in the country are sent out of it, this trade is likely to suffer.

The sales of lands to settlers during the past year greatly increased. Over 1,000 homestead entries were made during 1897. The development of mining has given a great impetus to the Manitoba trade. The prevalence of contagious diseases among stock is reported as decreasing, owing to measures put in force by the local government to keep them in check. Dairying has made good progress. Twenty-seven creameries produced 987,179 lbs. of butter valued at \$177,692, and the cheese factories reported 987,000 lbs. of cheese valued at \$83,895, making a grand total of \$261,581. The other departments of agriculture are shown to have done good work,

and on the whole the Manitoba citizen has great reason to rejoice over the success of the past year along agricultural lines.

Success in agriculture means more perhaps to Manitoba than to any other province in the Dominion. Farming is the mainstay of the country, and should be fostered in every possible way by both the local and Dominion Governments. The success of last year will induce an increased emigration from the older provinces to Manitoba this summer. In fact the exodus from Ontario is beginning to be noticed already. Ontario farmers are complaining of the scarcity of farm help, and the explanation is that the young man has "gone west."

Boracic Acid in Butter.

The Montreal Butter and Cheese Association has petitioned the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture and the ministers of Agriculture for Ontario and Quebec, asking them to warn butter-makers against the use of boracic acid in butter. Boracic acid is an adulterant under the English law, as has been shown by some recent prosecutions against retailers in England, which resulted in fines being imposed because of the butter containing boracic acid. In view of this, exporters on this side have been requested by their English correspondents to give certificates guaranteeing that the butter they ship is absolutely pure and free from boracic acid. All butter entering the United Kingdom will be examined by analysts appointed for that purpose and anyone making importations containing this adulterant will be heavily fined. "Preservative" is said to contain boracic acid and consequently dairymen are advised not to use it.

It is hardly necessary to mention this matter further. If the use of boracic acid or any other preservative prevents the sale of our butter in the British market the duty of every buttermaker is quite clear. No preservative of any kind, except salt, should be used under any consideration. There may have been a time when the use of a preservative was advisable, but there is no need for it at the present time. With the cold storage facilities provided on board the cars and boat all butter, if properly made, can be landed in England in a perfect condition without the use of boracic acid.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

T. D. McCallum, Danville, Que.

We have pleasure this week in presenting the readers of FARMING with a short sketch of Mr. T. D. McCallum, manager of the Isleigh Grange Farm, Danville, Quebec. The Isleigh Grange Farm contains 900 acres of land, and is owned by Mr. J. N. Greenshields, of Montreal. It has been successfully managed by Mr. McCallum for several years past, and who by his knowledge of purebred stock and skill in breeding has succeeded in making the Isleigh Grange herds second to none in Canada.

Mr. McCallum is yet a young man. He was born at Danville, Que., in 1866, and received his education at the Danville Academy and at St. Francis College, Richmond, Que. When only seventeen years of age Mr. McCallum commenced the breeding of purebred Ayrshires on his father's farm at Danville, and thus when quite young he acquired the training which has been so helpful to him in his present position.

The Isleigh Grange herds comprise Yorkshire and Berkshire swine, Shropshire sheep, and Guernsey and Ayrshire cattle, and include some of the highest types of animals of these breeds. Several important importations have been made by Mr. McCallum since he assumed the management of the farm. Mr. McCallum sailed for Europe in March last, and will make a large importation, consisting of Shropshire sheep, Yorkshire swine, and Guernsey and Ayrshire cattle, this spring. Knowing something of what Mr. McCallum has done on former occasions, we can safely state that every animal of this importation will be of the highest type in its class. When this importation is added to the large herd already at Isleigh Grange, which consists of 100 purebred Ayrshires, 40 Guernseys, 20 purebred Shropshire sheep, and about 100 Yorkshire swine, Mr. McCallum will have under his care one of the largest purebred live stock herds in the Dominion.

The Isleigh Grange herds have been particularly successful at the leading fairs. Last fall their winnings amounted to \$1,400. Purebred stock from these herds are shipped to all parts of Canada and the United States. In fact we are safe in stating that sales from the Isleigh Grange Ayrshire herd are larger than those made by any other Ayrshire breeder in Canada.