

The Cheese Outlook.

The cheese market of the past few weeks has been a disappointing one to factorymen generally. They naturally expected that the rise in price early in June would be permanent; but it only lingered a short time, and prices went back to what they were before the rise. From reports published early in the season in regard to the supply of old stocks on hand, and the increased consumption of cheese in Great Britain, dairymen had some ground for expecting fair prices as the cheese season advanced. But so far their hopes have not been realized; and now, with the season nearly half over, there is a desire to know just what the outlook is for the balance of the season.

Though the make of cheese has been large during May and June, it has not yet reached the proportions of last season. For the week ending July 9th the exports of cheese from Montreal were 79,072 boxes, as compared with 100,437 boxes for the corresponding week of last year; but the total exports for the season up to July 9th were only 400,297 boxes, as compared with 539,452 boxes for the same period of 1897, showing a decrease of 139,155 boxes. But this is not all. The shipments from New York this season are far behind those of last year. The shipments from New York for the same week as above were 14,621 boxes, as against 27,215 boxes for the corresponding week of last year, making a total for the season so far of 108,227 boxes, as against 223,938 boxes for the same time in 1897, or a decrease of 115,711 boxes. Thus the combined exports from Montreal and New York for the present season are 508,524 boxes, against 763,390 boxes for the same time last year, or 254,866 boxes less.

One would naturally expect that this large deficiency in the exports would soon bring a reaction in regard to prices. But there are other conditions to be taken into account. In the first place, the English make, so far, has been very large. The quantity of last year's stock on hand early in the season was greatly under-estimated, and many fine lots of last fall's goods were slaughtered on the market at extremely low prices. Then again, the holders of this slaughtered stock, in order to recover their losses, are very careful about buying this season's goods, and are endeavoring to get them as cheaply as possible. All these conditions are having a depressing effect upon the market for this season's goods.

However, the whole situation has one bright feature in the shortage in this season's exports, and in all probability, as soon as exporters recover from the losses on last season's trade and begin to realize the true condition of things in regard to this year's output, a reaction will take place that will bring good prices for the balance of the season. At any rate we would advise dairymen not to neglect their cows, but to see that the flow of milk is kept as large as possible for the last three months of the season, which, in contrast with last year, may turn out to be the best of the season.

The Outlook for Fruit.

It would seem from the reports published in the daily press recently that the prospects for a big crop of fall fruits are not very bright. The peach crop is being injured by a new pest; the apple crop will not be much larger than last year, and the supply of fruits generally will fall short of other years.

In some cases it may be possible to foretell so far ahead just what the output will be, but we fancy that in some instances the crop may be larger than is now hoped for. There has been an impression abroad for some years that the reports published at this season of the year, which are never over-sanguine, in regard to fruit, are for the purpose of influencing the market. We can recall seasons in the past when very discouraging reports would come in the early summer regarding the peach crop, but when the peach harvest arrived there would be baskets of that fruit *galore* at prices suited to the purse of the poorest. This

has occurred so frequently that the public is somewhat at a loss whether to believe everything one hears at this season of the year in regard to these poor prospects. However, it may be that this season is an exception, and instead of an abundant crop of apples and peaches, which are due this year, the supply may be very much limited. Last year the apple crop was a poor one, and if this year we have an additional poor crop, that fruit will prove to be a regular "Klondyke" for the fortunate possessor of a large orchard with trees loaded with the luscious fruit.

The Winnipeg Industrial.

The Winnipeg Industrial fair opened on July 11th under most favorable auspices. The Hon. Thos. Greenway, Premier of Manitoba, formally opened the exhibition and delivered an address showing the great benefit the fair had been to the province.

The Governor General and Lady Aberdeen were among the visitors on July 12th, and were entertained to luncheon by the Directors. The attendance this year has proven to be a record breaker. Upwards of 25,000 people were estimated to have visited the fair in one single day. A great many people visited the exhibition from the outside provinces, and there have been several thousand Americans in Winnipeg during the show. The management of the fair are to be congratulated on the success of their 1898 exhibition. We will give a full report of the exhibits in the live stock departments in next week's issue.

The Cost of Bad Roads.

According to the office of Road Inquiry of the United States Department of Agriculture the expense of moving farm products and supplies on all the country roads is twenty-five cents per ton per mile; whereas in the districts of the United States and other countries, where the roads are good, the cost is only about one-third of this amount. It is estimated that this extra cost of haulage in the United States, due to bad roads, amounts in the aggregate to more than the entire expenditure of the national Government; and taking into account all of the hauling done on the public roads the loss is equal to one-fourth of the home value of all the farm products of the United States. This loss is sufficient in a few years to make every American roadway the very best, and it would be a profitable investment if the appropriation were made for that purpose.

But the increase in the cost of haulage is by no means the only loss resulting from bad roads. The loss of perishable products for want of access to market, the failure to reach the market when the prices are good, and the failure to cultivate products which would be profitable if markets were accessible, add many millions to the actual tax of bad roads. Besides the bad condition of the roads during large portions of the year causes the enforced idleness of numbers of men and draught animals which in itself is a serious loss. In other ways the cost of bad roads is largely increased, so that they are really a burden to the people.

The Hay Trade.

In all probability we shall see low prices for hay during the coming fall and winter. There is an exceedingly large crop reported from all parts of Canada, especially from Quebec. Last year there was a large quantity of poor hay in the country, which has been a drag on the market of late. As the haying weather has been the best for years a fine quality is looked for in this season's crop. The condition of the market will depend largely upon the export demand. With a superior quality this market may be developed, though it is not known what the European crop is.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

Mr. Edward Jeffs.

It is a pleasure, after several weeks' cessation, to be able again to give a sketch of one of Canada's many successful farmers. The subject of this week's sketch, Mr. E. Jeffs, was born in 1837, on the farm at Bond Head from which he has recently retired and which is now operated by his sons. Mr. Jeffs received his early education in the old Bond Head Grammar School, now known as the Bradford High School. This school is more or less of historic interest. It was the first grammar school in Simcoe County. Such prominent Canadians as B. B. Osler, Judge Osler, and the Rev. E. R. Young, of missionary fame, received their early training there, and were school companions of Mr. Jeffs.

Being the only son, a large share of the management of his father's farm devolved upon Mr. Jeffs at an early age. In 1862 he started for himself on the old farm. In 1867 he made a beginning in purebred stock by purchasing a Shorthorn cow, from the late John Snell, of Edmonton, and a purebred Shorthorn bull from Mr. Walter Raikes, of Barrie. In 1872 Mr. Jeffs visited England for the purpose of importing some purebred stock. In one respect this trip ended disastrously for Mr. Jeffs and unfortunately for the farmers of Simcoe County. Mr. Jeffs purchased two improved Shire stallions in England and started with them for home, but on the passage out both died. In another respect, however, Mr. Jeffs' visit was an eminently successful one. He was successful in bringing to this country the noted Shorthorn cow, Diadem II. This cow raised fourteen calves in all and paid her owner extremely well. Another valuable addition to Mr. Jeffs' herd was made in 1876 when the cow, Zora 7th, was purchased at the dispersion sale of the late John Snell's herd. This cow was bred in Kentucky and was exceedingly valuable in improving the character of Mr. Jeffs' herd.

Though he did not make a practice of exhibiting at many of the larger shows, Mr. Jeffs won several prizes worthy of note. Among them may be mentioned the silver medal given by the Agricultural and Arts Association for the best herd of Shorthorns in Simcoe County. Mr. Jeffs' stock has always commanded good prices. In addition to Shorthorns Mr. Jeffs is a breeder of purebred Berkshire swine and Southdown and Leicester sheep. After trying nearly every breed of swine he finally settled upon the Berkshires as being the best suited to his locality.

As a public man Mr. Jeffs has been prominent in his own county. He was twenty years in municipal life in his own township of West Gwillimbury, during which time he was reeve for four years, and deputy reeve for the same period. He has been secretary of the local township Agricultural Society continuously since 1862, and was a director of the county society for several years, and for a couple of years he filled the president's chair. Mr. Jeffs identified himself with the Patron movement almost at its inception in this province, and was the candidate of that party in his own riding in the provincial elections of 1894. Though not successful in carrying the riding, Mr. Jeffs had the gratification of reducing his opponent's majority by 350 from what it was at the previous election. Mr. Jeffs has for a number of years been a member of the Advisory Board of the Ontario Agricultural College.

It will be interesting to know that on Mr. Jeffs' farm stands the oldest bank barn in Simcoe County, if not in the province. It was built by Mr. Jeffs' father in 1834, and is still standing, though some recent additions have changed its outside appearance. The original stone walls are still in good condition. The timbers used were of oak, and the original building 32x52 feet in size. Mr. Jeffs' farm and live stock are now largely managed by his sons, under the firm name of E. Jeffs & Sons.