

dairying on account of its exacting features, which compel attention regularly every day in the year, at certain hours. It is possibly true that in some districts this factor has had an influence with the farmers and induced many to give up dairying on a large scale. On the other hand, one can point to that district in Western Ontario with the County of Oxford as a centre, generally considered to be the home of dairying in this country, where the tendency seems to be quite the opposite. There is probably no section of Canada, or, for that matter, of any other country having the same range of products, in which the people on the land have made greater headway or are more prosperous and comfortable than they are in this part of Western Ontario; and yet it is a fact that the dairy industry is as vigorously prosecuted there to-day as it ever was. The farmers in Oxford and the adjoining counties make dairying the principal business of the farm, and no doubt that is the reason why the industry has met with so much success in these countries. There are other sections, some in Eastern Ontario, particularly the County of Dundas, which might be cited in the same connection. Speaking of Ontario only, it is safe to say that outside of a few specially favored fruit districts, the wealth and prosperity of the different countries is generally coincident with the extent to which dairying has been followed.

It is within the probabilities that the use of the milking machine may yet be the means of extending the production of milk in localities where at present the difficulty of securing milkers forms a very serious obstacle in the way of further progress, or even of maintaining the present status of the industry.

The milking machine has undoubtedly been very much improved during the last few years, and it is now being used quite extensively in Australasia.

The home consumption of dairy produce in Canada has been greatly increased of recent years by the additions to our population, and, judging from present indications, the increase from this cause will likely continue for many years to come. It is true, however, that a large proportion of those who settle in Canada at present are going on the land in Western Canada, and will eventually become dairymen, to a greater or less extent, although the tendency at first is to confine operations very largely to wheat growing. As a matter of fact, it takes time to acquire and build up a dairy herd.

The people of Canada have increased their purchasing power enormously in recent years, and this has had a very important effect on the home consumption of butter. Butter is one of those articles of food in which considerable economy may be practiced if necessary, but when times are good there is a tendency to spread the butter much thicker than is done when the family exchequer is low. It is to be hoped, and there is no reason to doubt it, that Canadians will continue to prosper and be able to live as well in the future as they have for some time past.

There is another very important condition which affects the consumption of butter, and that is the matter of quality. There is no denying the fact that first-class quality encourages consumption enormously. A person will eat two or three times as much of a choice bit of butter as he will of a sample which is strong flavored, stale, rancid or otherwise objectionable. The