

Omaha having resulted in the initiation of a not inconsiderable trade, and so on. It is too early yet to quote figures in the fruit trade, which, until this year has been practically nil, except in apples, but remarkable progress may be confidently anticipated.

In the dairy industry the number of creameries and cheese factories is annually increasing. In 1879 there was not a creamery throughout the Dominion, all the butter was home-made; in 1881 there were 46; in 1891, 170; and in 1898, 559, the output from which is of the estimated value of \$3,018,600. The cheese factories numbered 353 in 1871, 709 in 1881, and 1,565 in 1891 and 2059 in 1898, the value of the output being nearly \$19,000,000. The export trade too is going forward by leaps and bounds. In three years the trade in butter has risen from 3,650,258 pounds, valued at \$697,473, to 11,453,351 pounds, valued at \$2,046,686, and the quantity of cheese exported from Canada, according to the complete returns of the year ended June 30th last, amounts to 196,703,323 pounds, valued at \$17,572,763, the trade having more than doubled itself during the past decade. By far the greater part of both these classes of goods go to Great Britain, indeed, sixty per cent. of all the cheese now imported by Great Britain is Canadian. With the general application of the cold storage system there are excellent prospects of bringing the butter trade to very nearly as high a percentage.

The latest returns from the Agricultural department indicate that the expectation of a progressive increase in the volume of export trade in agricultural produce is not being belied; as the following comparison of the three years ended June 30th, 1896, 1897, 1898, respectively, will show:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Cattle	\$ 7,082,542	\$ 7,159,388	\$ 8,723,292
Pork bacon and ham	4,446,884	5,871,988	8,092,936
Butter	1,052,089	2,089,173	2,046,686
Cheese	13,956,571	14,676,239	17,572,763
Poultry & game	18,362	57,271	100,736
Eggs	807,086	978,479	1,255,304
Wheat	5,771,521	5,544,197	17,313,916
Flour	718,433	1,540,851	5,425,760
Oats	273,861	1,655,130	3,041,578
Oatmeal	364,655	462,949	554,757
Peas	1,209,491	2,352,891	1,813,792
Apples	1,416,470	2,502,968	1,306,681

The total value of the animal and agricultural produce exported from Canada in these three years, with the proportion of those totals sent to Great Britain and the United States respectively is as follows:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Totals	\$48,791,344	\$55,533,502	\$75,986,761
To Gt. Britain	40,604,222	46,825,001	66,142,505
To U. States	6,175,875	7,009,647	5,064,844

1898 being subject to revision.

In connection with Canada's export trade in agricultural products, the returns of the cattle export business with the United States is particularly suggestive of the effect that unnatural restrictions, fiscal or otherwise, have on trade. In 1894, when the vexatious quarantine regulations between the two countries were in force, the number of cattle sent from Canada across the border reached the huge total of 256 head! The number increased to 862 in 1895, and 1646 in 1896. In February, 1897, the present Government succeeded in securing the removal of the quarantine from Canadian cattle, with the result that in the eighteen months ended June, 1897, the cattle exported amounted to 35,421 head, as against the 1646 of the previous complete fiscal year; while against the 35,421 of the eighteen months ended June, 1897, the last fiscal year ended June, 1898, shows a total exportation of 87,905. The returns for the first three months of the present fiscal year show a continuance of the splendid increase of the past year, 23,136 head, valued at \$309,360, having been exported to the United States during July, August and September last.

As the figures above quoted show, the poultry and game trade has made great progress now that cold storage facilities are available. One firm in Toronto shipped no less than 60,000 turkeys to the London market for the Christmas trade.

With the outlook so materially improved, and the market so greatly strengthened and developed, the agriculturist is taking heart and showing a greater desire for increased knowledge and improved facilities. The authorities, both Federal and Provincial, have for many years done very much to assist the agriculturist, by conducting experimental farms, by the collection of statistics, by the frequent publication of bulletins, giving detailed practical information as to the results of their experiments and general work, and in other ways. This has been added to during the past summer by the establishing of illustration stations, whereby the work of the experimental farms is practically illustrated from place to place, that the farmers who cannot leave their own locality may have the benefit thereof.