

The floors are made of tile, and the mangers and other feed boxes of glazed earthenware. In fact, tiling enters pretty largely into the construction of the stable.

The Edam cheese factory, which was visited, in North Holland, is conducted on lines very similar to those of a Canadian factory. The milk is delivered by the patrons once a day. There is a demand for these small 4-pound Edam cheese having a firm, dry quality which will stand hot climates. The factory was equipped and arranged very much like a small Canadian factory, but was better built than the average factory in Canada. Cement and brick were the two materials entering mostly into its construction, very little wood being used.

The cheese market at Alkmaar, one of the largest and oldest in North Holland, was a most interesting sight. The accompanying photograph does not give a fair idea of the size of the square in which the cheese were stacked. The town seemed to be full of the curious Dutch wagons in which the cheese had been brought to the market that morning. Each salesman stacks his cheese in a heap on the pavement, and, if necessary, covers them with a tarpaulin. When they are sold, they are loaded on a sort of hand barrow and carried into the weigh-house, and there weighed by the public weigher, and then removed from the market by the purchaser. The weigh-house seems to be a very ancient institution in Holland. The men employed on the market, who attend to the weighing of the cheese, form a picturesque feature in the picture, owing to their quaint and characteristic dress. Every town in Holland and Belgium appears to have its market place, and in some places there are several of them. The markets are what may be styled temporary markets. For instance, in Brussels, on certain mornings of the week, a large vegetable market is held on the vacant space in front of a celebrated church, but by eight o'clock everything is cleaned up, the pavement thoroughly flushed and all traces of the market removed, and the gardeners or hucksters, in their quaint costumes and nondescript vehicles, very often hauled by one or two dogs, have taken their departure, but in many cases not before saying a prayer in the old church near the market. On the "Grand Place," or great market of Brussels, surrounded by the medieval buildings which are such a feature of this part of the city, there are vegetable markets on certain mornings of the week. On Friday mornings there is a great live-bird market, and in the afternoons a flower market, where one will see the most beautiful collection of the various blooms for which the Low Countries are noted. The markets disappear one after another, every trace being removed, and in the evening a large, temporary covered bandstand is erected, and is occupied by one of the many excellent bands or orchestras which are to be found in the country. Before morning the bandstand has disappeared, and one or another of the markets is again in evidence. During the intervals, the space is more or less filled with cabs waiting for fares. Half an hour after the time for closing these markets, one would never know that anything of the kind had taken place, because all traces are so effectively removed. The Dutch passion for cleanliness makes it possible to have such things done. They seem to be constantly cleaning windows and scrubbing the walks in front of the houses and shops, and even scrubbing the pavement itself.

I might dwell at some length on the superiority of the Dutch creamery buildings which I saw in some parts of Holland. There is an evident desire to make these buildings attractive in appearance, as well as useful. They are constructed with strict attention to sanitary details, and the architecture, coupled with the neat surroundings, makes them an ornament to the landscape, rather than a blot thereon, as is too often the case, and I would take this opportunity of again pointing out to Canadian dairymen that they must give more attention to the character of their dairy buildings if they wish to keep pace with the rest of the world in this respect.

J. A. RUDDICK.

#### FOUND RECORD-KEEPING PAID.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

During two years I kept individual records of the conduct of our cows at the milk pail, by weighing the yield of each animal and taking a composite sample, so as to arrive at the fat contained in their milk. I started keeping these records to see which of our cows were just boarding with us. It was surprising what information it gave us. The very animals we were of opinion were doing the best, opened our eyes, much to our surprise, as to their poor milking qualities. No man should ever go into the dairy business without his spring balance, test bottle and record sheet, which are the best means of finding out whether his cows are paying him for his trouble or not. There being no market for butter in this district, other than the grocer's store, who only gave very low prices and groceries in exchange, it paid me better to put my land under wheat than keep cows. N. J. DAVIES.

Sask.

#### BELIEVES IN THE RECORD SYSTEM.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In regard to keeping cow records, I might say that I have kept a record of fifteen for a year, and find the work both pleasant and profitable. The time, per cow, required for weighing is very little indeed. I took samples once per day from each cow. I started the record, because when I attended the O. A. C., at Guelph, I was taught that this was the proper way to test cows, and then, from travelling, wherever I found a man who used the scales and test, I always found an up-to-date man, with cows that were all paying profits. The good they have done me is made clear in many ways. A good-looking cow may be a very poor cow, so far as milk production is concerned. Secondly, that a cow that we think is paying us well, may be really a boarder. To a man that is taking as good care of his cows as he knows how, I would say that the milk records would be to him a series of surprising facts, and the source of double and trebled income, if their teaching were followed.

Westmoreland Co., N. B.

FRED FAWCETT.

#### PAYS TO KEEP RECORDS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I found, by keeping a milk record, that I built up a herd of good cows, got more milk, and of better quality; the cows got fed better, and a person will take better care of his cows. It will pay any man that is dairying to keep milk records.

Carleton Co., N. B.

C. H. ESTEY.



Jewel Sylvia (2195).

Holstein cow. First in class, senior champion and grand champion female, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, and the Dominion Exhibition, Sherbrooke, Que. Owned and exhibited by Logan Brothers, Amherst Point, Nova Scotia.

## GARDEN & ORCHARD.

#### IN BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT VALLEYS.

From the columns of our Western contemporary, "The Farmer's Advocate & Home Journal," of Winnipeg, we reproduce the following editorial correspondence, descriptive of fruit-farming or ranching out in the Pacific Province:

#### TOPOGRAPHY AND AREA OF FARMS.

The first point for a man from East of the Rockies to grasp, when considering the purchase of a ranch in British Columbia, is the absolutely different state of conditions prevailing in the Western Province. In the first place (speaking now of the three main inland valleys, the Okanagan, Arrow Lake and Kootenay), farming is essentially intensive, as opposed to extensive. A square foot of waste land in these districts is as much loss to a ten or twenty acre lot as a waste acre in a large farm or ranch in the Northwest. Every foot of space that can be utilized by the Okanagan or Kootenay or Arrow Lake farmer must be considered almost as carefully as inches are in the demarkation of lots in a huge city.

Secondly, whilst in the prairies one quarter section is, broadly or generally speaking, as good as its neighbor, in British Columbia a first-class ten-acre or twenty-acre plot may be bounded by rocks and cliffs which no sane man would dream of attempting to cultivate. This consideration makes its practically imperative for an intending purchaser to view through his own eyes or those of a thoroughly trustworthy friend the lot which it may be proposed to acquire. If this is an impossibility, then one should insist upon answers to such questions as: What is the mean altitude

of the lot? What is the greatest drop or difference in altitude occurring on the lot? What is the aspect? Does the slope face north, south, east or west? Does the mountain rise immediately from the confines of the lot, and on which side or sides? Another most important consideration is the access to water and a main route of communication, either a lake or a road leading to a town or a railroad depot. Once at either a town or depot, little or no difficulty should be experienced in getting to market.

The third point on which to make up one's mind is the physical impossibility of farming, with very rare exceptions, large tracts, for such rarely exist, and, if they did, the nature of the crops, like strawberries, and such soft fruits, demands a larger number than is available of pickers, per acre, at the time of harvest. Taken all through, then, one should make up his mind to be content with, at the most, a one-hundred acre ranch, and on that not more than ten should be under soft fruits and vegetables, and the balance be planted only with trees bearing apples, plums, cherries, and so on. But a ten to twenty-acre ranch is the more general size.

#### PRICE.

Lands are offered at all prices, from \$10 up to \$500 per acre. Think of it! Five hundred dollars for each acre! And, in general, you will find, upon examination, that the lands are worth, from a producing point of view, about the price demanded. The ten-dollar lots will be covered

with trees, and probably an appreciable portion will be rocky and useless, thus in reality raising the price per acre of that which is available. The \$500 lot, on the other hand, will be a choice one, every inch good to plant, and with a stock on the ground of trees or plants already in bearing. How one can possibly make any profit in such high-priced land appears at first beyond the ken of a novice, but when it is remembered that \$600 worth of strawberries have been sold off an acre and a third, or that a single cherry tree will yield \$25 to \$30 worth of fruit, it begins to dawn upon one that the value is not excessive. But such prices are exceptional, and the average for good

tillable land which requires clearing and breaking is from \$50 to \$100 per acre, according to the amount of clearing necessary, the nature of the soil, and the proximity to markets. More land seems to be on offer at \$100 an acre than at any other figure, and it may be as well to state here that these figures are all for small holdings of ten to twenty acres.

#### IRRIGATION.

There is a hazy notion in the minds of many Easterners that irrigation is a necessity all over the inland valleys, but this is entirely erroneous. It all depends upon the nature of the soil. Some parts are blessed with a subsoil of clay beneath a light loam, and here irrigation is generally not required, because the average rainfall and the seepage from the neighboring mountain ranges give sufficient moisture for all purposes. The man with irrigated land, on the other hand, has generally a sandy soil overlying gravel, and this must have a practically continuous supply of water ready to hand all through the summer. Which is the better, it is difficult to say, for the cost of irrigation, which is considerable, must offset any advantages over good, naturally moist, unirrigated soil.

#### BETTER THAN IT LOOKS.

From the general appearance of the country as one travels in either railroad or steamer, there hardly appears to be any arable land in sufficient extent to be worth notice, but the best orchards of the present day were at one period, not entirely remote, supporting large timber and tangled masses of undergrowth which effectually concealed the ground beneath, and made the good appear almost as rough and uninviting as the worthless. Again, there are excellent ranches located on the "benches," at anything from 30 to 150 feet up what appears from a distance to be the steep