

as a matter worthy of comment. Every county in Ireland, with the exception of a few, has now its agricultural instructor. At first these men had, and in many cases still have, to bear the brunt of the actual—and sometimes not too pleasant or encouraging—intercourse with the farmers. Their itinerant work is, consequently, of no easy nature, while the average salary attached to the office is £200 a year. The unsatisfactory feature of the matter, however, is that none of them, as instructors, notwithstanding the importance of their work, can count on promotion or material advancement, while up at headquarters in Dublin the most humble and indolent Government Clerk can go up a sure scale of promotion, and at the end retire on his comfortable pension. The hard-working and industrious instructor is put on a different level, and a few months' notice is sufficient to bring his services to a close. True, a few promotions have been made to the permanent staff from the ranks of the instructors, but these openings are not to be relied on, and hence, notwithstanding the possible inconsistency indicated, it is only natural, after all, that a man of developed intellect and practical and scientific training should seek an outlet for his abilities in a direction that affords more prospect for their fullest and best reward.

#### ADVERTISING CANADA.

Incidentally, the foregoing leads me on to another subject. It will not, I presume, be news to many readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" to learn that the Canadian Government authorities have long been keeping the resources and possibilities of your country well before the Irish people, with the object of encouraging emigration. During the summer, at most of the principal Northern shows, it is customary to see an attractively-arranged stand exhibited and presided over by the Government representative, Mr. O'Kelly, Queen's Square, Belfast, and containing specimens of grain and other products of Canadian origin. Literature of an interesting and instructive character is freely distributed, and in this way the attractions of the Dominion are impressed on such of our people as have thought of trying their luck across the seas. The very large number of Irish men and Irish women that have adopted Canada as their new home within the past few years, shows how successful have been the results of this method of advertisement. In Dublin, also, the Government of Canada have centrally-situated and comfortably-fitted-up apartments, where I have seen from time to time many interesting specimens of Canadian fruits and other products. This branch has been in charge of Mr. John Webster, who has been keenly alive to the important character of his work, and has always been willing to supply such information as his position enabled him to give to enquirers. As a lecturer on Canadian life and prospects, Mr. Webster has frequently been heard in Dublin and surrounding centers. It may be of interest to record that Mr. Webster has lately been transferred to Glasgow, and the rumor has been afloat that this will be followed by the closing of the Dublin office. No official announcement has been made, but it is believed in the best-informed quarters that this is most improbable, and that when Mr. Webster's successor is appointed, the work of the office will be carried on as before. It would, I fancy, be obviously injudicious that things should be otherwise, especially at the present juncture, when we are practically on the eve of a year which is to witness what I may boldly describe as the most important International Exhibition that has ever been held in Ireland, and the great likelihood is that the rumor above referred to is altogether unfounded. Of the exhibition in question I hope to have something to say in a coming letter. "EMERALD ISLE."

#### Grain for Seed Improvement.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, a distribution will be made this season of samples of superior sorts of grain to Canadian farmers for the improvement of seed. The stock for distribution is of the very best, and has been secured mainly from the excellent crops recently had at the branch Experimental Farms at Indian Head, Sask., and at Brandon, Man. The distribution will consist of samples of oats, spring wheat, barley, Indian corn (for ensilage only) and potatoes. The quantity of oats to be sent will be four pounds, and of wheat or barley 5 pounds, sufficient in each case to sow one-twentieth of an acre. The samples of Indian corn and potatoes will weigh 3 pounds each. A quantity of each of the following varieties has been secured for this distribution:

OATS.—Banner, Wide-awake, White Giant, Danish Island, Thousand Dollar, Improved Ligowo (white varieties), and Goldfinder (yellow).

WHEAT.—Red Fife, Preston, Pringle's Champion, Percy, Stanley, Huron and White Fife.

BARLEY.—Six-rowed: Mensury, Odessa, Mansfield and Claude. Two-rowed: Standwell, Invincible, Canadian Thorpe and Sidney.

INDIAN CORN (for ensilage).—Early sorts:

Angel of Midnight, Compton's Early and Long-fellow. Later varieties: Selected Leaming, Early Mastodon and White Cap Yellow Dent.

POTATOES.—Carman No. 1, Early White Prize, Rochester Rose, Moneymaker, and Late Puritan.

Only one sample can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley or potatoes. Lists of names from one individual, or applications for more than one sample for one household, cannot be entertained. The samples will be sent free of charge through the mail.

Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent in any time before the 15th of February, after which the lists will be closed, so that the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing. Applicants should mention the variety they prefer, with a second sort as an alternative. Applications will be filed in the order in which they are received, so long as the supply of seed lasts. Farmers are advised to apply early, to avoid possible disappointment. Those applying for Indian corn or potatoes will please bear in mind that the corn is not usually distributed until March, and that potatoes cannot be mailed from here until danger from frost in transit is over. No postage is required on mail matter addressed to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. WM. SAUNDERS, Director.

## THE DAIRY.

### Feeding for Winter Milk.

With the increased price being paid for milk for town and city use, and the higher value of dairy produce in general, the question of making milk in winter is one of greater importance. It also adds to the solution of the labor problem, by giving profitable work to farm labor at a time when, otherwise, it would be impossible. With the disappearance of the woods and therefore that sort of work, other employment must be found, because no laborers can live in idleness four or five months of the year, unless they are paid a proportionately higher wage when they do work (but that is another story). Under proper conditions and businesslike management, winter dairying is very profitable. The degree of profit is, however, in proportion to the way things are managed, and to this end several things are requisite, such as good, comfortable stables, well lighted and well ventilated, with water inside. Cows must be kept in nearly all the time. Good cows, a good supply of suitable feed of a succulent nature, such as ensilage and roots, bran and meal, are required, but a great saving in this costly part of the ration can be made by having a plentiful supply of ensilage and roots, that can be grown on the farm, and are therefore had at first cost. All these things are absolutely necessary before the best of dairymen should undertake having the larger part of their cows freshen in winter. A poor caretaker—one who is not methodical and regular—is of little use in winter dairying.

Having laid down the law for winter dairying, I will proceed to give some of the whys and wherefores for these requirements.

Under proper conditions as to feed and care, November and December are the very best months of the whole year to have cows freshen. Freshen-

ing during these months, they will, under proper management, give more milk than the same cows would freshening at any other time. September and October are not nearly so good. The weather is too changeable, and they are part of the time on grass, and during cold spells on other feed, or should be. August is a good month to dry a cow up or start her that way, and September will finish her going dry, if she is, say, six or seven months with calf. The changeable weather of fall, though unsuitable to a new-milk cow, does not so injuriously affect a dry cow, and if feed is fairly plentiful, the cow will get in good condition for her next year's work, and the production of the cow for the following year is greatly influenced by her condition before freshening. If she gets a poor start, either on account of lack of feed or wrongful handling, or accident at the beginning of her milk period, she will not do so well, and may not give half as much milk during the year as she would under a favorable start. January and February are also good months to have cows freshen, but cows due to freshen in these months are likely to go dry any time after August; in fact, just about as soon as those cows that freshen in November and December, and are consequently out of production longer. A cow that freshens in November and December—that is, if she is worthy the name of a dairy cow—and is fed and cared for as I purpose telling, will give a lot of milk during the winter; then, when she goes to grass she will freshen up again and increase her flow. Practically, we will get two freshenings in one year. I can get more milk from a cow in the stable in winter than I can from the same cow on grass, especially for a two-months or longer period. Grass is too stimulating and not sustaining enough for heavy milkers; but because it is stimulating, it is just what a cow needs after she has been milking four to six months. But if a cow is to be stimulated to an increased milk flow in turning to pasture, she must not be allowed to run down too much during the winter. If her milk production gets below a certain amount, she is likely, when she goes to grass, to start to go dry, and make beef rather than milk.

It is, therefore, necessary to feed a succulent ration during the whole winter, and it is also the most economical, as ensilage is far and away the cheapest feed we can supply. Mangels and cow beets are A 1 for milk production, but it would take a very large space to store a sufficient quantity to carry a reasonably large herd through the winter. There is danger from frost, as well as rot. They cannot be stored as easily as ensilage. With me it is not a question of ensilage OR roots, but silage AND roots. That is the basis of an economical feeding ration. Silage is fed in as large quantities as the animal will eat up clean; roots are fed in conjunction to the heaviest milkers, and in proportion to our supply. It is well to feed fairly liberally of roots in the early winter, as the cows have been used to a very succulent ration, and, not being long off grass, violent changes are not desired. Another reason why we desire to feed roots in fall and early winter is that we are enabled to work into the ration a lot of straw, which has the most feeding value early, as towards spring straw is not so good, and it is necessary to feed hay. If there are any cornstalks to be fed, they, also, should be fed early, as they lose in nutriment and digestibility every day, and are of very little value after, say, the first of March. Now,



An English Dairymilk.