



WHAT THE DAIRY COW MUST BE

Dairying is the foundation of our Agriculture. Approximately 800,000 cows, in Quebec produce 2,741,000,000 lbs of milk. Over 2000 factories manufacture 41,783,000 lbs of butter and 58,000,000 lbs of cheese, which products have a value of \$16,000,000. These figures suffice to prove that dairying is one of our principal resources. Let us therefore increase this industry.

A good rational feeding is necessary. The cow is a wonderful milk manufacture, but the indispensable material (which is the raw matter) must be furnished. Well, very often an insufficient quantity of this raw material is furnished. This is just what explains the low production of so many herds.

To show the influence of feeding, M. Jos. Begin, director of the experimental farm of Ste-Anne de la Pocatière, bought 12 very low grade cows. Had these cows stayed in poor hands they would have given about 2500 lbs of milk. But with good rational feeding they produced 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, and even 9395 lbs of milk. Many produced 450 lbs of butter. There is no doubt that if by better cultivation the cows received good pasture and soiling crops in summer, good hay and succulent feeds (ensilage and roots), in winter, a higher production of milk would be reached, and the national resources would be increased. To remain within the limits of this lecture, I will not discuss feeding. I will simply discuss how we can breed good dairy cows and how we can use them to be improved.