

APPENDIX No. 3

and to the greater care taken of the cows, the result of the steadily increasing number of peasant farmers, who naturally bestow more care and attention on their cows than the big farmers are able to secure by means of hired help. And while the value of the output per cow is thus increased, the working expenses have decreased. The working expenses of the big dairies is much less per hundred gallons than those of the smaller dairies:

In 1900	milking expenses were	73	cents per	100	gals.
In 1901	“	“	69	“	“
In 1902	“	“	66	“	“

The closing of a number of smaller dairies during the above three years accounts for much of the reduction in the average cost of milking: *e.g.* the small dairy will spend 34 cents on coal for each 100 gallons of milk treated, while bigger dairies will spend 8 cents.

The co-operative farmers of Denmark have used similar methods for improving the quality of their bacon; also the quality of their eggs, every egg being stamped with the number of the farmer from whom it is collected, a high fine imposed for every bad egg found, and it is claimed, as a result of this care, that in 1903 the price paid in England for Danish eggs exceeded the average of the eggs from other countries by 9 cents per 20 eggs.

Another illustration of the way in which the co-operative principle has enabled the peasant farmers of Denmark to improve their national life is to be found in the fact that the co-operative societies have raised large sums in order to build and equip two sanatoria to fight the scourge of consumption.

Now, it should be noted that the education given to their schools has been of great assistance to the Danish farmers in helping them to apply successfully to their farms the methods of co-operation. It is now well known that co-operation brings within the reach of the small peasant farmer all the advantages, in regard to production, buying and selling, which were formerly enjoyed by the big farmer only, and that by practising the methods of co-operation they are securing for themselves the best chance that is available to them of enjoying a rich and full development of individual life, and consequently of social life.

I do not think it is disputed by any one that the success with which the farmers have applied co-operative methods to their farms is responsible for the prominent position which Danish agriculture occupies to-day.

The Danish Minister of Agriculture was able to boast, a few years ago, that the four preceding years, in spite of a world-wide depression, had been the most prosperous Danish agriculturists had ever known.

The CHAIRMAN.—Would your Excellency pardon me? Are we to understand that in the schools of Denmark the children are taught to practice the principle of co-operation?

HIS EXCELLENCY.—In the High Schools, certainly. I do not know whether it extends to the Primary Schools. In the rural parts of Denmark, the population realize that their prosperity depends upon the degree in which the co-operative principle is applied.

Let me now pass on to Ireland:

IRELAND.

The co-operative movement is a growth of recent date. Just as Mr. Sonne was the father of Danish co-operation, so Sir Horace Plunkett and Father Finley are the principal promoters of Irish co-operation. The first co-operative society was established in 1889.

There are now in Ireland 300 creameries, 150 agricultural societies and 230 credit societies, and in addition there are poultry associations, flax societies, bee-keepers'