



Contentedly submitting to the milkmaid's charms.—(Photo by Sallows.)

## Returns from Dairy Census

The response to the dairy census questions published in March 1st and March 15th issues, though not as liberal as we would have liked, was sufficiently large to enable one to form a fairly accurate estimate of what the Canadian cow can do for the farmer. The questions asked were as follows:

1. How many acres does your farm contain?
2. How many milch cows did you keep on it in 1903?
3. Did you supply the milk from these cows to a cheese factory or to a creamery?
4. What was the average cash return per cow for 1903?
5. What did it cost you per cow to keep them during 1903?
6. What do you feed your cows in winter? In summer?
7. What kind of supplementary or green feed do you grow for your cows in summer?
8. How many months of the year do you milk your cows?
9. What breed of cows do you keep?
10. Do you believe that cheese factories and creameries should be licensed?

The answers to 1 and 2 may be considered together. Our returns cover farms ranging from 50 to 190 acres, the average being about 100 acres. On the 100 acre farm were kept 35 cows and 38 heifers and calves. The owner made a specialty of dairying. On the 50 acre farm only 4 cows were kept, though as many more might have been kept had a proper system of soiling been followed. The average number of cows kept on 100 acres in 1903 was about 14, though several of our correspondents kept considerably more, some as high as 25 and 26 milch cows on 100 acres.

Fifty per cent. of our correspondents supplied milk to a cheese factory during the summer and made butter to a greater or less extent at home during the winter. Thirty-one per cent. supplied milk to a cheese factory in summer and to a creamery in winter; and nineteen per cent. supplied milk to a creamery alone. These figures will correspond very closely to the proportion of farmers patronizing the different branches of dairying, especially in Ontario. The percentage patronizing the cheese factory and winter creamery may not be so large, as our figures show, while that

given to creamery alone may be larger.

The replies to questions 4 and 5 vary considerably. The cash return per cow does not vary as much as does the average cost of keeping a cow a year. The cash return varies according as the milk is supplied to a cheese factory or creamery, those from the former being greater than from the latter. Though it is only fair to say that most of our correspondents have neglected to credit their cows with the value of the skim-milk. If full value for this and also for the whey were given, the returns would show somewhat differently. Where the cheese factory and winter creamery were patronized the returns varied from \$48.77 to \$61.02 per cow, or an average of \$54.82. Where the cheese factory alone was patronized and butter made at home, the returns vary from \$35 to \$65 per cow, or an average of \$48. The creamery returns varied from \$35 to \$79.40 per cow. Leaving out the latter return, which was received from a large city dairy where the highest prices were received for milk, cream and butter,

the average return from the regular creamery would be about \$36 per cow. The returns from the cheese factory and winter creamery combined averaged nearly \$7 per cow more than from the cheese factory and what could be made from making butter at home. This shows the value of co-operation in the making of butter during the winter. A New Brunswick dairyman, who patronized a cheese factory for only ten weeks and made butter at home for the balance of the season received \$40 per cow.

The returns showing the cost of keeping a cow vary greatly and were not satisfactory. Many did not reply to this, while others only made a guess at it. There were some, however, who took the trouble to estimate the cost, and their figures may be taken as reliable, though many neglected to include the value of pasture and care. One dairyman who patronized a creamery that gave a return of \$35 per cow, placed the cost of keep at \$12, which, if the cows are given reasonable care and attention in feeding, is one-half too low. A patron of a cheese factory, whose cows returned him \$50 each, gave the cost at \$16 each, which is also a very low estimate. Leaving these two out, the answers ranged from \$20 to \$33, the average being \$25.58 for keeping a cow a year. The \$35 item was the cost given by the dairyman whose cows brought in a return of \$79.40 each. It is none too high, if cows are to be fed and cared for so as to produce the largest amount of product. From \$28 to \$30 is a fair estimate for keeping a cow on a farm for a year. However, cows, like men, vary in the cost of their keep. And it is not the cow that costs the least amount to keep that is the most profitable. As has been shown, the cows costing the most to keep gave their owners the largest net profit. A dairyman in Dundas Co., whose cows averaged him \$65 each from the cheese factory paid \$31 for their keep, leaving a profit of \$34 per cow; while another in Hastings Co., whose cows gave him \$57.08 each, paid out \$27 for keep thus leaving a net profit of only \$30.08. A Norfolk Co. farmer, whose cows cost him \$30 each to keep, got \$61.02 each in receipts, while one in Perth County paid out \$25 per cow for keep and net \$55 in return. It pays to feed a good cow well. After



A Mutual understanding. Nature's method.—(Photo by Sallows.)