

Cattle Breeding for Dairies.

A paper was read by ex-Governor Hoard, of Wisconsin, on cattle breeding, at the recent Ontario dairy convention.

We are asked, he said, why we should take extra pains with our dairy stock when prices of dairy products are so low. The men who talk this way instead of keeping cows which would make 300 lb. of butter a year, and on which they might make a fair profit, keep 150-lb. cows that cause an absolute loss.

In Western Ontario, the secretary of this convention says, the dividends received by patrons of the cheese factories have varied all the way from \$9.96 to \$65.50 per cow. In one factory the range was from \$9.96 to \$30 per cow. Cows can't be kept for less than \$80 per head, and if they do not yield that in butter or cheese they are maintained at a loss.

Competition in dairying is going to be keener than ever. The decline in prices cannot be stopped. All that can be done is to meet the changed conditions by a reduction in the cost of production.

Test your cows for three months and cut off all those that do not pay expenses.

Get good cows, even if you have to pay \$65 or \$75 a piece for them.

Get a good dairy bull with a strong line of mothers behind him.

Study the science of feeding.

Provide better accommodation for stabling your cows.

Have summer silos to fatten cattle over the season of drought.

At Wisconsin Experimental Station six cows were tested. Three were on pasture and three fed in a stable with feed cut for them.

The three stabled cows were maintained on 1.5 acres, while the three pastured cattle required 3.7 acres; and the three stabled cattle produced 294.75 lbs. of butter against 303.12 produced by those on pasture. In other words, from 1.5 acres was produced within nine pounds as much butter as was produced on 3.7.

Manitoba Fisheries.

R. W. Brickman, writes as follows to the press. "The fishermen of Manitoba complain of the unreasonable limitation of gill nets fished by any one person or corporation to 20,000 yards. This is equal to say 100 three-pound nets. They also complain of the strict enforcement of the weekly close-season, which necessitates the taking ashore of all nets on Saturdays and resetting them on Mondays; in the event of a storm setting in, the resetting is often deferred two or three days, causing the loss of the greater part of the following week to the fishermen.

"It is unfair to limit the fishing companies to this exceedingly small equipment. The extent of this curtailment can be understood when we think that the gill nets fished in the 20,000 square miles of water here make only 20 per cent. of the number fished in the 3,000 square miles of Georgian bay. A company that has invested \$50,000 or more in plant, etc., in Lake Winnipeg, is allowed to fish only as much netting as a single Collingwood skiff in Georgian bay. And all the commercial fishing in Manitoba was done with a complement of nets that would be used by six or seven small boats in the great lakes.

Of course there are certain obsolete regulations governing the quantity of netting to be used in Georgian bay, and also establishing a weekly close season, but these have been allowed to fall into disuse, and are openly violated by every hand with impunity, even though the government had a cruiser on service in the bay and a host of overseers. The fact is that the department does not think of enforcing the regulations,

which are manifestly useless anywhere but in Manitoba.

"The result of the harrassing policy of the department in regard to the fisheries of this province is that in the twelve or fourteen years since they have been established fewer fish have been caught than are taken in Lake Erie in a single year; and that to-day, when this industry under ordinary circumstances would have developed into immense proportions, is now employing less than 200 men in this country.

"I hope that the liberal administration will encourage this industry, induce others to embark in it, and thus materially add to the population and wealth of this province.

Crow's Nest Coal.

In its New Year edition the Fort Steele Prospector thus deals with what it terms the coal fields of East Kootenay. The coal fields in this district, in what is known as the Crow's Nest Pass, lie in a southeasterly direction from Fort Steele, the distance to the nearest available coal is about 60 miles. These coal fields in the near future will have a world-wide reputation both on account of the quality and quantity to be extracted, and are without doubt the best coal fields in America undeveloped. The western outcrop of the field is on the side of a mountain in the valley of Elk river, "one of the largest tributaries of the Kootenay river"; on the eastern side the coal seams have been traced a distance of 50 miles, with surface crosscuts made at intervals showing the seams and walls. The lowest known seam is some 1,500 feet above the drainage level of the valley, and is 30 feet in thickness; 100 feet higher there is another seam 30 feet thick; then comes a seam 15 feet thick; then a small 3-foot one; then a 7-foot one; then another 10-foot seam and above these are five more workable seams from 4 to 10 feet in thickness, 11 seams in all, making a total of 148 feet in thickness of coal exposed. These seams dip at an angle of 30 to 35 degrees, the upper seams having the least dip. There are three large creeks cutting this coal field, and the seams are exposed on the banks of these creeks, and openings can be made to mine the coal without much preliminary expense; the cuts made by the creeks being more valuable than so many tunnels to prospect the coal because there is room to operate the mine on both sides of the creek, and the mines are proved to be permanent without any cost, in fact, nature did the prospecting. In addition to the coal on Elk river, further east on Martin's creek and other tributaries of Mitchell creek "which is the fork of Elk river," there is another large body of coal above the Elk river field but of smaller area, a large amount of the field having been carried away by natural causes through the different ages since the coal was formed. The aggregate of the depth of the seams of coal in the upper basin is somewhat more than on Elk river, so that if a shaft be sunk through the whole field there would be found 200 feet of coal in workable seams. It would be hard to find another field of coal with so much to the acre, and so easy and cheap to work. The eastern outcrop of this field is near the summit of the Rocky Mountains, the average distance from the western crop being 10 miles, showing a coal field 40 miles north and south, by 10 miles east and west, with an area exceeding 250,000 acres. The coals in this field differ, owing, no doubt, to the different ages of the coal, their being three different qualities, the lowest seams are anthracite in their nature, while the upper seams are the bituminous coals; in between, both above and below the bituminous coals are a number of seams of coal different from

anything heretofore known; it is similar to cannel coal, but superior to any cannel coal known. These coals have been analyzed and treated by different parties, among them Prof. Hoffman, government assayer at Ottawa, for the geological department, and the results as shown in the department reports prove that these coals would lose nothing by comparing them with the best coals of the same variety in Pennsylvania.

Montreal Hardware Market.

The manufacturers of horse-nails met on Monday last but the only result of the meeting was an agreement among all the members of the association not to offer any nails on the market in future. The withdrawal of these goods is a departure from everyone in the trade, whether maker, jobber or retailer, will commend. The old discounts of 50 per cent. were confirmed f.o.b. Montreal and other manufacturing points.

Pig iron has been motionless during the week, and values are nominal as follows: Hamilton, \$18.25 to \$18.50 for No. 1, and \$17.25 to \$17.50 for No. 2; Ferrona, \$17 to \$17.50, Siemens, \$17 to \$17.50, Dummer \$20; Carron, \$20, Ayrshire, No. 1, \$19, Eglinton, \$18, and Cambroo, \$18.00.

Bar iron was quiet and prices have been shaded in several cases in the hope of inducing business, car lots being offered at \$1.45 f.o.b. Montreal. The result has not been very gratifying, buyers operating very sparingly.

Cable advices on ingot tin and copper are firm, but the former is unchanged at 12c to 13c, and the latter 15c to 16c.

Discounts on brass and copper wire are unchanged at 10 to 12½ per cent. If brass rods continue to advance in the United States, however, an advance is expected. Recent reports from U. S. markets on these quote an advance of 5c to 10c.

Canada plates are firm at \$2.55, and stocks on spot are extremely light. The same remarks apply to tin plates, which are quoted. Coke, I. C., \$3 to \$4.25; coke wasters, \$2.70 to \$2.80; charcoal, I. C., Alloway, \$3.25, do., I. X., \$3.80 to \$4; P. D. Crown, I. C., \$3.75; do., I. X., \$4.50.

Cut nails, horseshoes and other lines of domestic manufactured staples are unchanged.

The Travelling Men.

A large number of commercial travellers attended the meeting held at the Manitoba hotel, Winnipeg, on January 23, to complete arrangements for the organization of a branch council of the United Commercial Travellers of America, and it was decided to organize on Saturday evening, Feb. 6th. This will be the first council of this association organized in Canada. Grand Councillor C. Palmer, of Grand Forks, N. D., will organize the council. He will be accompanied by about one hundred and fifty travellers from Grand Forks, Crookston, Fargo and the Twin Cities, who will assist him in the organization work. There will be another meeting at the Manitoba hotel on Jan. 30, and all travellers interested in this movement are requested to attend.

A meeting of the Winnipeg city travellers was held on Tuesday evening to arrange for their annual concert, supper and ball, at the Manitoba hotel, on Tuesday, Feb. 23rd. The several committees were appointed. The best musical talent will be procured under the direction of an able leader. This will be the third annual event of the city travellers and in the past they have always been a marked success.