

EDITORIAL.

Prepare the turkey for Thursday, Nov. 28th, Thanksgiving Day.

The English dairy Shorthorn seems to have been queen of the butter tests at the great London show reported in another column.

On many occasions in the past we have urged the more general use of parchment paper, not only for wrapping butter prints, but for lining the larger packages as well. Australia has found the 56-pound parchment-lined shipping-box most desirable for the export butter trade, and a detailed description of their construction and use appeared in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for Nov. 2nd. We understand that this plan will be adopted by many in Canada next year.

The idea of testing dairy cows at local shows is commended by a firm of leading dairy farmers, in another column, and the subject is still open for discussion. Some local shows can secure the services of the regular dairy instructors under the different associations to conduct these tests. We would also suggest that the graduates of the Guelph and other dairy schools, who are familiar with the use of the Babcock test, would be suitable persons to entrust with this work. The services of competent cheesemakers could also be obtained, as suggested by Messrs. Rice.

Federal and Provincial Relations with the Dairy Industry.

We notice that the Kingston Dairy School, heretofore manned under the direction of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, is now under the general directorship of President James Mills, of the Ontario Agricultural College, with a resident superintendent, as is the case with the Strathroy Dairy School; the one serving the needs of the extreme east, and the other the western section of the Province, the main seat of dairy instruction, which will draw its students not only from the central portion of Ontario, but from all quarters of the Continent, being in connection with the College at Guelph. The tendency appears to be to leave the educational aspect of Government work on behalf of the Canadian dairy industry (as it is applied to the production of milk, cheese and butter) mainly to the Provincial authorities. This, we think, is right, and is now practically the case in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Manitoba.

As Mr. Andrew Pattullo, M. P. P., stated in his outgoing address as President of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association last winter, there should be no overlapping of Federal and Provincial operations, nor duplicating of agencies at work in the same fields. In fact, on general principles the purely educational work referred to ought to be more effectively carried on by the local authorities, just as is the case with our ordinary educational system. Some of the Provincial authorities have, therefore, legitimate scope for their efforts, not only in the direction of dairy education, but of agricultural education generally. In regard to the former, for example, the opportunities for a good dairy school in the Maritime Provinces very naturally suggest themselves.

During the past few years the Federal Dairy Department actively extended educational work where there seemed to be a specific need for it, as in Prince Edward Island, the Northwest, British Columbia; also in connection with the winter buttermaking movement, and the Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe, P. Q. Certain educational work the dairy branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture will yet do, but mainly through the channels or facilities of the Provinces, rather than duplicating work through agencies directly under Federal control. Prof. Robertson, the Dairy and Agricultural Commissioner, is now giving the largest share of his energies to that aspect of the industry where it becomes more especially a matter of trade and commerce. We think it well that there should be such a friendly, businesslike understanding between Provincial and Federal authorities, that there will be no needless overlapping, but rather such uniformity of procedure and methods devised in the various Provinces (subject to minor local conditions) that the general output of Canadian dairy products will reach a maximum degree of excellence, and if the distinctive cognomen, "Canadian," be branded or imprinted thereon, it will be a passport to the palate and the gold-lined pocket of the consumer wherever he may be found.

Thanksgiving Day Reflections.

BY J. C. SNELL.

The near approach of our national Thanksgiving Day naturally leads the mind of the farmer to a retrospective view of the past year, to a consideration of his present position and of the outlook for the future. It is true that times have been hard and prices low, and many discouragements have found a place in the farmer's experience, but when we contemplate what might have been, and compare our circumstances with those of other countries, we shall find very much to be thankful for. Perhaps first in the list of our blessings we should class that of a healthful climate and freedom from epidemic diseases. Few countries in the world enjoy a more pure and wholesome atmosphere and such general good health as Canada. Not only does this apply to mankind, but also to our live stock on the farm. Our herds and flocks, on which we are so largely dependent, are peculiarly exempt from contagious diseases, and the rate of mortality among farm animals is probably as low as in any other country and lower than in most. These are conditions of immense importance to a people, and are worthy of grateful recognition. The blessing of peace within our own borders and of peaceful relations with our neighbors is surely cause for thankfulness. Early in the year the relations between our nation and the neighboring Republic were painfully strained, and on our horizon there appeared the outline of a war cloud, which, but for the prevailing of wise counsel, might have grown into a storm involving Canada in serious trouble, making her the scene of battle and all the horrors of war. Let us be thankful that civilization has reached that high stage of advancement where, by arbitration, the differences of nations may be amicably settled and white-winged peace prevail.

The harvest for the present year, though, perhaps, on the whole not above the average of former years, has in most sections of the Dominion been very satisfactory. It is true that in some districts protracted drouth prevailed, rendering the crops short and the supply of fodder light; but this applies to only a limited area, and it is safe to say that a great extent of the country was blessed with sufficient rain to produce good crops of grain and grass, and, on the whole, we believe that winter feed for stock is in much better supply than at the beginning of winter a year ago, while bran and oil cake are lower in price than for many years. Our orchards have been unusually fruitful. They have produced in lavish plenty and of excellent quality, and if prices are low the excessive supply will help to make up for the unsatisfactory price. It is true the prices of grain have been too low. This has no doubt been largely due to the abundant production in grain-growing countries; but the recent substantial rise in the price of wheat seems to be based on the solid ground of the law of supply and demand, and not on speculation. A short crop in most of the wheat-growing countries of the world is reported, and there is good reason to believe that for wheat the advance price has come to stay for some considerable time. The rise in wheat naturally effects the price of other grains, and the last few weeks has seen an advance all along the line, making present prices considerably better than those of a year ago, with a good prospect of being higher yet. The price of dairy produce has not, in some lines, been as satisfactory as we could have wished, but did not fall as low in proportion as grain and other products, and the approach of winter has brought an advance which will no doubt be improved on in the next few months. The substantial rise in the price of cheese, coupled with a heavy make in the latter part of the season, was cheering to the factory districts and has put good heart in the industry for next season. The efforts of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture to stimulate this interest by granting money to encourage the building of cold storage accommodation and to secure better shipping facilities for butter should prove helpful to dairymen generally, and in this connection we find that good cows are in demand and are bringing satisfactory prices.

The discovery of gold and other valuable minerals in the western portions of the Dominion will no doubt be the means of bringing in foreign capital to be used in developing our mines, which are practically inexhaustible. This will be followed by an influx of population, making a home market for farm produce and filling up the blanks in the settlement of the Northwest—a need which has long been acknowledged.

The presidential election campaign in the U. S. has had more than the usual effect on business, the uncertainty of the result paralyzing trade for months, but the suspense is ended. The Republic has declared for sound money. Confidence has been restored in business circles and many branches of trade have been stimulated into activity. The President-elect is known as a champion of protection, but reciprocity is a prominent plank in his policy, and there is every reason to believe that if our Government makes an honest effort a satisfactory treaty may be arranged giving us the benefit of free trade relations in stock and farm products at least and access to the markets of that country, which we can at times use to great advantage. The rival growers of the States, anticipating the result of the election, have been buying freely of our sheep, and now that McKinley's election is sure we may count on something like a boom in the sheep trade. The probability is that the quarantine on cattle and sheep will soon be abolished, and this will give a fresh impetus to business in these lines and be mutually satisfactory. Vigorous efforts are being made, and with some prospect of success, to secure more favorable rates of transportation for breeding-stock on the railways, which would no doubt result in an increase of business both to the transportation companies and to stock-breeders.

The future looks promising. There are signs of business activity all along the line. Capital is seeking investment at lower rates than ever before. The prospect is hopeful. The hard times may prove to have been to some extent a blessing in disguise if they have served to teach us lessons of prudence and economy, but confidence in the future is needed, and if our forecast proves well founded, as we hope and believe it will, the part of wisdom will be to take the tide at its flow and seek to rise with it to higher ground, for in business as well as in other matters the proverb often proves true, "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet and it tendeth to poverty." Let us enjoy our Thanksgiving Day with glad hearts. We shall find, on reflection, that we have very much to be thankful for, both in the experience of the past and in the prospect of the future. Let us profit by our mistakes and failures, making them stepping-stones to better things.

An Experimental Farm for Eastern Manitoba.

Considerably over one-fourth of all the cultivated land in the Province lies within what is known as the Red River Valley, or in that part lying east of a line running from Morden to Portage la Prairie. Throughout this district the soil is the richest, deepest, and most lasting in character of all the prairie region—in nature a strong black loam, resting on an impervious clay subsoil, the surface being generally level and the rainfall much more generous than further west. One of the difficulties in cultivating the land, in fact, is the getting away of the surplus surface water. This will be largely overcome when the Local Government or municipalities adopt some systematic plan of drainage. In addition to the above natural advantages of rich soil and plentiful rainfall, wood and good water are within easy access (over large areas flowing wells of finest water can be had), pastures are luxuriant and hay meadows practically unlimited. The whole region is well supplied with railroads, which converge to the center, giving easy access to the principal market of the Province. And yet, in spite of all these advantages, the district, especially in the immediate vicinity of the capital, does not progress as rapidly as, for instance, does the southwestern portion of the Province. One of the chief drawbacks is the difficulty of working the soil. It requires not only more horse power but more brains to manage successfully the heavy black loam, for if too moist it becomes as pasty and sticky as glue, and if too dry is apt to be hard and baked; and yet its productiveness under proper conditions is simply marvellous, and without a doubt an acre will produce an average yield over a number of years far in excess of the lighter, more easily worked soil of the higher lands to the westward. Owing to the character of the soil and to the fact that much of the land was occupied many years before the opening of the rest of the Province, weeds have got a very tenacious grip on this part of the country, and several varieties have for years been defying the efforts of many farmers to eradicate them. The Experimental Farm at Brandon, while it renders a service invaluable to the