

**An Englishman's Opinion of Canadian Butter and its Competitors.**

A well-known English provision merchant (of the Edgware Road, London), Mr. Peter Keevil, for many years a practical dairyman, expresses a high opinion of the Canadian butters which are being imported in increasing quantities and at the same time showing a steady improvement in quality. This improvement is manifested in the uniformity of the flavor and texture, and he believes is undoubtedly the result of the spread of information, education through the medium of dairy schools, and the establishment of creameries and butter factories throughout the Dominion. He does not think the States butter compares favorably with that from Canada, and it commands a lower figure, the prices for recent consignments being: Canadian, 97s; States, 91s. The objection to American butter was on account of what might be termed its "strong" flavor. This was not due to over-salting, a disadvantage which had been overcome, but it pointed to the fact that less pains were taken in shipping than was the case in Canada, and consequently it did not arrive in such good condition. With many of the dairies there was a distinctly herby flavor, which was not present in the Canadian butter. Whether this could be obviated by pasteurization he is not prepared to say.

Mr. Keevil, however, does not by any means yet rank Canadian butter first in quality. Danish butter, he considers, still holds the premier position for quality, but in this respect Ireland was coming well to the front. Many of the Irish creameries were reaching a level attained only by the best Danish, and he had purchased only recently one lot of Irish butter at the price of 105s., f. o. b. The co-operative system was no doubt largely responsible for the resuscitation of the buttermaking industry in Ireland, but the dairy schools had had a decided effect in improving the methods of production, their influence being slowly but permanently felt.

The Australasian butters were vigorously competing with other butters for a firm place in the English market. The quality, especially in the case of the Victorian butters, was undoubtedly superior to the Canadian. Some of the New Zealand butters also were very fine. It was significant that for the last few years butter had been cheaper in the winter than in summer, which was due to the fact that the Canadian supply keeps up until the Australians are well in. There had been very little trade in French salt and firkin butter since the development of the colonial trade.

As regards fresh (or unsalted) butter, Normandy supplies England with the best of it, the finest of which is manufactured at Carentan. The drought there last summer caused the price to rise as high as 16s., against 14s. last year. Ostend fresh commanded a few years ago a very considerable trade, but is now replaced by Italian, some brands of which have a very good hold on the public. There are also one or two good brands of Dutch fresh, but the cask (or salt) is now almost a thing of the past. Mr. Keevil regrets that the British colonies do not supply as good fresh as they do salt butter.

German butter practically held no place in the English market. Argentine butter was coming on and would be likely to prove an important factor in the future of the butter industry. He had tasted samples which were in every respect as fine as Danish, and it was only a question as to the quantity that could be produced to keep up an export trade.

There was no such thing as a distinctly English butter in the market. For the past ten or fifteen years the trade in fresh milk has so largely increased that farmers have found it more remunerative to send their milk up to London than make it into butter. What English butter does come into the market arrives between March and May, but only in very small quantities.

**Best in America.**

Please find enclosed \$1 for one year's subscription to the *ADVOCATE*, which is the best agricultural paper printed in America. I hope I shall always have a dollar for it. Yours truly, C. F. S. Range P. O., N. B.

**The Percentage of Tuberculous Animals.**

One of our readers who has given the subject a good deal of consideration writes us regarding the Ottawa report, according to which from five to seven per cent. of the cattle subjected to the tuberculin test by the veterinary officers of the Dominion Department of Agriculture showed the reaction indicative of tubercular trouble. If that percentage were taken as applying to the entire cattle stock of the Dominion, he considers it entirely too large and calculated to give an erroneous impression. It may be well to emphasize the point, though we do not think that such an inference could reasonably be drawn. In the first place, only a comparatively limited number of animals were tested, and it is only fair to suppose that owners have had the test applied in cases only where, from external evidences, there was reason to suspect the existence of disease, hence the proportion reacting would appear much larger than is actually the case.

**STOCK.**

**The Canadian Hog to the Front.**

The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* is doing good work in pressing the importance of the Canadian bacon trade with Britain to the front. If intelligence in meeting the most critical requirements of the markets is observed, the trade will be a profitable one to the Canadian farmer. The changed and more refined taste for a finer quality of pork is not very new, nor is it confined to Britain. We at home will not use the three- to six-hundred hog. To meet this change it was only necessary to feed less concentrated food, less confinement, and earlier slaughtering. Instead of this, however, many farmers went in search of new breeds, and after a



MONEYPUFFEL LAD. MYSIE'S ROSE. MALE AND FEMALE CHAMPION SHORTHORNS AT TORONTO, LONDON AND OTTAWA EXHIBITIONS, 1898; OWNED BY CAPT. T. E. ROBSON, ILDERTON, ONT.

few trials of these have next gone wild on crosses, usually getting back to a Berkshire cross. The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* of October 15th favors its readers with an able editorial on this subject, and also English correspondence giving views of experts in that country, in which it is stated that Berkshire sells from 3 to 1 cent higher than Yorkshire per pound. That, however, is the least part of the difference to the farmer. A lank, coarse hog will cost the producer more than a smooth, plump one. The Berkshire has more points of excellence than any other breed, and has the power of transmitting these to their offspring, with a certainty and uniformity in size, shape and color, with docile disposition, constitutional vigor, and very especially early maturity, making him a profitable hog to the farmer. His small offal, fine bone, fine-grained, solid, marbled meat makes him profitable to the butcher and consumer. With proper mating, judicious feeding, and early dressing, there is not much room for that coming hog. The principal object of this letter is to attract the attention of fair boards that are doing nothing to aid or encourage this trade. They offer prizes for seven different breeds, altogether 178 prizes, which mostly go into the pockets of one or two men in each of the seven breeds. Can anyone see where the people are enlightened or the trade aided? These great blubbers of fat are unfit for food. They are not wanted at home or abroad. Why not rather offer prizes for best pen of bacon hogs, open to all breeds, and after the award alive give other prizes on the butchers' block test, with judges who are experts in the trade. The pork-packer would handle these hogs at a profit to the producer, the *ADVOCATE* would favor its readers with a report giving age, breed, feeding, etc.

In this way farmers would find just what the trade wanted, and those unfit for the trade would go to the wall, the fittest only surviving. Our fair boards should be composed of up-to-date men in every line, but the management would indicate that some of them are still riding high wheels. There is always a danger of old societies becoming moss-covered. THOS. B. SCOTT. Middlesex Co., Ont.

[NOTE.—It is not so much a question of breeds as of type, and we fear our correspondent is over-enthusiastic in ascribing to one breed all the virtues. We would be glad to believe that the Berkshires all measured up to the standard of the bacon hog, retaining meanwhile the qualities of early maturity, profitable production, and the necessary length and depth; but we are yet in receipt of too many reminders that a large proportion of Berkshires are too short and too thick for the bacon trade. The best of that breed—and, we are glad to know, an increasing number—are filling the bill, but there is much room for improvement in the rank and file; and improvement comes only by careful selection, rigid culling and breeding only from those most nearly approaching the desired type.—ED.]

**The British Dairy Show.**

The results of the milking trials and butter tests at the London, Eng., Dairy Show, held Oct. 18th to 21st, were beyond the average, although no "record" was obtained in quantity of milk or butter. The three best milking results were remarkably close to each other, as shown by the details, as follows: Mr. George Long's Guernsey-Shorthorn, 52 days in milk—65.2 lbs. of milk, 3.62 per cent. of fat, and 9.23 of other solids—137.5 points. Mr. Birdsey's Welsh cow, 17 days in milk—61.1 lbs. of milk, 4.23 per cent. of fat, and 9.38 of other solids—135.3 points. Mr. Spencer's Shorthorn, 21 days in milk—60.7 lbs. of milk, 4.23 per cent. of fat, and 9.3 of other solids—134.4 points. The greatest quantity of milk per day ever given at the Dairy Show was 79.7 lbs., yielded by a Dutch cow in 1896, but as this milk contained only 2.7 per cent. of fat and 8.4 of other solids, the cow was disqualified on account of the poverty of her milk. Last year Mr. Evens' champion cow, a Lincoln Red Shorthorn, gave 68 lbs. of milk per day 27 days after calving, the percentage of fat and other solids being 3.88 and 8.18, and the points gained 143.5. Mr. Birdsey's Shorthorn, second in the trial for her breed, gave 68 lbs. of milk seventeen days after calving, with 3.61 per cent. of fat and 8.67 of other solids, gaining 140.0 points. No other cow last year scored as many points as lowest number given above for the three cows of the recent show. It is to be borne in mind, too, that forty days were deducted this year from the days in milk before counting one point for every ten days, whereas last year, and for many previous years, only twenty days were deducted. As to the butter test, the quantity of butter per day given by Lady Henry Bentinck's Shorthorn cow Procter this year (3 lbs. 1 oz.) stands third in the tests carried out hitherto. The greatest yield was that of Mr. Britton's Jersey, Baron's Progress, in 1889, namely, 3 lbs. 5 oz.; and second was 3 lbs. 2 oz., yielded by Mr. Shepherd's Shorthorn, Dairy Model, in 1896.

**A Steer Feeding Test.**

In a test recently concluded at the Minnesota Agricultural School in steer feeding some interesting deductions are made, according to Bulletin No. 10, which contains a detailed account of the experiments. Two grade Shorthorn steer calves were secured, as near alike in every particular as possible, and put on similar treatment, an exact account of everything they consumed being kept till they were slaughtered at two years old. They were fed just to keep them gaining nicely without any forcing till the last five months, when they were pushed to a finish. At no time during the finishing period could they be induced to eat more than fifteen pounds of grain each per day. One steer could only take about thirteen pounds, and he made an average daily gain during the finishing period of 1.81 lbs., while the other that took the 15 lbs. of grain made an average daily gain of 2.03. When ready for the block, expert butchers were brought in to value them, and valued the best feeder (he being also slightly the better individual) at \$4.75 per 100 lbs., and the other at \$4.40. "Including the value at birth, the entire cost of growing Jack (the best steer) was \$15.17, and of growing Prince, \$40.21. The shrunk weights, with a shrinkage of 3 per cent., were 1,392 lbs. and 1,280 lbs. respectively. The first was sold for \$66.12, and the second for \$56.32. The profit on the first, therefore, was \$20.95, and on the second, \$16.11." Thus showing a difference of \$4.84 in net profits, which goes to demonstrate very forcibly the importance of selecting the right steer for feeding purposes. How can this be done? Only by long experience. No one can hope to judge of the individual characteristics of animals without careful study and patient observation of every detail.

Our Scottish Letter, which contains a report of the Duthie and Marr sale of bulls, came to hand too late to secure its usual place in Stock Department in this issue, but will be found on page 540.