

Butter.—Butter seems cheap enough—not to us consumers though.—Best Townships' and some St. Hyacinthe creamery, I see quoted at 17 cts a pound. At Waterbury, Vermont, print butter is quoted in *The Watchman* at from 12 cts to 14 cts, and dressed hogs at 5 cts a pound! In Montreal and its vicinity very moderate butter indeed retails at 25 cts, and pork at 12½ cts, a pound.

Live- and dead weight.—The *Montreal Gazette* gives the following proportions of live- to dead weight in cattle, calculated by the quintal or gross owt.:

Average market beast 112 : 64

Prime-fat, as high as 112 : 72

Inferior, down to 112 : 60

I have seen butchers' cows slaughtered at Joliette that only yielded 52 lbs. to the 112 lbs, and at the Smithfield Club Show, a shorthorn, last year, gave nearly 80 lbs. to the 112 lbs.

State of the crops.—As far as my observation extends, the crops were not sown, on heavy land, till from a fortnight to three weeks after the usual time. Both grain and straw will be slight in bulk, and a great deal of the barley, having been laid by the gale of July 8th, will be thin and unfit for malting. Tomatoes, except those protected by a wall or fence, are looking as if they had been rolled, or as if a herd of cattle had trampled them down. Mine, by the bye, being firmly tied to stakes and backed by a closely boarded fence, are beginning to turn colour, but they will be small compared with my usual fruit. Garden pease are well podded, but the later sorts do not fill up well. Cabbage butterfly very busy, though not numerous, just now.

The Messrs. Dawes' root-crop looks healthier than it has done for the last four years. Mr. Tuck, the foreman, acknowledges the value of the roller after sowing. Their barley is splendid. Cut to-day, July 29th.

Hardly any new potatoes for sale, and those there are look small, and sell for 30 cts a gallon—small measure—equal to \$3.00 a bushel!

Hay crop medium in bulk, the second year's grass having, hardly any clover in it—the alternate frost, thaw, snow and rains work of last winter. By far the finest piece of new grass I have seen is the mixed perennial-rye grass, cow-grass (perennial red-clover), I got the Messrs. Dawes to sow for me.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

SELF-HELP.

The best things to improve a farmer's condition are the things he can do for himself. The worst and most vexatious things he can seek are the things he must wait for the government to do. The farmers are not united enough, not earnest enough, not skilled enough in politics, to bring the things to pass which they would like to have. They may, by sufficient and prolonged agitation, get laws enacted; but if these laws are such as the moneyed interests dislike, the farmers will find, in the majority of cases, that they were so drawn or amended as to amount to nothing practically.

But nobody can hinder a farmer from saving all his manure, liquid and solid. Nobody can hinder him from tilling his land in the best manner, nor from planting good seed, or buying good fertilizers at the lowest cash price. Nobody can prevent him from raising good stock, feeding them in the best and most economical way, caring for them, or turning their products, or the products of his fields, to the best purpose. In short, nobody can hinder him from being a good farmer. Ex.

MAKING FARMING PAY.

Is there any way to increase the wealth of a country, or section of country, except by increasing the effective industry of its people? Is not all that we call wealth the result of properly directed labor? If we are agreed to say yes to this question, then is not the next question that we should naturally be asked in this connection: "Is the industry of our farmers exercised in the most effective way?" If we should put this question to almost any farmer there is little doubt that he would answer it in the negative, and could name a large number, if not the majority of his neighbors, who are not even doing as well as they know in their farming. Pursuing the investigation, with the inquisitiveness of a census taker, we might then ask if all or many of the farmers are wasting, or otherwise unwisely losing, any part of the produce of their land, or of the money received from its sale. Of a certain part of them it would have to be said that they unquestionably do those very things in many instances.

There is a good deal of agitation now going on, with the view of bettering the condition of farmers by means of legislation. We are in favor of some of the measures proposed for that end—very strongly so, as our readers know. Yet we are not at all sanguine that such legislation can be had. The effort to pass the *oleo* law in Massachusetts has twice failed. We can see a great deal of hope in a coercive law to make New England railroads more intelligently liberal in their freight rates and facilities to New England farmers. We think these things should be pushed, but we do not build largely upon our hope that they will be. Meantime, can not farmers themselves take hold of the situation and make it perceptibly better by self-help—not remitting their efforts in other directions? We think they can. In the first place they can stop some wastes, especially the enormous waste of fertilizing material about our barns. They can improve their stock, in many cases merely by better care, and can get more money for what they produce by giving more care to its production. Some wastes may be cut off in narcotics and stimulants which cost a good deal, do no good, and often do harm. We do not believe in cutting down any innocent domestic indulgences—books, newspapers, friendly visiting, or attendance at fairs, grange meetings, lectures or whatever gives recreation to the body or enlargement to the mind.

Perhaps hard times are sent to us to make us think of all these things. They ought not to discourage us, for our forefathers certainly had at times far more hardships than now fall to the general lot. Yet they pulled through, and a great, powerful and wealthy nation has been built up. The responsibility rests upon us, as in their time it rested upon them, to push things, and "out of this nettle, danger, to pluck the flower, safety." We know that farming is paying some amongst us—and not always those who have had the best chance. Let us look ourselves over without partiality, realize our errors and mistakes, and make an earnest struggle to do the best possible in the discharge of every duty, as well as to demand and enforce every one of our rights as citizens and farmers. Ex.

The Dairy Supply Company, of Museum Street, London, on Stand 32, show many important dairy novelties, and those visitors interested in dairying would do well to pay them a visit. The leading novelty on their stand is the instantaneous butter maker, the invention of Dr. de Laval, of Sweden, described in last week's issue. This machine is shown in operation in the working annex, where it is to be tested by the Society for the Silver medal. Another novelty is the new pattern *Délaiteuse*. The original machine has been to the front for some time, and received one of the Society's silver medals at Norwich, but a complaint having been made that the ca-