

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

A man may live upon land which covers a gold mine and never be aware of the existence of the untold wealth beneath him. Similarly, in Agriculture a farmer may go on year after year pursuing a system of farming utterly unadapted to the land he works, and never perceive his mistake—never see that there is another branch of Agriculture more suited to his surroundings, and which if followed out would enrich him fourfold more rapidly than that system which he is at present engaged in. It is thus with the farmers in many districts of Nova Scotia. These men continue season after season, raising hay, beef, mutton, wool and fruit, and apparently seem utterly oblivious of the fact that they live in one of the best dairy countries the sun shines upon.

Nature has very wisely diversified the surface of our fair Province. She has made certain localities capable of producing certain things, and she has so ordained it that the material adapted to a given extent of country is there susceptible of the most perfect development. In one portion of the Province the soil and climate are such that fruit—more particularly apples—can be grown, which have few equals and no superiors in the world. In other parts of the country, where high, dry, rolling land exists, are found the best sheep pastures in America. Bounteous crops of potatoes can be grown in other districts. Our inexhaustible dyked lands are unrivalled for hay-producing qualities, and hence in these localities beef raising is the branch to be adopted, while, as mentioned before, there are other parts of the country where dairying can be carried on most profitably.

Nova Scotia was not primarily an agricultural country. Her rich mines and the vast number of valuable fish which swarmed her waters, were first to attract the early settlers, but as the Province became more populated, greater attention was, as a natural consequence, turned to the tillage of the soil, which soon proved itself to be unrivalled for its strength and productiveness. We gain some idea from Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline," of the thrifty condition of the farmers in the days of the French Acadians. Read for instance the beautiful description of the farms "In the Acadian land, on the shores of the Basin of Minas."

"Distant, secluded, still, the little village of Grand Pré,
Lay in the fruitful valley. Vast meadows stretched to the eastward,
Giving the village its name, and pasture to flocks without number.
Dikes, that the hands of the farmers had raised with labor incessant,
Shut out the turbulent waves; but at stated seasons the floodgates
Opened, and welcomed the sea to wander at will o'er the meadows.
West and south were the fields of flax, and orchards, and corn fields,
Spreading afar and unfenced o'er the plain.

Bursting with hay were the barns; themselves a village."

Dairying, in a primitive condition, existed at this early date, for we read farther on in the same poem, that

"Patiently stood the cows meanwhile, and yielded their milkers
Unto the milkmaid's hand; whilst loud and in regular cadence
Into the sounding pails the foaming streamlets descended.
Lowings of cattle and peals of laughter were heard in the farm yard,
Echoed back by the barns, anon they sank into stillness."

The condition of the dairy business in Nova Scotia to-day is not so flourishing as it was ten or twelve years ago. This is due to certain causes which I will mention farther on.

The first cheese factory in the Province was established at Paradise, Annapolis Co. in 1870. Four years later there were seven factories in this one county, in a section of country twenty-five miles long and four wide, consuming the milk of 1500 cows, and yielding an annual revenue of £8630 2s. 9d. (\$42,000.00.) But as the market for cheese at that time was merely local, the supply soon exceeded the demand, and consequently the markets were glutted, farmers became discouraged and gave up the dairy business. The situation of affairs at this stage calls to mind the story indicative of the extent of the apple market some years ago in this Province, when, it is stated, that if a farmer carrying a small box of fruit in his wagon, drove into Halifax on the same day as a brother agriculturist with a similar quantity of fruit, apples immediately became a drug on the Halifax market. Compare this with the immense traffic in apples at the present time.

The establishment of creameries in this Province would prove a good investment to the owners. First-class butter always commands good prices in the local markets, and in my opinion there is a grand field in the West Indies for a good quality of butter. There is no limit to the market for butter, i. e., first class butter manufactured in Nova Scotia. One shilling (25c.) per pound is easily obtained in the local markets for a prime article. I have in my mind an instance of one dairyman in Annapolis Co., who sends his butter a distance of over a hundred miles by rail to the Halifax market, and receives one shilling per pound for his butter, the buyers paying the shipping expenses, etc.

Non-cooperation and want of organization among the dairymen at the time of the inception of the dairy industry in the Province has been the chief cause of its slow advancement. But now, I am pleased to say, we have a Provincial Dairymen's Association, embracing among its members agriculturists as well as public men throughout the length and breadth of Nova Scotia Proper and Cape Breton. The Association was formed about two years ago, and has for its object the cooperation of the farmers engaged in dairying, in order to better enable them to develop the opening of foreign markets for butter and cheese, manufactured under improved processes.

The Association, even in the short time it has been in existence, has done a vast amount of good in awakening interest in this vitally important industry. As an instance of the increasing interest in the dairy business, a few days ago I received a communication from a prominent gentleman of

Ontario, who is engaged in operating twenty eight or thirty cheese factories, mostly owned by himself, asking the advisability of selling out his business in that Province, and establishing a similar number of factories in Nova Scotia. Communications such as this show "which way the wind blows." There is a grand field for good, energetic, pushing and capable dairymen in this fair Province.

Nowhere can you find grass more rich, juicy, and succulent, than that which grows naturally on the pasture lands of this "Province by the sea." What with the immense yield of nutritious hay grown on our dykes, and the bountiful crops of grain and roots produced on the uplands, we have no lack of feed. Couple with this the inexhaustible supply of pure water at our disposal, our favorable climate, and lastly the almost limitless market at our very doors, and you have in Nova Scotia a dairy country unexcelled and almost unequalled in the world.

Then again, consider the immense advantage we have over the farmers of the West in being one thousand miles nearer the consumers in the old World. This in view of the railway freights is an incalculable advantage.

Good dairy stock is easily obtainable and at very small prices in Nova Scotia. While there are very many herds of excellent thoroughbred Jerseys, Ayrshires, Guernseys, Holsteins and Devons, scattered over the Province, we have an excellent animal for the dairy in that small, wiry, good milking, and good foraging stamp of cow generally known as the "Common Canadian." Prof. Wm. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College, gives in his last report an interesting account of 221 microscopic observations of the size of the butter globules of the milk of twelve different breeds of cattle, with the result that the "Common Canadian" cow ranks third on the list.

In conclusion, the outlook for the Dairy Industry in Nova Scotia is most promising. Dairymen are once more taking courage, and in a very short time we may expect to see the business assume the proportions which the surroundings warrant.

PAUL C. BLACK.

THE FRUIT INDUSTRY.

APPLES, PEARS, PLUMS, AND CHERRIES.

The soil in many sections of Nova Scotia is admirably adapted to the growing of fruit-trees, such as the apple, pear, plum, quince, and cherry. This is especially true of that part of the country lying along the Strait of Northumberland, of the valley of the Avon in Hants County, of the Northern section of Queen's and of portions of Yarmouth and Digby Counties. While each of these sections may, as regards climate and soil, possess peculiar advantages for the production of one or more special varieties, the valleys of Cornwallis and Annapolis are unquestionably the best apple-growing districts in the Province. The flavor and quality of these Nova Scotian apples are not excelled by those produced in any part of the world. These valleys, which extend through the counties of King's and Annapolis, practically form one continuous valley, 70 miles in length, and from 2 to 6 in width, which is destined to become one vast orchard. It has only been within the last few years that the farmers in this region have learned to understand the value of the apple interest, and although the country thereabout is pretty well settled, fully one-half of the land is not yet taken up, while the low picturesque mountains which skirt the valley on either side and which are well adapted to sheep grazing have not yet been utilized.

PROFITS OF THE INDUSTRY.

In addition to the apples disposed of in our home markets and those used in the manufacture of cider, upwards of 100,000 barrels are now annually exported from the province. A large proportion of these are sold in the English markets, netting to the producer from \$1.00 (4 shillings) to \$4.00 (16 shillings) per barrel. The remunerative nature of the apple industry may be easily estimated, when it is understood that one acre of land will support forty apple-trees, and a fair average crop is five barrels per tree, making 200 barrels per acre, which gives at the lowest estimate \$200.00 (£40) per acre, clear of all expenses. Pears and plums have as yet only a limited cultivation, but young orchards of these trees are now being planted from which great results are expected. Even at present thousands of barrels of these finer fruits are annually exported and judging from their ready sale the market appears to be practically limitless. Cherries are produced in large quantities at Bear River and other portions of Digby County.

The fine English varieties, the keeping qualities of which are good, are readily marketed at good prices.

Nova Scotia has had for many years a well organized fruit growers' Association, and to the efforts of the members of this Society is largely due the general and growing interest in fruit culture. The Association meets quarterly for the discussion of topics in which fruit-growers are interested, so that our farmers are now generally well informed as to the kinds of fruit which can best be grown in the country, and the keeping qualities of the different varieties. In New Brunswick, fruit of fine flavor is produced in the Valley of the St. John and in the Sussex Vale, and there are many parts of Prince Edward Island which are admirably adapted to fruit culture. The fruit industry of this country is, as yet, in its earlier stages of development, but it bears promise of yet becoming one of the most important industries of the province. To the scientific agriculturist having a taste for fruit culture, Nova Scotia offers a field for settlement untrampled in any portion of the globe.

A. McN. PATTERSON.