

exclaim, "Yes, this plan will suit me exactly, and give me time to look about me, if I could only meet with such a dairy farm." To these I would say, let your wants be known by advertising; the *GLOBE* and *CANADA FARMER* are devoted to such interests, and an advertisement, embodying the want felt, will within a few days be placed before about 40,000 subscribers, and no doubt will at once be answered, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

I have, for some time past, had some new ideas about this, and, as usual, had a talk and general "pow-wow" with my old friend, George Johnson, whose scheme I shall hereafter relate, which seems to me to meet all difficulties, and is the best I ever heard, both for landlord and tenant. His practical knowledge is always useful and on hand for his friends, and his eyes and senses seem always directed to where the evil lies, instead of overlooking it when, as is often the case, it lies just at our feet. But then, he is Yorkshire, and seems prepared for any and every emergency, and as he is farming about 400 acres of cleared land, has had great experience. After hearing what I had to say, and my impressing on him the necessity of some plan by which the tenant farmer at home could pay a light rent here, and yet remunerate his landlord sufficiently—and make use of the land to do so—and get back his capital in return, he answered that he would send me his ideas, and from the memoranda thus furnished, I have compiled an account and table, which I will give in another communication.

C.

Standard Butter and Cheese.

To the Editor.

SIR, - Your correspondent "R," under the above heading, has introduced a very important subject, and one that should be faithfully dealt with. Notwithstanding the opinion which will be found I entertain on Canadian butter, I do not believe that the butter referred to was in smell "worse," or even so bad, as "manure." If so, it must have been far worse than ever I saw, which is quite bad enough. Your correspondent is wrong, however, in saying "It is incredible that all the bad butter this dealer sold was Canadian." Not at all incredible; not only so, but it is quite consistent with the facts. It is a notorious fact, that an immense quantity of this stuff (called butter) is exported from this country to the British market, though "R" seems not to believe it, and if "Charles Fielding," or any other English dealer, were in want of some low-priced butter, suitable only for confectioners or sheep grease, he would certainly seek it in Liverpool and Manchester in the shape of Canadian butter. Again, your correspondent errs in saying that "a large quantity is passed off as coming from wrong localities, and Canada is often made the scape-goat for bad butter, etc." This is evidently a supposition, not a "fact,"

and there is not a particle of foundation in "fact" for it.

Being well acquainted with the trade at home, as well as here, I can vouch for the fact, that a buyer cannot mistake the kind of butter he inspects. The importer knows this, and cannot impose upon him, even if he would. Each country has its peculiar package, and there is no mistaking the Canadian or any other. The butter itself deserves the odium that is heaped upon it; the great bulk of it, besides being out of flavour more or less, is, like Joseph's coat, of many colours, and this feature of it is as bad as the flavour. Another drawback is the ugly, dirty character, and want of uniformity in the packages, a good illustration certainly of the kind of "stuff" they too often contain. The fact is, the whole system is wrong. The butter is badly made, badly packed, and badly marketed. In the making it is either scalded, not worked as it ought to be, too much or too little salted, or the wrong kind of salt used. Then in packing, the good, and there is a fair proportion of it, is spoiled by being mixed with the bad, or with that of a different colour. Unfortunately, you cannot make bad into good by intermixing. It is often not packed closely; thus the air spoils it, if not already spoiled.

Perhaps the marketing is the principal foundation of the mischief, and ought to be remedied at once. Bring your butter along, says the storekeeper, and I will give you (say) fifteen cents for it; and it does come, good, bad, and indifferent, all one price. What encouragement is there in this system for any farmer to produce good butter? And how galling must it be to the farmer, whose good butter is worth eighteen to twenty cents, to see his neighbour's poor grease, worth about ten cents, fetch as much as his own. Then again, the commission buyer is often as bad as the storekeeper, and so the storekeeper has often no motive to use discrimination in his purchases, but at present few have the knowledge or power of discrimination; it is high time they cultivated it.

Let it not be said that I am using too disparaging terms. I am only laying bare the facts of the case, and my only motive in so doing, is to do what little I am able to effect an improvement. A good knowledge of the disease is one half its cure. Besides, my language is not applicable to a large and ever increasing number both of farmers and storekeepers, and these surely will approve rather than condemn what I say.

It may reasonably be asked of me, "What is your cure?" I confess that I know of no cure that would be so effectual, in my opinion, as the factory system. Where that can be carried out, the thing is done at once. Canadian butter, made as it might be, would realize on an average not less, probably more, than twenty-five per cent. more than it does now. It never was so good, on the whole, as last season; yet I think I may venture to say that it has realized on an average more than

thirty per cent. less than Irish. Next to the factory system, instead of taking it to the store, let it be sold upon its merits for cash in the open market; there, a premium will be offered for good, in the shape of higher rates, and when the maker of grease finds that she cannot command as much as her neighbour who makes good butter, by three to six cents per pound, she will soon find means for an improvement. Then again, even under the present system, storekeepers might effect an improvement of some ten or fifteen per cent. in the price and quality of their butter, by an improved method of handling it. I will not enter particularly into this, but would strongly advise you to invite suggestions on this point from storekeepers and butter packers who have successfully adopted an improved system. Many such there are. I will only add that the colours and the qualities should be packed separately, and sold accordingly, as is Irish, which is divided into firsts, seconds, thirds, fourths, and also by different brands.

I conclude by giving you a quotation from a correspondent of mine in Manchester, England. The butter referred to was from one of the best butter districts in Western Ontario, and from a highly respectable storekeeper. He had left the packages, as in most cases, with one of his clerks, and while I realized 120 shillings per 112 pounds for some in the same parcel, packed by myself, this only realized from 60 to 80 shillings. This is an every-day occurrence, and tells its own tale.

My friend says:—"Those which you say you have not seen are not unlike one of the circus horses we used to call piebald, containing all and every colour under the sun, except three, which are like driven snow with a sprinkling of blood thrown amongst it." Again, "I have seen five of your casks to-day, and of all the horrid things in the world they could not be worse. The outsides are fearfully rough; in fact it is nothing but lumpy butter thrown in, there is no attempt at packing it or blending the colours. I would not engage to sell such for ten per cent. commission. Do not, on any account, ship more to me."

This subject is one of immense importance to the Canadian farmer, and I hope that you will find space for it, and invite further contributions from others.

JOHN JEPSON.

London, April 30th, 1870.

NOTE BY EDITOR.—We commend the above letter, and the whole subject, to the thoughtful attention of farmers and dairymen throughout the country. There is nothing in our agricultural system that more loudly calls for reform than this matter of butter supply. The farm produce sold under that name in our cities is simply execrable. The establishment of butter factories, as Mr. Jepson suggests, would, no doubt, afford the most effectual means of remedying the evil.