

Hitherto these back townships have been settled very slowly, because the men who moved into them were those who had not the capital to buy more promising land. In these rough and broken lands the poor man could make his way after a fashion, but it was a very uncomfortable and unsatisfactory fashion. He had to utilize the timber and fuel cut in clearing the land to keep the wolf from the door till he could realize on his first crop of grain and roots. To do all this would keep him very busy, and so his first crop would be a small one. This fact would hamper his next year's operations, and in this way he would find himself struggling along year after year, living from hand to mouth and never having enough ahead to properly stock his farm. In fact these free grant townships have hitherto yielded but small encouragement to the penniless settlers who ventured into them.

What should be done with these townships that are broken up with the rugged sullen ridges of the Laurentides is a problem not difficult to solve. They should be offered in large tracts to individuals or companies who will undertake to work them up to something like their full capacity. Let the price per acre be small, but bind the purchasers to fully stock the land purchased within three years of the date of sale. This would open a field for the investment of capital in large or small sums such as is not often met with. As the land now lies it is practically worthless as soon as the pine is cut or burned off it. If therefore the Government could sell it at a dollar or even fifty cents per acre it would lose nothing by the transaction, especially if it was sold under certain conditions as regards stocking and improvements. If, on the other hand, investors could obtain this land in fee simple at the end of three years at such a price and on conditions not too hard to fulfil, the money would be well laid out. Though these broken lands are not suitable to wheat growing on a large scale, the valleys are very rich, and would yield enormous crops of coarse grain, roots, or material to be cut and put up green for ensilage. On the ridges and uplands the pastures, though somewhat short, are singularly rich, sweet, and durable. They are in fact greatly better than they look, furnishing feed for twice the stock that a stranger would credit them with supporting. Besides this, everyone who has lived in the Laurentides will bear witness that these short white clover pastures in the rocky broken ridges produce the sweetest milk, butter, and mutton to be found in Canada. The atmosphere is dry and pure, and for a large proportion even of the hot season the nights are cool.

The water supply is another strong point in favour of our back townships as fields for dairying and cattle and sheep-raising. The water is for the most part drained through the seams of the hard insoluble granite (or rather gneissoid) rocks, and finally bubbles up in cold never failing springs as pure and limpid as it fell from the clouds.

Besides all this, though the winters in these

northern townships are severe they are not unfavourable to cattle and sheep. It is true that the temperatures are often very low, but on the other hand there are seldom if ever any of those sudden and unseasonable changes that constitute such very disagreeable features of the winters in lower latitudes. When winter comes in the Laurentides it comes to stay. There are no rainy "slushy" days followed by bitter freezing nights. Sheep and cattle go dry-coated from the beginning of winter till the end of it, and any one who has had any experience with horses, cattle and especially with sheep, need not be told that moist thawing days followed by sudden falls of temperature are much more to be dreaded than hard unvarying cold though it be ever so severe. In this country the stock-raiser and dairyman would want warm sheds and stables for his stock; but then why should he not have his sheds and stables warm when he can have all the timber he wants merely for the labour of cutting it.

Cattle would require a little longer feeding than in southern Ontario, but what would that matter when the hay, grain, roots, and ensilage were grown on land that cost only a dollar an acre?

Let a man have a five hundred acre farm in the Laurentides (worth say \$500), a dozen Jersey cows to calve next spring, two dozen Southdown ewes with lamb, four work horses, and five hundred dollars invested in implements (not forgetting a feed cutter), and he will have in his own hands the making of a substantial fortune.

If our Government, instead of assisting immigrants to pay their passage money when they are coming out to this country, would expend the money appropriated for assisted passages in establishing a loan bureau to which the settler could apply for aid during the first few years of his stay in this country, the work of settling the back country would go on much more rapidly and satisfactorily.

#### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CREAMERIES.

The lesson taught by the establishment of cheese factories throughout the Dominion should have been a salutary one to the Canadian farmer. It should have taught him that extensive co-operation and scientific methods backed up by skilled labor and fairly good business management could well-nigh effect miracles in dairy matters. The cheese factory soon proved an important factor in the material prosperity of the average Canadian farmer, while it rendered the lot of many a hithert over-worked farmer's wife a comparatively comfortable one. And yet, in the face of all this, is it not a little surprising that creameries are not gaining ground in popular favor more rapidly? In the light of what they have learned by sending milk to the cheese factory, no enlightened farmer would think of making cheese on his own place at home; and yet they will go on churning a few quarts of sour cream twice; or

perhaps once, a week, making butter that will sell from five to eight cents lower than creamery product. And why is this state of things allowed to continue in so many sections of the Dominion where the farmers are abundantly able to establish their own creameries? Here is the story of how a very unpretending creamery was started in Kansas City, and of how it grew up till it became a full-grown creamery. It is told by the Kansas City *Live Stock Journal*:—

"One of our grocers concluded to try a creamery in connection with his business, and arranged his cellar for the purpose. In the cellar is a spring of clear, cool water in which he sets his milk cans. A barrel churn with a capacity for thirty-two gallons and a butter-worker was procured. The cans he uses are of such size that one inch of cream in the gauge will make one pound of butter. There is a great difference in milk, but cream is so nearly alike in its production of butter that a given amount of it always gives the same weight of butter. These cans were at first furnished by the creamery, but now they are bought by the farmer. The creamery owner at first agreed to give as much for an inch of cream as the stores in the town were paying for a pound of butter, but before long he found that he could buy cream at 20 cents per inch and sell his butter for 32 cents per pound, and he began giving two cents more for an inch of cream than a pound of butter brought in the market.

"At first farmers were a little shy about selling their cream, but some of them began to experiment, and they found that they got more money by selling their cream than by making butter, and the churning was saved.

"In a short time the creamery man had his routes all over the country and did his churning by steam. He tells me that by feeding the buttermilk to pigs he gets enough out of it to pay the man who has charge of the creamery, and now, while home dairy butter is dull in Cleveland at sixteen cents, he gets 25 cents easily. By making a business of butter making every operation is performed at the right time, and by mixing the cream of all the cows a uniform grade of butter is made, and all parties are benefitted."

Could not a few Canadians take a leaf out of this Missouri grocer's book?

#### FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The idea of establishing Farmers' Institutes in various parts of the Province is unquestionably a good one. The work has been taken up in earnest this week by the faculty of the Ontario Agricultural College, and there is reason to hope that much good will be effected. Whatever is calculated to set farmers thinking, and teaches them to use their brains, as well as their muscles, cannot but exert a beneficial influence. In a country where agriculture plays such an important part as it does in Ontario, every advance made by the farmers means a great stride in the material prosperity of the whole community. Thus, for example, the English