

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent)

The autumn here has been an exceptional one all round. Charming weather for personal comfort and pleasure, and quite equally agreeable for the stock owners. All kinds of stock have done amazingly well since the end of August. The genial showers after the drought have made an abundance of feed, and the pastures at the time of writing have in many parts the appearance of spring rather than autumn. The past fortnight has been fine, warm and dry, consequently the grazing fraternity have had a better autumn than has been the case for many years past. Cattle and sheep out at grass are putting on flesh with little or no outside aid. The value of a month of such weather as we have had is something that will be of the greatest possible benefit to both the arable and grain farmer. Such a season as this has shortened the winter by a full month, a very material item in the cost of keeping either store cattle and sheep or the production of mutton and beef.

The drought of the early summer made a great likelihood of a very short root crop, but this has in a great measure been considerably modified since the middle of August, for the late sown turnips, kale or thousand headed cabbage and drumhead cabbage, etc., have made wonderful progress and are now producing an abundant crop of food. Likewise late sown crops of swedes, kale rabbi, and mangels have done grandly, and where average plants were obtained are producing very good crops. Of course, in some cases, especially on highly fertilized land and when the owner was a bit more go-ahead and enterprising, we have seen some very large and heavy crops. Again, emphasizing that well known but far too often forgotten fact that do a thing well and it will pay: do middling and moderate will be the result; do it badly or carelessly and the result is not only a bad one, but a total and absolute loss.

The trade for bulls of all breeds continues very good. There is a capital demand from home breeders, and this, supplemented by the export demand, keeps prices at a very useful and paying level. The best of any breed are and have been commanding really first-class prices. The inequality of the price between store and fat cattle looks like soon finding its proper level. Beef fatteners say there is little if any profit to be made, still they keep on, and, therefore, we may take it that there must be something in it, otherwise the industry would not continue.

Mutton at the present date is not so good a trade as it was a few months back, but still first class light-weights are selling well and at remunerative prices. The drag comes in with second-grade stuff, 'tis here where we find things not so good, and it is the overabundant supply of this that makes the market for the best duller. Ram sales are over for the present year, and one may take it as a whole that those breeders who breed rams of quality and merit have had an average year, whilst those, and unfortunately there are many such who breed and sell for rams sheep which ought not under any circumstances to have been left for rams, have, of course, had anything but a good time of it. Again and again

one hears it said ram breeding is done with, it won't pay, etc. This is the inevitable result of an oversupply coupled with that want of proper care and selection that ought to be exercised all round.

The hop year has not been a good one. The crop was very short and somewhat expensive, and the increase in prices does not appear to have been in any way commensurate with the decrease in the crop. However, in this, as in all other departments, those who farm the best appear to have been the most successful.

The welcome rise in the price of wheat has indeed put a spark of fresh life in many of our arable farmers, although the extreme rates did not, unfortunately, remain long enough to enable many to participate therein. However, even now that a fall has taken place it still is at a price near to that which it ought to be to give fair remuneration alike to the farmer and laborer. The barley crop was secured in many counties in a good condition, and where thus secured will be the most valuable cereal of the year, fine samples of barley being always able to command full rates, on account of the usual limited supply thereof and the large demand that exists for it. Oats varied considerably, but in many cases that came under my own knowledge very satisfactory crops were raised. Peas were not a good crop, and beans varied considerably.

Hay was not a heavy crop, but exceptionally well secured, the weather being fine, and the value thereof for feeding purposes fully equal to a third more when compared with that of any ordinary year.

The dairy interest, as evinced by the success of the recent Dairy Show held now for many years at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London, is in a prosperous state. To one who has for years attended this annual dairy exhibition it could not fail to be noticed what great and vast strides have taken place in this particular branch of agriculture during the past fifteen or twenty years. The great, good and valuable work that has been accomplished by the British Dairy Farmers' Association is such that few know the extent of, and fewer still the value it has been to many a struggling tiller of the soil. That its work is yet far from done is fully manifested in two ways at least. One of these is the continued appearance year by year of new and improved implements or systems of treatment of milk, cream or butter. The other, the notable and prominent want of uniformity in value and quality of the various products of the dairy, one far too often in travelling comes across. Another grand feature of this society is its method of instruction given to its members year by year in its annual trips. This year Denmark, Sweden, etc., being visited. What was learned and what ideas obtained during that trip we cannot know, but it is quite certain from reports of the various discussions, etc., which have appeared in the press, that there must have been many. Ideas and lessons obtained by these trips are, of course, particularly valuable, inasmuch that they are obtained personally and can be carried into effect or avoided, as the case may be, by the actual observer. The majority of those who take these

annual trips are practical dairymen engaged permanently in the business. How different to that is the case of pupils who would be possibly some years before they could carry out in a practical way any conclusions they might have formed. The writer hereof looked forward to this society visiting your grand colony during the present year. This, however, unfortunately was not carried out. It is, however, to be hoped that the contemplated trip is only postponed and not dropped, as it is certain that such an interchange of opinion, as a trip of this description would be the means of bringing about, would be of great mutual advantage all round, not only to the visitors, but the visited as well.

THE WINTER CREAMERY.

A very useful bulletin has been issued by the Dairy Department of the Agricultural College, Guelph. The following are some of the points emphasized:

Advantages over Home Dairy in Winter Buttermaking.—The winter creamery offers many advantages to dairymen, with few or many cows milking during the winter. The chief of these are a better average quality of butter, which is sure to bring a higher price, and the extra yield of butter per 100 lbs. of milk which is got by using the cream separator. Either of these advantages will pay the cost of manufacturing the butter, which ought not to exceed three and one half cents per pound where the milk is delivered at the creamery. Again, the labor is very much less for the farmer's wife where the milk is sent to the winter creamery. In addition, the farmer and his wife feel much better when going to town to buy household necessities, if they have five or ten dollars in a pocket as a result of the sale of creamery butter, than if they have twenty to fifty pounds of butter in a basket.

To the Patrons.—Aim to have about half of the cows fresh for the winter creamery. Feed them liberally. Give the cows plenty of salt and water. Care for them regularly, treat them kindly, keep them clean and you will have your reward. We find that corn silage, mangolds, clover hay, bran, peas, oats, and some oil-cake, if it can be got for \$20 per ton or less, give us good results in the milk-flow. Swede turnips or rape should not be fed to cows giving milk for butter or cheese-making. Do not allow the milk to freeze, or be exposed to any bad odor. Three times per week is often enough to deliver the milk at the winter creamery. Make arrangements with one or more of your neighbors to "take turns" hauling the milk and bringing back the skim-milk. This will lessen the labor. If the skim milk is properly fed to calves and young pigs, it will pay for the hauling of the milk to, and the skim-milk from the creamery. Our future dairy cows depend largely upon the judicious use of skim-milk. Finally, help the buttermaker by supplying him with first-class milk and you will have your reward.

To the Buttermaker.—When receiving, sampling, and testing the milk, be on your guard against stable, turnip, potato, brewers' grains, or other flavors which taint milk and injure the quality of butter. If the milk is frozen or

very cold, you will have difficulty in detecting these flavors, and it will be safer for you to heat a small portion of such milk separately, where you suspect bad flavor. Where a can has much ice on the top, remove the ice before weighing and sampling; or else melt it before sampling as the frozen part, containing an undue proportion of water, will not allow you to take a fair sample.

Churning, Salting, and Working.—The square box churn, or the combined churn and worker, will give good results. If the butter is for export to Great Britain, use little or no coloring in the cream. Have the temperature of the cream such that the butter will come in granular form in forty to sixty minutes. After drawing off the buttermilk, wash very lightly for quick consumption, and once for the regular trade. Salt at the rate of about one half ounce per pound of butter for export, and three quarters of an ounce to one ounce for home market. Work the butter until the salt is thoroughly mixed through it, the color is even, and until the water is not more than 12 per cent. of the finished butter.

Preparing for Market and Marketing.—For the home market there is no form more suitable than the oblong print, wrapped in good parchment paper which is stamped with the name of the creamery. For export, use the square box lined with paraffine wax and parchment paper. Pack the butter in the box firmly, so that when emptied it will look like a solid cube of butter, without holes, into which gather the brine and buttermilk, giving the butter an unsightly appearance. Ship the butter weekly to a reliable commission house, or directly to exporters or importers of the finest Canadian creamery butter, thus building up for our butter branch of the dairy industry a reputation similar to that which Canadian cheese has acquired.

The winter creamery is a branch of dairying which needs and is capable of almost unlimited extension.

THE CHICAGO FAT STOCK AND HORSE SHOW.

Those who are familiar with the history of the American Fat Stock Show, formerly held by the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, know that it was not a financial success. This year, however, the State Board of Agriculture decided to hold a show where there would be a much larger number of interests. Accordingly inducements were made to exhibitors of horses, fat stock, poultry, dairy products, fruits and flowers. Unfortunately, however, arrangements were not definitely completed in time to give all interests an opportunity to make a first-class exhibit. The show was therefore a success in some departments, and a flat failure in others. The whole show was held in the coliseum, the largest exhibition building in the country, on November 1st to 6th, 1897.

The Horse Show.

The most successful and popular feature, and one which overtopped all else, was the horse show. The very large premiums offered and the large number of classes brought together over twelve hundred horses, from all