

By so doing what we have started to do and getting our share of the butter-trade, we shall in that way help the cheese business at the same time. Every one knows that in 1896 apples were very cheap, not because they were poor in quality but because they were plenty, while in 1897, they were very dear, and poor into the bargain, because they were scarce, so, if we make less cheese, we may help to enhance the price—and in that way help the greatest number.

Yours very truly,

Chateaugay, 1st January 1898.

PETER MACFARLANE.

P. S.—I might say that it is intended by the system of cold storage to ship fruit, and poultry, so that it will help the agriculturists of Canada generally.—P.M.

### GREEN FODDER

To the Editor of the Journal.

Dear Sir. There are many farmers in this province of ours that keep cows who get very little profit from them because they do not feed them properly. If the cows could only be induced to give for, say, 3 months something near what they do in the month of June, what a difference there would be in the cheese or butter factory accounts!

Some years ago, when I kept cows, I found the best way to keep them up to their milk was to sow a piece of oats and vetches: about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre for every 5 cows is enough, usually; if you have more cows, sow more ground in proportion. It is a good idea to choose a piece of ground not too far from the yard, where the cows are to be fed. If the ground is not very rich put some manure on it and make it rich. Plough it early; divide it into 3 parts; sow the first third as early as possible and then after 10 days, or so, sow another, and then 10 or 12 days afterwards the last portion.

About the first of July or when the pastures begin to dry up and the cows begin to shrink in their milk, your first piece of green fodder will be ready to cut. Commence very lightly at first as the cows will not care to eat it, it is always better to cut the fodder 12 hours before using it that is to say the fodder that is wanted for the evening meal can be cut in the morning and the morning meal cut the night before; this will allow the fodder to wilt a little, when the cattle will eat it with a greater relish. By the time your first piece is cut the second will be ready, and so on to the last piece, and if it is an ordinary year you can cut it twice. I have cut in a moist year as often as three times but you cannot always depend on it. Then if you have some fodder corn, by the time your green fodder is all done, you can feed corn. Keep up the flow of milk if possible, and when grain is selling so cheap as it has the past year or two, less than a cent a pound and while cheese is selling say at 8 cents or butter at about 18 cents or over, you will find the best market for grain is to feed it to the cows, the cows never turn out bankrupt the always pay cash, feed them well to-day and they will repay you to-morrow: this is not a very long credit.

Some farmers are a little afraid to grain a cow, but I can assure them if they are the right kind of cows they will pay for a moderate grain ration nearly always. I hope some farmers will try the green fodder the coming season; they will not be sorry, and should they not need the whole piece to cut for summer food it can be cut and saved as hay for winter food: they certainly will not need to lose any of it. I also feel certain that there will be no portion of the farm sown to grain that will give more profit than the piece fed to the cows. Why is it that all the factories in this province, have hardly room during June to work up the large product? while in Sept. and October they have hardly milk enough to keep open? Usually, too, the price of milk during these two months is dearer than in June. Make an effort and see if you do not think it pays; there is not much chance—none in fact, to raise the price of cheese and butter but we can reduce the cost per lb of milk, and by doing so we shall have a chance to make a little profit. There are many farmers crying out that it does not pay to keep cows: not if you starve them. Be liberal; it is an old saying, if you feed a cow straw you will have a straw profit, and many farmers make only a corresponding profit. Try and feed better and see if your profits will not be otherwise.

Yours faithfully,

PETER MACFARLANE

CHATEAUGAY  
24th January, 1898.