

Assisting the Dairy Interests.

The following circular has been published over the signature of the Dominion Dairy Commissioner:—

The Dominion Government has made provision for the maintenance of two Travelling Dairies in Manitoba and the Territories. They will be under the direction of the dairy commissioner. The object of the travelling dairies is to afford those who are engaged in butter-making an opportunity to gain further exact, practical and helpful information on all parts of the process, from the separating of the cream to the printing and packing of the butter. One expert butter-maker and an assistant, with an outfit of dairy utensils, including a centrifugal cream separator, a churn, a butter worker, a Babcock milk tester, etc., etc., will compose each travelling dairy. Two days will be spent at every place which is visited, if the local committee make the necessary preparations of a place for meetings, a supply of milk and a supply of cream. The programme of instruction and illustration will be arranged, as far as practicable, in accordance with the following time cards:—

First Day—1. Running of Centrifugal cream separator, and separating cream from about 20 gallons of milk to be supplied by the local committee; 2. Testing samples of milk; 3. Preparing about 2 gallons of cream, to be supplied by the local committee; 4. Churning of cream supplied by the local committee; 5. Making butter, etc.; 6. Ripening of cream from Centrifugal separator; 7. Address on butter-making.

Second Day—1. Testing samples of milk; 2. Churning cream from Centrifugal cream separator, and making butter; 3. Running the Centrifugal cream separator; 4. Discussion on dairying.

To enable the farmers, their wives and families to get as much benefit as possible from the practical teachings of these travelling dairies, it is necessary that a local committee or individual, in every place to be visited, should arrange beforehand,—1. For a convenient place of meeting; 2. For a supply of twenty gallons of sweet whole milk, to be furnished on the morning of the first day; 3. For the supply of two gallons of cream (ripened if practicable) also to be furnished on the morning of the first day; 4. For the distribution of bills (similar to this which will be furnished free) announcing the dates and places of meetings, widely and thoroughly in the surrounding country.

Farmers are invited to bring samples of whole milk, of skimmed milk and butter milk, to be tested; about half a tea cup full is plenty for each sample.

In many districts in Manitoba and the Territories, dairying can be followed with profit and success. The soil, the pasturage, the fodder crops and the climatic conditions as well as the demands and opportunities of the markets, are all suitable for the production of the finest quality of milk, butter, cheese, beef and bacon. By a system of mixed farming, the growing of wheat at a profit may be helped and not hindered; and thereby the farmers may protect themselves from the very serious risk of loss and failure which is incurred by any individual or community in the western provinces, that depends wholly or mainly on one crop or on the selling of grain only. I urge the farmers and business men generally to avail themselves of the benefits which these travelling dairies are intended to give. The women from the farms are specially invited to be present at the meetings. If you are interested in the welfare and progress of the district where you live, you are hereby invited to see that a local committee is formed and that it makes the necessary preparations for your locality in good time.

JAS. W. ROBERTSON,
Dairy Commissioner.

The following places will be visited by one of the travelling dairies, on the dates mentioned:—

Brandon, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 29th and 30th.

Restor, Friday and Saturday, June 1st and 2nd.

Souris, Monday and Tuesday, June 4th and 5th.

Hartney, Wednesday and Thursday, June 6th and 7th.

Napinka, Friday and Saturday, June 8th and 9th.

Melita, Monday and Tuesday, June 11th and 12th.

Orbow, Thursday and Friday, June 14th and 15th.

Deloraine, Monday and Tuesday, June 18th and 19th.

Morden, Thursday and Friday, June 21st and 22nd.

Manitou, Monday and Tuesday, June 25th and 26th.

Pilot Mound, Wednesday and Thursday, June 27th and 28th.

Crystal City, Friday and Saturday, June 29th and 30th.

Killarney, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 3rd and 4th.

Boisvein, Thursday and Friday, July 5th and 6th.

The Salmon Outlook.

Regarding the intentions of the Alaska Packers' Association in the matter of prices the coming season for canned salmon, no particulars have yet been divulged. The presumption is that the combine will undertake to distribute their goods on about the same plans that the pack of the season of 1893 have been handled, as far at least as the American market is concerned. This involves a graduated scale of prices and other conditions calculated to afford profit and thereby act as an incentive to liberal investment by commission firms under the direct protection of the combine. It is very uncertain, however, what may be done in the direction of keeping the European market in a position to take care of surplus stock on equally as favorable terms to the middlemen there. There is also some measure of uncertainty as to the purposes of Alaska cannery not identified with the combine, and it is no secret that both association and independent cannery of Alaska fish will experience competition of no mean type when they look for export, or, properly speaking, foreign custom. The British Columbia packers are already on the alert and offering good standard goods at 87½c f.o.b. at shipping point. This means a comparatively moderate price for the goods laid down in European markets, and, it is fair to presume, will likely have a direct bearing, since the British Columbia cannery are going in for a heavy pack which, should the supply of fresh fish be sufficient, it will exceed that of last year. That quite a liberal stock of Alaska fish has been carried over in this country is more than probable. The pack of last season was over 400,000 cases and the exports were considerably below those of the previous year. That home consumption has been more than normal is extremely doubtful. The Columbia river packers will doubtless can as much fish as the supply of raw stock and cans permits. Their prices are lower than those that prevailed at the beginning of the season of 1893, and it is an open secret that sentiment developed by the failure of the movement to effect a combination has aroused rivalry which is likely to lead to the largest possible pack. That is to say, the conflicting interests seem inclined to do their utmost to secure business and as much of it as possible. Between this condition of affairs on the Columbia river, the apparent intentions of the British Columbia packers, to say nothing of the stock carried over, it looks very much as though the Alaska packers will have something unpleasant to contend against the coming season.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Comparative Prices.

Last year September wheat fell from 72½ to 52½ at Minneapolis between the middle of May and the 1st of August. At the present time July wheat is selling around 59½ and 60c and is a little above what July wheat is selling for in New York. Last year Minneapolis was 11c below New York. The fact that prices are as high here as in the East makes the flour situation in the Northwest very unsatisfactory to say the least. There is little in the situation at present that seems to justify expectation of much improvement in wheat prices, unless something akin to calamity overtakes the growing crop in some large wheat raising country.

Prices are now 10c per bushel lower for July wheat in this market than they were last year. At New York they are almost 21c below last year at this time. The visible supply in this country is less than it was then, and while the outlook is for an average crop, the prospects seem to be no better for one than they were a year ago. The world's visible wheat and flour supply is equal to 8,000,000 bushels of wheat less than a year ago. Europe, however, holds 10,000,000 more, France having about twice as large stocks on May 1, 1894, as in 1893. The invisible wheat supply, so far as it can be judged, seems to be lower than usual, for the last few years, at least.

Speculation is lifeless more so than usual, because there are so few inducements to buy for a rise. The wheat markets of the Northwest and those of the East are out of line and New York is lower than Minneapolis. There is nothing strengthening in that; on the contrary, it makes the situation worse, because it makes flour manufacturing in the Northwest practically unremunerative. Freight rates are at about the lowest point on record, but they are not low enough to offset the difference that should exist, between the price of wheat in Minneapolis and New York, to enable millers to make a fair profit.—Minneapolis Market Record, May 16.

Rainmaking a Failure.

Secretary Morton, of the United States, has received a large number of inquiries from all parts of the country as to the result of the department's rainfall experiments and the feasibility of controlling precipitation by means of explosions. The following circular is being sent by the department to all inquiries:

"Replying to your letter as to rainmaking experiments, I have to inform you that in no case did they pass the merely experimental stage, and that the prospect of ultimate success is not such as to justify farmers or other citizens in rainmaking experimentation. In this determination, judgment and opinion, I am supported by the scientists and other allied experts in meteorology connected with the United States weather bureau. The bombardment of the skies for water, as carried on by this department, did not produce results calculated to inspire the hope that any method of concussion can be made commercially successful in precipitating the moisture from the clouds."

The Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Co. are making application to parliament for an extension of the time for the completion of their railway, and to extend the same to Swan Lake.

A return presented to parliament shows that the number of homestead entries made in Manitoba last year was 1,032, compared with 1,276 in 1892. Sixty-nine homesteads were cancelled last year and 493 in 1892.

British Columbia cannery, says a Toronto report, are endeavoring to make contracts for future deliveries of canned salmon. Best red has been offered at \$4 per case f.o.b. Victoria, and second quality as low as \$3 60 per case. The offerings are, of course, accompanied with the usual stipulation, "subject to catch."