

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

VOL. XXIV

TORONTO, 1 MAY, 1905

No. 9

To the Farmer Who Keeps Cows

DAIRYING is one of Canada's greatest industries and we make no excuse for devoting a little extra space to it in this our annual dairy number. Every farmer keeps cows, whether he supplies milk to a factory or not, and to that extent he should be interested in whatever will enable him to realize greater profits from his cow keeping. The pages following contain a fund of information of benefit to every dairyman.

This is the season of the year when renewed activity in dairy circles begins. The cheese factory and creamery commence operations and make ready to receive as much of the farmer's milk supply as he is prepared to give them. Generally speaking, the farmer who keeps cows will reap a greater profit by co-operating with his neighbors in supporting a cheese or butter factory than in making his milk into butter at home. It means less worry, a saving in labor and cost of production, and taking one season with another, a better price.

Some Features of Canadian Dairying

The dairy situation at the present time is one in which every farmer should be interested. The outlook for both butter and cheese has not been so bright for some time. There is no old stock hanging about to interfere with the selling of the new product when it is ready for the consumer. Prices have started well and it looks at the moment as if they will continue on a high plane for some time to come.

But roseate as the outlook undoubtedly is, there are some features of the dairy situation at the present time that need a little attention. For a number of years the cheese-making branch of dairying has been paramount in this country, and it is, perhaps, well that it should remain so. And yet it is a question whether dairying, especially from the farmer's standpoint, would not be in a better position today if more attention were given to butter-making. Besides, last year's experience showed that when the make of cheese was abnormally large, as was the case in 1903 when prices were high, a decided slump in values is sure to follow. The question then arises, whether it would not be better to curtail the annual output of cheese and expand more along the line of butter-making. It is customary, though it is not always for the consumers' benefit, in certain lines of manufacture, for those who engage in it to curtail the output sufficiently

to meet the demand. In other words, the market for the particular line of goods involved is given as much as it will take at profitable prices, and no more. Canada, in a measure, makes her own prices for cheese, for if the make is abnormally large a slump is sure to follow and vice versa, and it would seem to be a profitable procedure to as far as possible limit the annual output of cheese to the requirements of the market.

Everything considered, Canada's export butter trade has not made the progress it should have made in recent years. Where the fault lies is hard to say. It is possible, however, that those engaged in this branch have not lived up to their privileges. They have not pushed the business as much as they should and could have done. Butter requires a little more care in its transportation and storage than does cheese and it may be that the fault for slow progress lies here. However, the refrigerator car service provided by the railways under government supervision should enable part of this difficulty to be overcome. Complaints have been numerous that creamerymen have not fulfilled their part of the contract by having the butter when put upon these cars at a sufficiently low temperature to preserve it in the best condition upon arrival at the seaboard.

But what about the steamship service and the facilities on the other side of the water for handling and caring for butter? So far as we have been able to learn the ocean shipping service has greatly improved during the past year, and we understand that one line of steamers from Montreal is prepared to provide an adequate carrying service for butter on all its vessels for this season. But the same cannot be said of the manner of handling butter, after it is taken off the vessels, and especially is this true of Liverpool. At that port Canadian butter has been known to remain on the dock with no overhead protection of any kind for nearly two weeks. No matter how fine the quality of the butter was originally it would soon lose its fineness under these unfavorable conditions. Thanks to the dairying service of the Dominion action has been taken in this matter and an improvement in the methods of handling our butter at Britain's great commercial emporium is looked for this season or the trade will go elsewhere.

There are several other features of the dairy situation that might be touched upon with profit, had we the

space. The question of licensing factories and makers is one that dairy-men will have to face sooner or later. What the solution will be is hard to say. In our opinion a licensing system properly and judiciously conducted would do much to remedy several evils in our present system. It would tend to more uniformity both in the method of manufacture and in the product itself. Such a system properly enforced would mean better equipped factories and better qualified makers. However, it may be well not to force a radical scheme of this kind too quickly. In the meantime the patron, the maker and the factory owner should bend their energies toward turning out the finest quality of product possible. With a well manned instruction service there should be no falling behind in the onward progress of Canadian dairying.

Why Hogs are Scarce

A pork packing firm in Ontario, so it is stated, has recently had to import 1,000 hogs from Buffalo in bond in order to fill its English orders for bacon, owing to the scarcity of Canadian hogs. The reason assigned for this scarcity is that owing to the poor crops of coarse grains in Ontario during the past three years farmers have not been able to raise the requisite number of hogs for the home and foreign trade. Other packers report that unless the home supply is increased very materially they will be forced to bring in American hogs. It is also stated that at present prices, \$6.50 to \$6.75 per cwt. for bacon hogs, live weight, every shipper to the English market will lose about 1c. per pound.

This is the situation as presented from the packers' point of view. We have no quarrel with them for buying hogs outside of Canada, if they cannot get them at home, but we hardly think the reason given for the scarcity of Canadian hogs is the correct one. During the past three years Canada, and more particularly Ontario has produced as large crops of coarse grains as have been produced in the United States, where we are led to believe hogs are plentiful. The only exception in Ontario has been a marked falling off in the pea crop, due, as our readers well know, to the ravages of the pea weevil. But other good hog feeds have been grown in its place, and we hardly think the scarcity of hogs in this country at the present time is due to a lack of suitable feeds.