

The "Government authorities" did not mention these storms in their report and quite right they were.

Butter.—I have paid as much as 35 cents a pound for butter this autumn and very bad it was! The Edinburgh paper from which I cut the following is a good authority, and a perfectly unbiassed judge. A writer in one of the Montreal papers, who signs himself "The Farmer," is of the same opinion as the editor of the Scotsman:

Canadian eggs in England.—The McKinley tariff, although it has had many bad, has at least had one good effect in this country. It has opened up a new source of supply for eggs. Canadian eggs are now reaching England in large quantities, and, it appears, with satisfactory results to the exporters, one shipper having made a thousand pounds on a recent consignment. Most of the eggs which now come here would have gone into the States, but the McKinley tax of 2½d. per dozen effectually excludes them from the American market. To those interested in the question of transit charges, it will be surprising to hear that eggs can be brought from Canada to Great Britain at one penny less freight per dozen than from France—a difference which, no doubt, has contributed largely to the demand by the dealers for Canadian supply. Possibly the success of the egg trade may induce some of the Dominion farmers to try their hands at butter. Some experimental shipments were formerly made, but the quality was so abominably bad that the butter was almost unmarketable. What is wanted in Canada is an extension of the creamery system, by co-operation or otherwise. Without it there is not much hope of farmers obtaining a large market for dairy produce in this country.—*Edinburgh Scotsman.*

Creameries for the Province of Quebec.

To the Editor of the STAB:

Sir,—The great interest taken in Canada at the present time with regard to her trade relations with foreign countries and the great desire to develop new and profitable markets, has been caused to a great extent by the McKinley tariff. The putting into force of that act has been more injurious to the farmers than perhaps any other class of men in the Dominion, and as the farmers of the Province of Quebec depended to a great extent on the demand of the New England States for their produce, they felt the effects at once. Ontario, with her splendid system of cheese factories, and the North-West Territories, with her grain farms and cattle ranches, are already in a position to cater for the English or other distant markets, but Quebec, with no regular system of farming, is in a sad position. If she develops the same system as Ontario it will have a tendency to lower the price of cheese by over-production. She cannot compete against the North-West in either grain or beef, so butter seems to be the only article remaining for which there is a good demand. As the distance from markets increases, the object to be attained by the farmer is to get the greatest value into the least bulk. Butter answers the purpose, and for uniformly good butter there is an unlimited demand, but at present our butter is uniformly bad. To-day the shipments of butter to England from the United States is far ahead of Canada, and it is entirely owing to the uniformity of their creamery butter. Now, if Canada produced an equally good article, England would give her colony the preference. (1)

Lecture by M. A. Dellicour. (1)

Gentlemen,—It is not sufficient to recall to your remembrance, these general data on the manufacture of butter: you are acquainted with them already, and have practised them for many a day. Your efforts are specially exerted to insure their penetration into the daily practice of your people as soon as possible. And it is in the hopes of contributing to this work, so eminently useful, that I also propose to indulge myself in giving a concise account of some of the measures taken in Belgium to improve the cultivation of the country, and to increase its riches.

Associations—For a long time it has been recognised that the advice, even the example of intelligent farmers, could not succeed in securing promptly enough the diffusion of improvement realised in practice.

The desire for improvement was not guided by a well combined uniformity. The need of a general association made itself felt, and, before long each of our nine provinces had its agricultural society, which, united to a central body, supported the requests of agriculture with the government.

The Central Agricultural Association, as it is called, concerns itself with the more important matters, while the provincial clubs study the same problems from a more confined point of view.

These latter societies are composed of the Presidents and delegates of the local clubs which comprise within the sphere of their action several parishes. It is to the last of these that chiefly falls the duty of treating the special subjects relating to the different branches of regional cultivation.

All these societies of farmers, properly so called, and of persons who interest themselves in this pursuit, so ancient and yet so novel, enjoy favours from the government, as well as numerous subsidies granted by the provinces and by the communes.

It is owing to these committees, so powerful by the influence of their members, that we possess so many agricultural papers; it is owing to them that we have our competitions, our meetings, and, generally speaking, all the measures that have raised our country to the first rank in agriculture.

Progress does not stand still; our societies understand that; they have not fallen asleep over their early laurels, and they continue to seek by every means to extend agricultural instruction. When they are unable by their own unaided strength to succeed, they betake themselves to the higher quarters, and by persevering, succeed in loosening the strings of the common purse, and, with state-assistance, obtain the desired solution of their difficulties.

To these proceedings, Gentlemen, we have been peculiarly indebted latterly for the creation of 1. the body of "State-agronomes," 2. of dairy- and state-schools; 3. of practical and theoretical lectures.

Agronomes.—The agronomes at l'Etat, as they are called, are functionaries almost invariably selected from engineers who have passed through our agricultural universities. To their scientific acquirements must be joined thorough practical skill.

Appointed to the number of 2 or 3, according to the importance of the region assigned to them, their duty is to aid farmers with their advice, either in private conversations, or by letter; to direct the experiment-fields established everywhere, to define the value of fertilisers, their efficiency, their suitability to different soils, to superintend the choice of seed, and the introduction of new species, to watch the improvement and development of the different breeds of stock, to facilitate the introduction of select breeding stock, to promote

1. The effects of good training will soon change all this v. p. 3, 197a A. R. J. F

(1) N. B.—This lecture is the second part of an essay written by M. A. Dellicour for the Dairymen's convention at Sorel, 1890.