

The Ontario Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees.—Cattle Breeders' \$1; Sheep Breeders' \$1; Swine Breeders' \$2.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The name and address of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 20,000 copies of this directory are mailed monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College and each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; that is, to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the undersigned by letter on or before the 15th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animals. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

F. W. HOBSON, Secretary.
Parliament Buildings Toronto, Ont.

Farmers' Institute Department.

Reports concerning the work of the Farmers' Institutes in Ontario will be published weekly under this head; also papers prepared for this department by Institute workers. Secretaries and officers having announcements to make are invited to send full particulars to the Superintendent.

GRAIN FARMING vs. DAIRYING.

By JOSEPH E. GOULD.

GRAIN GROWING.

Under this head I do not class farmers who are engaged in mixed farming, nor do I include those who keep a couple of cows to make butter for their own use, but those who grow grain and cart it to the market expecting to get their chief returns therefrom. We are sowing to-day the same varieties of grains that were sown 300 years, yes, a thousand years ago. Forty years ago the farmer in this section grew from thirty to fifty bushels of fall wheat to the acre, and sold it at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel. What is being done now? Take the statistics for 1895 and we find the average yield of wheat for Ontario is less than fifteen bushels per acre, which was sold for less than seventy cents per bushel. Ask your selves if this is a march in the right direction. Let us consider this deplorable state of affairs for a moment and see if we can find the cause thereof. First, as to the yield. Forty years ago when this section was settled the land was new, nature had been storing up the fertility of the soil for centuries. Once the land was cleared it was only necessary to tickle the soil with a plow, and it responded with abundant crops of golden grain. But we have been improvident. Have we sold the fertility in handfuls? No, we carted it away in wagon loads of wheat to feed the hungry; in wagon loads of barley to quench the thirst of the thirsty, and in wagon loads of rye to raise the spirits of the same; so that there is no longer the necessary plant food left in the soil to nourish the seed and carry it forward to a successful harvest. Continued cropping and selling the crop without any return to the soil have so exhausted the plant food that the inevitable result has followed. It

has been stated that the farmer who follows these lines sells annually eight per cent of his land. These are the causes of the decline in yield. Second, if you go into a modern hotel during room at meal time you will see a man seat himself at the table, a waiter comes forward with a bill of fare, the man gives his order and the waiter brings him his food, and when he has finished he foots the bill. Now the man at the table represents England, and nearly every country in the world are more or less the waiters. Forty years ago the only countries of consequence exporting grain were Russia and the United States. Lately other countries have gone into the business, India, Argentine Republic, Uruguay, our great North-west, and some other countries to a smaller extent. The man at the table demanded (the average yearly, 1891 to 1895) 350,000,000 bushels of wheat in addition to all he grew. During that period we in Canada supplied only an average of 10,000,000 bushels annually. Now I ask you what chance we have to affect the price even should we, on the one hand, double our output, or, on the other hand, not ship a single bushel. The law of supply and demand regulates the price. We cannot affect the price as our contribution to the vast amount is so small. Did you ever figure the cost of growing an acre of grain? I have, but I give you D. M. McPherson's estimate. He is an authority on agricultural subjects. He places the cost at \$10.00 per acre. If we take the average yield for 1895 at fifteen bushels of wheat (and the report says less), and the price at seventy cents (and we didn't realize that), we have the sales of the acre of wheat amounting to \$10.50, an apparent margin of fifty cents after paying expenses. But this is only an apparent margin, as we have sold from \$4.50 to \$5.00 worth of fertility. We see, therefore, that grain growing is a losing speculation and unless a radical change is made the Sheriff will change the occupant of the farm, as he has already done in hundreds of cases, and hand over the land to loan companies and interest sharpers.

DAIRYING.

Now, let us turn our attention to a more inviting subject, dairying, and note the progress in that branch of agriculture during the present generation. The old brindle cow has given place to the dairy animal as finely bred as a racehorse. The slab-covered shed and the leeward side of a snake fence has given place to the modern cow palace, with its summer temperature and thorough ventilation, ensilage, clover hay, and abundance of suitable fodder, giving the cow summer conditions the year around, has taken the place of the straw stack and the browse in the woods. The seven months' milker, with five months' rest and about 75 pounds of butter a year, has given place to the 10½ months' milker with from 350 to 450 pounds of butter in the same time. Education along these lines has kept pace with other callings. Cheese and butter, in the creameries, are now made on scientific principles, and there is no chance of failure in making good articles, except carelessness and incompetency on the part of the maker. Paternal governments have worked wonders in the education of the dairymen and the sure result has followed. At the Chicago Exhibition Canada took 9.1 per cent. of the prizes in cheese, and did nearly as well in creamery butter. And why should we not? We have the best country in the world for dairying, a country with a good climate, a country free from contagious diseases, from violent storms and floods which cause destruction of life and property in other climes, a hardy and intelligent class of citizens, and the best water in the world. The man at the table demands annually, in addition to what he produces, nearly \$30,000,000 worth of cheese, and we in Canada furnish him with about 52 per cent., or about \$15,000,000 of what he buys. How is this brought about? The government has passed wise legislation prohibiting the manufacture for export of filled or skimmed-milk cheese, so that none but first-class goods are allowed to be exported. The result is that when our cheese is put on the English market branded "Canadian Cheese" it sells readily, because no person in England ever bought a pound of poor Canadian cheese.

As to our butter trade the results have not been so satisfactory, and the reason is not hard to see. I have no doubt that there are some ladies who make as good butter as is made in the creamery, but where there is one such the country over, there are nine who do not. The fault lies largely with the merchant who pays the same price for good, indifferent and bad butter. These are all mixed together by the shipper and shipped in hot cars and hotter holds of vessels, and, when it arrives in England and is put on the market as "Canadian butter," it is a guarantee of its quality, for it is not fit for wagon grease. However, a brighter era is dawning. The Dominion Government have completed a system of cold storage, by which

means our creamery butter (and no other should be shipped) can be put on the market of England in the same condition in which it leaves the creamery. The man at the table demands \$56,000,000 worth of butter in addition to his own product. Denmark supplies about 4.1 per cent. of that amount. Our percentage is very small. In 1895 we shipped \$860,000 worth, but in 1896 we had more than doubled our output (\$1,890,000). This is a very small percentage of the \$56,000,000 paid by England for this commodity. There is no reason why we in Canada should not make as good a showing in butter as we do in cheese. We can and do make in our creameries as good butter as is made in the world, and with a system of cold storage it only requires more cows and more creameries to effect the result. To sum the whole matter up, grain growing as I have shown you is a losing occupation and will continue to be so; whereas dairying, if conducted with skill, intelligence, and industry, keeping none but paying cows, weeding out all unprofitable servants, and feeding judiciously, is a sure road to success. It enriches the soil and enables the farm to grow heavier crops instead of exhausting the land.

Another most important thing to be considered is that the grain-growing farmer has so much to contend with. He commences to cultivate the ground as soon as the past year's crop is in the barn to get ready for the next year's crop; he works continually until the frost stops him; he is then idle for about five months, and has to spend a great part of his time sitting around the house, the village grocery, or sometimes in the bar-room. When he gets on the land in the spring he again works until the harvest is ended. He has all the vicissitudes of nature to contend with—late spring, too early a spring and followed by frost, spring too wet or too dry, summer ditto, occasionally thunderstorms and wind leveling the grain crop, and many other discouragements. And, if he escapes all these and has a good crop, he has had to work and wait for twelve months for his returns. And he never knew with any degree of certainty what he was likely to realize until the grain was sold and delivered. With dairying, on the other hand, affairs are different. The dairymen is not so subject to the changes of weather. He can under almost any conditions grow sufficient fodder to feed his cows. The feed is his raw material and the cow is his machine. He delivers his raw material to his machine in the morning and the machine deposits the product in the pail at night, and he knows the market value of it. He can thus regulate his expenses by his income, and does not have to run in debt; and, if he has a mortgage to lift, he can lay by each month the amount necessary to meet the engagement when it falls due. His employment continues the year round, no loafing around the bar-room or the corner store, but continuous occupation with the satisfaction that he sees a sure return every day for his labor.