

tural advantages which here exist for the manufacture of dairy products, it would seem that dairying should take a position second only to wheat-growing, as a source of wealth to the Manitoba farmer. Few portions of the world are so favored as Manitoba for the prosecution of dairying in all its branches. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the industry should be so guarded and encouraged as to produce the best results.

In Ontario, cheese manufacturing has developed wonderfully, and largely owing to the interest taken in the industry by the Government, the quality of the Ontario product stands high. In Manitoba a move was made by the local government a year or two ago to encourage high class dairying, but since then nothing has been done. At the meeting of the dairymen in Winnipeg last week, it was resolved to ask the local government to take steps to promote the development and good management of dairying in the province. Undoubtedly a great deal could be accomplished in the direction of high class dairying by the appointment of a skilled government inspector, whose duties would be to visit the various factories and give instructions in the methods necessary to produce the best qualities of goods. It is to be hoped the matter will receive favorable consideration from the Government. Manitoba is an agricultural country almost entirely, and the growth of the province will depend mainly upon the development of its agricultural resources. A little public money spent in the encouragement of so important an agricultural industry as dairying cannot therefore be unwisely invested.

Some figures given at the meeting of the dairymen will show the development of the cheese industry in Manitoba. In 1886 there were four cheese factories in Manitoba, and in 1888 there were twenty-one factories, representing an investment of about \$2,000 each. This year there were only two creameries (butter factories) in operation in the province. In butter-making there is great room for improvement, and it is not likely that the bulk of the butter made in the country will be of fair quality until the present promiscuous mode of making is succeeded by the co-operative or factory system of manufacture. Manitoba cheese, factory made, is of very good quality, but the bulk of the butter marketed here is of very indifferent quality. There is some excuse for the butter on the ground that the

great majority of our farmers have not been long established in the country, and they have not the facilities for making butter to advantage. A system of butter inspection, which has been advocated by some, would hardly have the complete result desired in the direction of improving the quality of our butter. Country merchants, who buy from the farmers, would be compelled to purchase, as they do now, largely regardless of quality. Competition compels this, for the farmer who receives a lower price for his butter than a neighbor is bound to make trouble. The only hope for our butter industry would therefore seem to lie in the abandonment of individual butter-making, in favor of the factory system. The factory system would also be a great relief to our country merchants, who are now compelled to handle the farmer's butter, though it is anything but a profitable business for them. The appointment of a butter inspector, while it would not likely have the desired effect of greatly improving the quality of butter made, would be a great convenience to the trade, both wholesale and retail, in buying and selling butter.

Owing to the rich natural grasses and fine climate, a much larger percentage of butter can be taken from milk in Manitoba than in most other countries. By the centrifugal system of butter-making, 4.75 pounds of butter can be taken from 100 pounds of milk. This is given as an average for a season, and was the result of a season's operations at the Joly creamery, in Manitoba. In Ontario the average of butter from 100 pounds of milk is said to be from 4 to 4.25 pounds. Professor Barre believes that by improved processes the yield of butter in Manitoba could be brought up to an average of 5.25. This is sufficient to show that we have a rich inheritance, and that instead of the stuff now marketed here, Manitoba should be producing a large quantity of first-class butter, such as would find ready sale in any market. Surely a little effort to improve the mode of butter-making is therefore desirable. The Manitoba Dairy Association, which has for its object the conserving of the dairy interests of the province, should receive every encouragement, both of a public and private nature, in furthering its laudable aims.

MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The new smelter at Vancouver the first in British Columbia, will be ready for

operation early in January. Ore from inland mines is already arriving. Now that ore can be treated in the province, it is expected that the mining interests will be given a great impetus. Heretofore the expense of shipping ore has been so great, that there has been little encouragement to mining enterprises. British Columbia must look largely to her mining wealth for her prosperity and development. There are vast quantities of medium and low grade ores which could be made to pay handsomely, with favorable shipping and reducing facilities, in addition to the many rich claims already discovered. Many rich discoveries were made during the past season, and with the better facilities now existing for working the mines, the prospects for the future are good. New companies are being formed to work the claims, and altogether the province would seem to be on the eve of a movement in the direction of developing the mineral wealth, such as it has not yet experienced. The local government is taking an active part in the movement to develop the mineral wealth of the province.

PRICES OF HOGS.

Hogs still hold up to high prices in the Winnipeg market, notwithstanding the easier tendency in outside markets. Packers have been trying to work prices down some, as they see that they cannot compete with the Chicago and Eastern Canada packers, at the high figures ruling here. Owing to light receipts, however, prices recede very slowly, but should receipts come in more freely, prices could not long be maintained at present values. At the prices ruling in the east, our packers are at a great disadvantage. In Ontario packing markets dressed hogs are worth about 6 to 6½ cents, and packers there claim that prices are too high, though quotations are from 1½ to 2 cents under Winnipeg prices. It will therefore be seen that our packers cannot compete to advantage with the eastern product. Parties holding hogs in Manitoba cannot therefore reasonably expect to obtain higher prices this season than are now current, unless it be that the number of hogs in the country is very much smaller than it is generally supposed to be. If Manitoba has no more hogs than will be required for consumption as fresh pork, then present prices may be maintained, though not advanced; but with a surplus, as there undoubtedly is, available for packing, present prices are higher than the situation will warrant.