

FARMING

VOL. XVII

FEBRUARY 27th, 1900.

No. 26

The Wheat Situation

For the past week or two the wheat situation has not been without signs of a general tendency towards higher values. Whether these will materialize or not is hard to say. A great deal will depend upon the condition of the growing crop from this on, and we must be prepared for all kinds of rumours regarding it started by speculators with a view to influencing the market in their favor. Though it is early for very definite reports regarding the growing crop, yet those that have arrived tend to show the crop as not being in the most satisfactory condition. Especially is this so in regard to one or two European countries and the crop of the Central Western States. The world's supply of wheat in sight is now estimated at 79,059,000 bushels as against 59,858,000 bushels a year ago, showing an increase of 19,201,000 bushels. Despite this fact, however, there seems to be a pretty general feeling among both legitimate and speculative traders that present prices for wheat are very reasonable and that any radical change in values would be in an upward rather than a downward direction. Some speculators reason that as wheat is the only great staple that has not followed the general advance in other lines, as iron, cotton, etc., higher prices may be looked for. Whether they reason correctly or not we cannot say at the present and can only wait till some of the factors now influencing the wheat situation have had further time to work themselves out.

Cheese Factory Returns

Interesting Comparisons Between Ontario and Prince Edward Island Factories

Though Ontario dairymen are well acquainted in a general way with what has been done in developing the dairy industry in the Maritime Provinces, there are many features of the details of the business, especially as carried on in Prince Edward Island, that may be new to them. Recently, in conversation with Mr. T. J. Dillon, whose splendid work in connection with dairying on the Island is well known, he pointed out that that industry was destined to reach very large proportions in the near future, especially in Prince Edward Island, where the farmers have taken hold of the business in a most systematic and up-to-date manner. Upwards of \$600,000 worth of cheese was produced on the Island last season, and in a very few years it is expected that this amount will be doubled, besides a large increase in the production of butter.

While the business is expanding very fast, dairymen on the Island are evidently not neglecting to keep up the quality of their product, and are seemingly bending their energies towards carrying on the business in the most economical way. We have before us the annual statement of the Hazelbrook Cheese and Butter Factory, one of the leading Island factories, for 1899. This factory opened on May 1st and closed October 31st. During this period 134 patrons supplied 1,722,021 lbs. of milk, showing an average of 3.63 per cent. butter fat. From this was manu-

factured 168,113 lbs. of cheese, an average of 10.24 lbs. of milk to a pound of cheese. The average price realized for cheese was 10.28 cents, and the patrons were paid 84.60 cents per 100 lbs. of milk, or 8.68 cents per lb. of cheese. The milk was paid for according to quality at the following prices per lb. for butter fat: May, 20 cents; June, 18 cents; July, 20 cents; August, 24 cents; September, 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents; and October, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents. At another Island factory, known as the Kensington, the lbs. of milk to a lb. of cheese were 10.29, and the average price per lb. of cheese 10.03 cents. The average per cent. of fat in the milk was 3.71, and the average price paid patrons per lb. of fat during the season was 21.286 cents. The average cost of hauling milk at this factory was 5.81 cents per 100 lbs.

These reports are certainly very satisfactory and compare favorably with the best factories of Ontario. We have before us the published reports of six factories in the leading dairy sections of Western Ontario, which do not show as good results as the ones we have mentioned. The pounds of milk to a pound of cheese in these six factories range from 10.65 to 11.04; the average price received per lb. of cheese from 9.70 cts. to 9.97 cts., and the price paid patrons per 100 lbs. of milk from 72.32 to 82 cts.

A comparison of these figures with those quoted from the Island factory reports seems to show that the latter render better service to their patrons than some of our western factories do. It may be asked why this is the case, to which question it might be difficult to give a satisfactory answer. Both the Island factories we name pay for milk according to its quality, which may account for the much better average obtained. That there is some good ground for believing this to be the case we find that the factory that gave the lowest average among the Ontario ones quoted also paid for milk according to its quality. Then there is the much higher prices which the Island factories received for their cheese to be accounted for, which we will not endeavor to explain here.

In the above it may be that the Ontario factories referred to were not the best, and consequently the comparison may be somewhat unfair to the factories of this province. Whether this is the case or not we are not able to say. The reports were taken from one of our local exchanges circulating in the dairy district referred to, and seemed to us to be a fair sample of factory work in Ontario. However, we would be pleased to receive reports from factories showing better results than the Ontario factories mentioned. In any event the comparison to us seems to be most valuable in showing the much better returns obtainable where cheese factories pay for milk according to its quality. It is too true that very few of our Ontario factories adopt this method of paying their patrons, and it is time that something were done to stir up their interest in this matter.

Canada's Great Fair

The annual meeting of the Industrial Exhibition Association was held on Feb. 20th, in the new civic buildings, Toronto. There was a large representation from the various organizations, agricultural and otherwise, which make up the membership of the association. The proceedings were