

and allows more sunlight which, in my experience, is of great advantage in producing a much firmer root, and a better keeper with more dry matter for feeding.

This being done no more is required except to watch for any weeds that may spring up, if so, go through and pull by hand, which is all that is needed until harvesting comes on.

4th. Harvesting and storing now commence which must, most assuredly, be done before frost sets in if possible, as frost causes the roots to become colored with spots and causes them to rot more readily. I would advise taking them up about the 20th of September and on dry afternoons, with as much sunlight as can be had, and by all means avoid pulling wet. I recommend hand topping, just hold the root in the left hand and with the right hand grasp the top and twist it off, then throw into the cart direct which can be driven between the drills, taking five drills at a time, watch closely that no weeds or leaves adhere to the roots, for that causes ultimate decay in the root house or cellar. If the above is closely followed and roots stored dry, the grower will have no difficulty in producing from twenty to thirty tons per acre of one of our most valued farm crops.

(Signed) R. R. SARGSTER,
Lancaster, Ont.

The Dairy.

BUTTER, MARGARINE. AND CHEESE IN 1895.

In its annual review of the provision trade the London *Grocer* says as to the above:

BUTTER.—This article has occupied a unique position during 1895. For many months in succession there was at first nothing but declining rates to record, as the result of over plentiful arrival of both Colonial and foreign descriptions, and in May and June the following were the lowest points:—Cork butter from 40s. to 68s. landed, best Irish creameries at 80s. to 86s. Dutch at 68s. to 80s., French at 66s. to 96., Danish and Swedish at 78 to 84s., Finns and Russians at 50s. to 76s., and Colonial at 36s. to 78s. per cwt for ordinary to finest makes, besides fresh (Brittany rolls) at 8s. 6d. to 13s. per dozen. Within the last four months, however, the trade has been almost revolutionised by the changes in the seasons, and the falling-off in the aggregate production, mainly through the drought in Australia, and up to nearly the end of October quotations rapidly advanced, when Cork butter fetched 100s. to 123s., choicest Irish creameries 132s. to 138s. Dutch 118s. to 128s., French 106s. to 124., Danish and Swedish 140s. to 146s., Finnish and Russian sorts 106s. to 130s., Colonial 126s. to 132s., Argentine butter (which began to arrive in September, 100s. to 130s. and creamery American and Canadian 100s. to 130s. per cwt with Brittany rolls (per doz) at 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. Since then, with a resumption of Australasian imports, the market has mostly pursued a downward course, and closes from about 20s. to 30s. under the topmost prices of the year.

MARGARINE and mixtures, which in the fore part of the year were much depreciated by the irresistible competition of the genuine product, immediately rose in estimation when the latter became scarce and dear, and augmenting business has latterly been

done at improving rates, the finest blends bringing 76s. to 88s. instead of only 66s. to 76s. at first.

CHEESE, almost without exception, has been one of the duller articles for sale in the provision trade during the greater part of 1895; for whereas others have had intervals of briskness with rising prices, this important edible has been under a commercial cloud, almost without a break, from one end of the season to the other. Plenty and cheapness, combined with unremunerative prices, are what holders have most complained about; and yet, although the two former characteristics are supposed to be conducive to an increased consumption, they cannot be said to have altogether led to so desirable a result in the present instance. Makers, consignors, and sellers of cheese have, therefore, been confronted with drooping markets nearly all the year through, and leaving Dutch out of the question, the closing rates for the leading sorts are much lower than those at the opening. In the first half of the year, common and useful qualities of English cheese were disposed of at from 36s. to 52s., and fine to finest at 60s. to 80s., with superbly choice Cheshire as high as 84s. to 90s. per cwt. Subsequently the quotations fell to 46s. and 26s. for ordinary and good medium kinds, to 66s. and 50s. for choicest dairies, and to 76s. and 70s. for anything specially selected, followed by only fitful rallies since. Fancy Canadian and States cheese were realised at 48s. to 52s., until the new season's make arrived in May and June, when the values of the best articles on offer on the spot declined to 40s. and 36s.; but after this there was some recovery, and prices for the pick of the quantity on show have since rebounded to 46s. and 48s., with heaps of stale and summer made description at 32s. to 40s. and low grades at almost any figure. Colonial cheese, which is now an item not to be left out in the general calculation, has moved on the same lines of depreciation, and quality that at one time commanded 46s. to 50s. and 52s. was afterwards forced off at from 28s. to 38s. per cwt, if not lower. Operations in Dutch cheese have been of an uneventful character, and the alterations in prices have been astonishingly few, uniformly ranging from 40s. to 52s. for Goudas, and from 42s. to 56s. for Edams, in the early part of the year, down to 36 to 46s. and 46s. to 52s. respectively in October, with a steady home and export demand.

SHORTHORNS IN 1895.

This has proved a most satisfactory year for breeders of the best class of Shorthorns. The prices for crack lots have been from time to time reported in *The Farmer* but it may be well to repeat them now at the close of the season. The Booth herd at Warlaby heads the list with 43 animals averaging £135 6s. 9d. Dathie's 24 yearling bulls at Collynie came next with £79, 8s. 1d. Thompson, of Inglewood's herd at dispersion sale made £45, 1s. 8d. for 86 old and young. Marr, of Uppernil, sold same day as Collynie's, made £42, 2s. 9d. for 23. At Maisoy Hampton, 48 head made £41, 15s. 2d. The sensation price of the year has just been made by the sale of Sir Lucius Studley (64882), for £700 to go to Buenos Ayres. This great Booth bull was brother of Prince Stephen, for Mr. Deane Willis got the same price £700 some years ago. Sir Lucius is a roan, calved at Warlaby, Nov. 1891, sire King Stephen, and has

in him the same blood as the great old bull Royal Riby. He was hired by Lord Polwarth for a season, and has left beautiful stock, his bull calves being exceptionally promising. He is himself a very compact bull of great quality; standing low and near the ground, he appears smaller than he really is; but his long, square hindquarters, deep thighs and flanks, and big girth, give him a symmetry and substance rarely found in combination with such quality and style as he can boast of. He is a very active mover and carries a fine head, but like many other high-priced beasts sent to South America not much more is likely to be heard of him.

FEEDING ROOTS.

Some interesting experiments have been made in Britain in fattening steers. The lot were divided and fed swede turnips and straw for the basis and then linseed cake. Decorticated cotton cake, chopped oats, and ground Indian corn were tried. Those fed on turnips alone got 150 lbs. daily and all the oat straw they cared to eat. Each of the other lots got 50 lbs. of turnips daily and 5 lbs. of the cake or meal. Those fed on 50 lbs. of swedes and 5 lbs. of linseed meal made the best gains. The turnip fed ones came next, and were close up and in excellent condition. Those which had received cotton cake came next, but far below the average, while those getting the 5 lbs. of Indian corn and 5 lbs. of oats came last. We have had in this country very few experiments along this line, and it would be interesting if our experimental stations would do some testing along the line of cheap feeding for beef. A comparison of feeding certain steers on turnips and straw and others on ensilage would be valuable to our farmers and should be of much benefit by showing which is the best and cheapest. In Scotland there are a great many cattle fattened on turnips and straw without any grain.—*Farming*.

GOVERNMENT AID TO THE DRESSED MEAT TRADE.

Ever since the British Government first put the embargo on Canadian cattle, we have constantly urged on those interested in the trade the advisability of shipping cattle over in the dressed beef form rather than on foot. We have repeatedly pointed out the many advantages to be derived from thus carrying on this export trade. It is certainly the most humane way of so doing, while the slaughtering on this side of the water would result in the starting of several industries that would be profitable.

The recent embargo laid on Canadian and American sheep by the British Board of Agriculture seems to have stirred up the Canadian Government to try its hand at giving the dressed meat trade a start. At a meeting of breeders at Guelph, Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, outlined a plan which he had recommended to the Canadian Government for adoption, and to which he had received their assent. Provision is to be made for the purchase of about 500 head of cattle every week during the shipping season at the port of Montreal, the cattle to be slaughtered at that place, and sent over to Great Britain "chilled" in cold storage chambers, and cold storage chambers are to be provided on the other side at

convenient depots where the meat will be retailed. The administration of the whole matter is to be taken up by the Canadian Government, and Prof. Robertson estimates that the whole business can be managed without any loss or charge, and would, indeed, show a profit.

Prof. Robertson considers that "the government control of this business would win for it a status and name in Great Britain at once which no private individual or joint stock company could ever secure. The prestige of powerful government administration, the reputation of the government in having successfully assisted in putting Canadian cheese and Canadian butter on the British markets in the best way, would vanquish the active hostility of retail butchers, without any keen commercial struggle involving loss. The government would be in a position to select the pick of the cattle at Montreal, and it would effectually prevent any such sentiment being foisted upon the consumers in Great Britain towards the dressed beef trade from Canada, as would make them think of it as a 'cheap John' affair, for the disposal only of the beef from the refuse cattle of the country, which were not fat enough or large enough to be shipped alive.

"It need not be managed by the government for longer than one year, for, doubtless, a joint stock company or other commercial concern could be formed to carry it on thereafter."

The threatened exclusion of all live stock from even landing in Great Britain makes this new departure of the Canadian Government the more timely, as, should such an order be issued, the trade in Canadian cattle would be utterly put an end to, until such time as slaughter and packing houses could be established, which would take time. If by starting a dressed meat trade the government can induce a private company to take the matter up, they will be entitled to the thanks of the farming community, more especially since a dressed meat trade can be continued all the year round, while the shipments of live cattle are practically confined to the period between May and the middle of November.

The shipping of the beef in a chilled state will ensure its landing on the other side in first-class order, thus placing it in a far more saleable condition than the "frozen" beef sent from Australia, which is not greatly in demand on account of its unsightly appearance when thawed out, and, even after being cooked, this appearance is evident. This is a most important point, as, in Great Britain, good looks and quality count for everything in the buyer's and consumer's eyes, and prices for things range accordingly. If, then, the suggested arrangements are carried out, a great development in feeding cattle may be expected in the near future in Canada.—*Farming*

CANADIAN LIVE STOCK EXPORT TRADE.

The figures for the export trade in live stock from Montreal during the past season show a gratifying increase over those of last year, although the figures for cattle are still far below that of 1890. During 1895 there left Montreal 96,546 head of cattle and 215,508 sheep, while the horse trade has increased about 800 per cent. over that in 1894, totalling some 12,000 head.

These figures are most encouraging, and, in view of the inauguration of a