

HOME AND FARM.

Messrs. D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit, Mich., publish a *Seed Annual* which is worth the attention of cultivators, both of flowers and vegetables. Messrs. F. & Co. make the growing and sale of onion seed a leading specialty, and give so much information on onion culture as to make their *Annual* of very probable value even to Nova Scotia onion growers and gardeners. Their address is D. M. Ferry & Co., Detroit, Mich.

The *Weekly Monitor*, of Bridgetown, strongly, and, as we think rightly, advocates the establishment of butter factories on a large scale in the County of Annapolis. "Really good butter," says the *Monitor*, "is somewhat of a rarity even in this favored district." If this is true of Annapolis, the remark would probably be still more so of the country surrounding Halifax. Every householder knows how inferior is the quality of the larger portion of the butter that comes into the city, and that it is quite a matter of painstaking negotiation, and foresight, to secure this article of necessity of tolerable quality. The fault must lie in carelessness of make, and when we see the slovenly and hard to mouth farming in some districts, we are not much surprised. It seems evident that it would be better, as the *Monitor* again suggests, both for the farmer and the consumer, if the former would combine to establish factories. For no article is there a more sure demand than for really good butter, and none is more certain of always commanding its price. We heard a lady, who controls one of the first boarding establishments in the city, say the other day: "If it costs a dollar a pound I don't care, but I must have it good;" and we happened last week to hear the proprietor of a grocery in Lockman Street reject some butter which a farmer proposed to sell to him on account of its quality. It was not very bad, but the grocer said he could not take it, as he made a point of never buying any but the best. This is not, it is true, always the case; sometimes "storekeepers do not like to refuse poor butter from a good customer, for fear of offending, and thus losing custom, and the public must buy because it is often the case that there is no other to be had," but if factories were established, and, as they doubtless would be, were properly managed, their products would inevitably command leading prices, and almost certainly pay their shareholders good dividends.

We unite with the *Monitor* in considering this so important a matter to the Nova Scotia farmer, and so certainly calculated to put money in his pocket, that we reproduce a letter published by the *Monitor* from the Hon. W. T. Haines, of Waterville, Maine, on the subject, which gives details and points calculated, as we think, to stir the energy of our farmers into co-operating for the benefit, as well of themselves, as of the public at large:—

"This," said Mr. Haines, "is a matter that I wish to see followed up. I have both a private and public interest in it. Personally it means to me the facilities of restoring my farm to a good state of cultivation, and a cash income from cows while doing it. Publicly I believe it to be the thing most needful in our farming community to restore old farms to prosperity, and lead to the cultivation and best use of the good soil of this Kennebec Valley, that is being fast run out by the present policy of selling hay. If you will ask any old cross-roads storekeeper who has been in business forty years, what class of farmers he has noticed to be the best customers and pay their bills with the most promptness, he will tell you those who have kept cows and made butter. This you may call a natural indication of what the most profitable farming should be in Maine.

"But the day of making butter in the kitchen is fast passing away. Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont have long ago relieved the faithful housewife of this form of drudgery, and these states are now well dotted with butter factories, and from the beginning the business has been as a class a successful one—not like the cheese factories and other farm booms we have seen in Maine, to promise well in the start and then burst like a bubble. On the contrary, they have all assumed a conservative and stable position in the business world from the beginning. There are already a number of factories in Maine, and so far as I can learn, they have been remarkably successful for new enterprises. But our farmers are far behind Massachusetts and Vermont in dairying, especially in the quality of their stock, and in its care and feeding, and in actual results obtained; when in reality I believe we have naturally the best opportunity for this business of any of the New England states. Our pasturage is far superior, and our hay crop could be made more than equal in quantity, our climate being particularly adapted to very nutritious herbage. Two things are yet to be learned by our common farmers, and these are the value of a root crop, such as beets, turnips, mangles, etc., and the silo. A large part that is paid for western grain had better be spent in labor in producing these two important articles at home.

"But it was of butter factories that I wish to speak; and I wish to say that Waterville should and could have one if it will. A stock company can be formed of \$1000 capital; the shares can be sold among those who wish to be patrons at \$10 each; a building rented near the depot, the machinery and equipments all made and put in running order for business, for less than the \$1000. Now this is a very small stock company, but it is all the capital that is needed, and the stock should be held by those who get the benefit of the enterprise directly, and then if it pays, they are the ones that should make the profit, and if not they could stand the loss. All that is then needed is the right man. I mean a man of quiet dealing, and one that will make all patrons of the factory come up to the same rule, some one in whom the people at large have confidence. He should be a prompt and accurate business man. Such a man must know how, or else be willing to spend a little time or money to visit well run factories and get a full knowledge of the business, which is simple and can be readily obtained. With a location near our depot we could gather cream from a large area of

country by rail, in addition to what would be gathered by teams. Five hundred cows will start a profitable business, but there is no reason why Waterville cannot have a creamery of four times this capacity. Good butter will always command the highest market price; as far as I can learn averaging in those factories now in operation in Maine from 20 to 22 cts. per pound, and no labor beyond the setting of milk in the creamery. I am ready and willing to help this matter forward in any way that I can; and with the efforts of a few live farmers and business men, it can be put in operation the coming season."

Trout fishing during the winter months is now prohibited under a heavy penalty. Every trout fisherman ought to rejoice at the action of the Dominion Government in the matter, and it is to be hoped means will be found to render the prohibition effectual. In the first place trout taken in winter are not only thin and poor, but abound with parasites, including tape-worms. In the second place there is no sport in fishing in a hole in the ice. The fish are hungry, and crowd to take any bait with greediness. In the third place the practice is exterminatory, and there is no excuse for the avarice and recklessness which will not scruple to denude a country of its valuable natural products. It is said that it is a common practice to catch ten or twelve dozen, pick out a dozen of the largest, and throw the rest away. This, like the reckless destruction of the forests and the buffalo, is ruinous. It is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs with a vengeance. It is satisfactory to learn from a correspondent of one of our contemporaries, that many persons living in the vicinity of the lakes are in favor of the change in the law, wisely recognizing that their own interests lie far more in the preservation of the fishing, with consequent dollars from anglers, than in ruining the lakes by winter fishing. Here again we hope that our farming friends will continue to see their own interests clearly.

Cognate with the advantages to the farmer of the manufacture of butter by co-operative action are those of the production of cheese by similar means. That the Dominion exports more cheese than any other agricultural product is a fact not sufficiently known. From the Trade and Navigation returns for 1886, which is the last year for which they are complete, we find the value of agricultural products was as follows:—

Cheese.....	\$7,291,685	Peas.....	\$2,207,120
Cattle.....	5,916,551	Flour.....	1,875,979
Barley.....	5,724,693	Eggs.....	1,728,082
Wheat.....	5,190,424	Swine.....	1,184,196
Horses.....	2,232,623	Apples.....	477,414
		Potatoes.....	492,802

An exchange has the following on this subject:—

The above figures (the same we have quoted,) hardly do justice to the cheese exports, as the year 1886 was a very poor one for that industry. The value of our cheese exports in 1885 amounted to over eight millions and it is expected that when the returns for 1887 are complete, they will show a value of about nine millions. This industry is not one that can be easily overdone. Great as our exports are at present, there is no reason why in a few years they should not increase to twenty millions. Our country possesses great climatic and geographical advantages, and the production should increase year by year. The efforts put forth at the Colonial and Indian exhibition are beginning to bear fruit in the extension of our market and now the Canadian article is sold beside the English Cheddar, which it fully equals.

The production of cheese does not tend to impoverish the soil as do other branches of agriculture, and thus has an additional attraction for the farmer.

OUR COSY CORNER.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.—Decayed vegetables should not be left in the cellar, and cellars should be whitewashed to be kept sweet and clean.

Half a teaspoonful of common salt dissolved in a little cold water and drunk will instantly relieve heartburn.

No matter whatever fancy soap may be on the washstand, a piece of old brown Windsor or white Castile should find a place on it also.

A good substitute for buttermilk is a thin batter made of flour and tepid water, and allowed to remain long enough to sour.

Many very fine cooks will not use baking powder, soda, or cream of tartar in cake making, while others think it impossible to do without it.

When laid away for any length of time, linen should be washed, rough dried without bluing, and laid in loose folds without much weight on it.

Buttonholes in children's garments are apt to tear out, especially in waists and drawer bands. If you will stitch a strong cord immediately in front of the buttonhole you will have no more trouble of this kind.

For a burn or scald, make a paste of common baking soda and water, apply at once and cover with a linen cloth. When the skin is broken apply the white of an egg with a feather; this gives instant relief, as it keeps the air from the flesh.

Since so many women have to spend so much of their lives in the kitchen it should be made a place of comfort. Be sure and have a lounge or easy chair there.

Women who do their own work regard their rough hands with great distress. To make and keep them soft wear old gloves at night, just rubbing in an ointment made by heating the white of an egg to a froth and stirring it into a cup of lard, to which is added one teaspoonful of glycerine. Keep the mixture in a covered jar, excluding the light. Perfume may be added.

For a good tooth powder mix together one ounce of powdered orn root, one dram of gum camphor, two drams of powdered myrrh, half an ounce of prepared chalk.