

Danish and Irish creamery, excel it in quality, and as its eggs, considering the time in transit, rank well in the market, owing to their care in packing and their cleanliness, it is manifest that Canada has only to pursue the honest and excellent course of manufacture and trading which she has inaugurated, to enable her to hold her position against all competitors in the English market. Manchester and district is the market, above all, worth cultivating. P. B. MACNAMARA. Canadian Commercial Agency.

[Note.—Among other large items of Manchester imports from Canada in the summer of 1903, were 1,002,335 bushels of wheat.—Ed.]

Our Scottish Letter.

The first month of 1904 is gone, and we are beginning to ask whether the year to come is to be like the one behind. Rain has fallen to a considerable extent, and farming operations are very nearly upside down. Plowing in this country under normal conditions proceeds thuswise: About the middle of October the stubbles begin to be plowed; when these are turned off an attack is made on the lea or pasture land, and last of all the roots or red land is plowed. This winter, on account of the excessive rainfall, the order has been reversed. Horses could not go on to the stubbles, which were soaked. The leas or turf soils have, therefore, been dealt with, and the stubbles postponed. Now there is nothing to do. The wet weather has compelled the withdrawal of forces from the stubbles; carting operations are also at a standstill, the ground being so soft that carts cannot go over it, and, withal, the winter has been so "open" that now the leas begin to show growth in the furrows. While you are having a regular old-timer Canadian winter, we are having one which probably only a Maritime Province man could moderately enjoy. Even my limited experience of a Canadian winter leads me to think that a winter such as you are having is preferable to perpetual drippings with which we are familiar here. Let us hope we are not to have a repetition of the experiences of 1903.

Various subjects of interest have been debated at our club meetings during the winter. Good work is being done by these organizations, which take the place of your Institutes. Here such organizations are voluntary. The Government departments do nothing for us; the result is a large independence of thought and expression, and straight talking, very often to the detriment of the Government department. When the powers that be subsidize, they are not likely to be so frankly criticised as when they leave farmers to plow their own furrow. The Board of Agriculture is here being talked to about its swine fever policy. Edinburgh and the Lothians generally are up in arms against the plans and methods of the Board. The next thing will be an attack in

Parliament. The theory is that the Board's plan is more likely to increase the ravages of the fever than to allay them. This, however, is an exaggeration. The Board sent many hundreds of thousands in an effort to stamp out the disease, which failed. It now resolves to let the disease run its course, but schedules the area within which it is found. This does not tend to the despatch of business. As a matter of fact, it cripples trade, as the swine cannot be moved out of the scheduled area, even for slaughter. There is a want of tact on the part of our present Minister of Agriculture, the Earl of Onslow. He says things unwisely, and possibly his remarks on some points may come home to roost.

Subjects with which you are little familiar in Canada interest us greatly here. The Systems of Land Tenure is one of these subjects. Any attempt to master the intricacies of such a theme must appear wearisome to those accustomed to the simple methods of dealing with land in a new country, where there is abundance for all and to spare. Here there is a land famine, and it may surprise you to learn that in the Border and Lothian districts the rent of land is advancing. What silver-lining appears in the cloud which hangs over agriculture to warrant this hopeful frame of mind is not known. The main cause is, undoubtedly, the love of Scotchmen for agriculture and the scarcity of good land. In the Lothians and on the Borders the chief customers for land are farmers from the western part of the country—the districts in which dairying is carried on. As a rule, dairy farmers can take more money out of land than others—mainly because they work harder and live in a more frugal style. The old-time Border or Lothian farmer was a swell. He kept his hunting horse, and rode to hounds two days a week. The newcomer does not know much about that kind of life, but he can give the landlord a bigger rent than the others, and that suits the pocket of the landlord better. Expensive habits and aping the manners of the aristocracy must in these days give place to industry, thrift, and stock-raising.

Dairy farming was prosperous in 1903. There is a growing disposition to make it more so in 1904. How far success will crown these efforts remains to be seen. Canada may take encouragement from the fact that the best incentive to progress here has been the high quality of Canadian cheese during the past season. At a recent meeting a leading gentleman in dairying affairs, Sir Mark J. McTaggart Stewart, Bart., M.P., referred to the report that a sample of Canadian cheese had been sold at 71s. 9d. per cwt. of 112 lbs.; that is, at the rate of about 15 cents per lb. He urged dairy farmers here to wake up, and certainly there is every disposition on their part to do so. Last year the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright outdistanced both Wigtownshire and Ayrshire. The last-named county has resolved to

adopt a system of itinerant instruction in cheese-making, similar to that which has proved so successful in the neighboring counties. There is plenty of room for all, and good cheese will always command a big price.

HORSES.

Preparing Horses for Spring Work.

A large majority of farmers require more horses for work during the farming season than during the winter months. As a consequence some of them run idle from the time the ground freezes in the fall until it is fit to work in the spring. In most cases the owner wishes to winter these idle horses as cheaply as possible, and while he may give sufficient food to prevent them failing very much in flesh, on account of actual or comparative idleness they have lost muscular and respiratory tone, and the flesh they still retain is not of an enduring nature. It is, of course, of horses that have been wintered in this way we wish to speak. Those that have been more or less regularly worked or driven during the winter months will require no special fitting, as they will be in a condition to go to work without. Whether idleness, and consequent depletion of the functions mentioned during a few months of each year is beneficial; whether it conduces to longevity; whether the animal is better fitted to perform hard labor after he has been properly fitted than his brother that has constantly been kept in working form, we will not discuss at present. The fact remains, that he has been allowed to get out of shape for work, hence it is wise we should take means to bring him back to form before asking him to perform the labors of a horse. We claim that this cannot be properly done in a short time, and also that it requires care, time and intelligence to do so. At least six weeks should be allowed for this preparation. Assuming that regular farm work will in all probability commence about the middle of April, we should commence a systematic preparation of the horses about the first of March. We will grant that the muscular, respiratory and digestive systems have lost tone as the result of comparative inaction for three or four months. Under ordinary conditions no medicinal agents are required or advisable. Of course, if any disease is present, it should be treated, but the common practice of commencing the fitting process by administering to each animal a drastic purgative for the purpose of "cleaning him out" is irrational and harmful. Purgatives in all cases deplete the patient more or less, and, as a consequence, should not be given except in cases where some abnormal condition which indicates purgation be present. Then, again, we do not recommend the use of commercial stock foods. A healthy animal will be able to digest and assimilate a sufficient quantity of food without the aid of drugs and medicines to stimulate the digestive glands, and, in many cases, cause fatty degeneration and disintegration of tissue. Doubtless some of said foods cause idle or comparatively idle horses to lay on flesh rapidly, and the coat to assume a glossy appearance, but in many cases this is done at a loss of constitutional energy, and unless the administration of the drug be continued the animal will lose flesh and appearance much faster than he gained them. We think the proper method is to commence a systematic method of feeding and exercising without the use of drugs in any shape. If the horse has been wintered on straw, roots, silage, and a little grain, the change of food should be gradually made. As we have frequently stated in these columns, in order to avoid digestive derangement in all classes of stock, all changes in the nature or kind of food should be made slowly. Of course, we depend upon hay and oats principally to fit our horses and keep them fit for work. The change from straw to hay should be made by giving a little hay at first, gradually increasing the quantity, and consequently gradually decreasing the quantity of straw consumed. In the course of a week or ten days he may be allowed all the hay he will eat. The



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