

average for seven months at least 4 lbs. of butter a week. Many will go over this if fed well; some, of course, will fall below it; but I believe this quantity will be about the average from twenty-five good cows, if well and abundantly fed. In addition, each cow will rear and fatten one hog; that is, she will (provided the hogs have plenty of clover pasture and good care), keep in good order more than two, perhaps almost three, hogs, and in the fall one will sell for more than enough to fatten the rest, and I always find that each cow will thus furnish one hog worth at least \$10 to \$12. The hogs will almost or quite pay for all labour, leaving the butter product clear to the credit; this, if of the best quality, will certainly be worth 20 cents to 22 cents per pound—say \$24 each cow. The calf will almost winter the cow if well reared, and you have plenty of pasture. The gross return of 25 cows will thus yield in butter nearly \$600. The great advantage of this course seems to be the absence of expensive labour. Of course, horse-power churns must be constructed, and labour of attendance reduced to its minimum. If twice this number of cows were kept, the attendance would be the same; but at milking time there would of course be required nearly twice as much assistance. I am told by men who have gone into this branch of farming that the above prices are too low for the produce of a good cow; but if an inferior cow is kept, and inferior butter made, probably the price may be too high. We have two cows now on the farm that have done one-half better for many years, but they are exceptions to any general rule.

The Little Falls Dairy Shipments.

We have now the official returns from the freight agents at Little Falls, showing the quantity of dairy products shipped from this market during the year 1870. We give the figures below, showing the quantity shipped by rail for each month during the year:—

	BUTTER.		CHEESE	
	Pkgs	Pounds.	Boxes	Pounds.
January	42	2,621	1,829	122,343
February	126	8,049	421	28,179
March	24	16,849	4,420	29,452
April	481	28,813	3,645	23,942
May	142	8,612	9,137	580,859
June	16	954	14,791	944,252
July	6	329	15,978	1,021,385
August	30	1,971	25,020	1,557,988
September	106	7,130	18,975	997,536
October	261	16,396	11,693	735,910
November	253	13,593	6,911	464,618
December	221	14,229	3,193	206,186
Total	1,958	121,349	113,170	7,178,639

In addition, there were shipped by canal during the year 23,240 boxes of cheese, amounting to 1,546,219 pounds, which, added to the shipments by rail, make a total of 136,410 boxes of cheese, weighing 8,724,858 pounds.

From the above table of railroad shipments, we see that the largest deliveries were in the month of August, by about 10,000 boxes. The shipments for June, July and September, are very nearly the same for each month.

Correspondence.

Editorial Correspondence.

No. 1.

THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WASHINGTON, May 29th.

SIR,—I have been examining the buildings, gardens and grounds connected with the Agricultural Department of the United States, and have seen much that has been very interesting and instructive. With an enlarged apprehension of the value of agricultural products, and the position these occupy in the grand aggregate of national wealth, this department has been created and is now conducted with a view to the increased development of the science and practice of agriculture. It is not designed to take the place of an agricultural college, or in any manner to give elementary instruction in the cultivation of fruits, grasses or cereals, but to furnish information based upon actual experiment upon particular subjects, and to place within the reach of those who desire to make experiments the facilities for so doing. To this end an Agricultural Museum has been established, in which are collected samples of all varieties of grains, and models of fruits and root crops, from every State in the Union; so that one, by comparing the quality of the samples of any grain from Maine with the samples of the same grain from Georgia, or from any other State, may learn the respective capabilities of these States for the production of any particular grain. The same may be done in fruits, for by the untiring industry and great skill of Mr. Glover, who in more senses than one is a model man, very accurate models of the leading kinds of the different fruits are so arranged that one may see at least the external appearance of say the Baldwin Apple, as it grows in Massachusetts, in New York, and in Illinois, and from the size, form, and colouring, obtain a very accurate opinion of the character of the apple as grown in the several sections there represented. It was interesting to notice the changes that difference of location makes in our well known fruits, and though it is not possible to indicate precisely what changes have been made in the flavour of the fruit by these causes, yet to one measurably acquainted with fruit, the external appearance of any specimen is not a bad exponent of the flavour. And in this way, by comparing specimens from different States, one is able to form some opinion of the adaptation of any State to the cultivation of any particular variety of the apple, or of any other of the leading fruits.

So also in root crops, taking the potato as an example, there are models, exact in form and colouring, of all the leading kinds grown in each State; and one may, in a short time, by a careful study of these samples, ascertain

what are the leading varieties grown in any particular State, and how they compare in appearance with the same varieties when grown in any other State.

Besides, there is a collection of the substances which are made from particular product, showing at a glance its economic uses. Taking petroleum as a sample, it is shown there in its crude state; then as refined, with all the varieties of dyes which are obtained from it. Or a fibre-producing plant is shown in the raw state, with all the products into which it can be profitably wrought. There are also gathered specimens of insects useful in the arts or manufactures, so arranged that their entire natural history may be learned at a glance. Take for instance the silk-producing insects; these are all brought together in a group, and of each will be found the male and female moth, then the egg, the worm in different stages of growth, the cocoon, the raw silk, and the manufactured silk.

Here, too, one may learn all that is known of injurious insects. Under the head of the subject you wish to investigate, for instance the apple, will be found a list of insects that destroy or injure the leaves, another of those injuring the bark and wood, another of those that prey upon the fruit; and of each of these insects, as far as possible, are well preserved specimens, in addition to accurate drawings, showing the insect in all its stages of development, through its various metamorphoses, and how, when and where it commits its ravages, and the best known methods of prevention and cure.

Thus it will be seen there is here laid the foundation of such a collection of specimens and models and books, as will enable any student of agriculture, or horticulture or pomology, or any one interested in the manufacture of any of the products of these branches of industry, to learn by actual inspection all that is at present known in relation to these subjects, and so be able, with a clear and comprehensive understanding of the whole matter, to direct his exertions in such a way as to secure the most expeditious and most profitable results.

The same purpose pervades the operations out of doors. These are under the direction of Mr. Saunders, as able and energetic in his department as is Mr. Glover in his. And just here I may say that any one visiting this department with the desire of obtaining information, will find both of these gentlemen ready to give them every facility in their power, and politely attentive to all their inquiries. Many thanks are due to them for the kind attention which I received, and the generous devotion of their valuable time in showing and explaining the various items which were continually attracting my attention and inducing inquiry.

But I must reserve an account of the out-of-doors department of this Agricultural Bureau for another letter.