

# DAIRY AND DAIRYMAN

## & RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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## Its No Time To Quit Dairying

### Europe is Slaughtering Milch Cows for Meat and Future for Canadian Dairyman Looms Gigantic

By I. M. ROSS, Canada Food Board.

shortage of butter, due to the war, is 300,48,784 pounds. Of this vast amount Canada sold only 7,123,568 pounds to the Motherland last year. The disproportion is striking.

It is true that there are more milch cows in Canada to-day than there were in 1914, but the numbers are relatively small when we compare them with the figures for such distinctive countries as Denmark and, indeed, England itself. In 1914 there were 2,673,286 milch cows in Canada; to-day there are approximately 3,500,000.

Canada has only about one-seventh the number of cows of the United States. She has fewer than Great Britain and Ireland; fewer than France and many more than Denmark. The French cow population has fallen off by 21 per cent. as a result of the war. The British cow population is still normal.

#### Our Exports Increasing.

Why doesn't Canada increase the size of the milch

cow herds? It is a certainty that this European shortage will create an overwhelming demand not only for dairy products, but also for cattle. Something has to be done to replace the 28,000,000 head that Europe has been obliged to send to the shambles. It is gradually strengthening where dairy products are concerned. The following table of exports goes to prove this:—

	1913	1917.
Cheese .....	155,216,000 lbs.	180,733,426 lbs.
Butter .....	828,423 "	7,390,960 "
Condensed milk ...	338,845 "	15,858,096 "

Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture, sees great possibilities for Quebec and Ontario capturing while the Maritime Provinces, besides sharing in the markets of the old land, should be able to command an ever increasing trade with the Eastern States in butter and cheese, he believes.

The three million odd milch cows that are scattered over the country at the present time represent more than the milk supply. The butter-making, cheese-making, condensed milk and ice-cream factories depend on them. So that there are more forces at work where the dairy farmer is concerned than the average man or woman suspects when they are raising an outcry about the price of milk.

#### The Consumer's Side of It.

In fact the consumer has himself to thank in large measure for the retrograde movement which is apparent in the dairy business. He has not been using enough milk. In the same breath the Canada Food Board says to the dairy farmer: "Go ahead full age the milch cows!" and to the public: "Use more milk. Encourage the dairyman!"

Remember this! Milk and all its products are the cheapest forms of animal food on the market to-day. The price of milk has not increased to the same extent as the prices of other foods.

Skimmed milk should figure more prominently in every woman's list of substitutes. It is good fare. It stimulates growth and is wholesome at all times. Let the consumer do his part and the producer will soon take his cue!

It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that the daily consumption of milk by the population of Canada is one-half pint per day per capita. The more skimmed milk used in Canada the more cream there will be to make into butter and cheese. Milk can only be sent overseas in restricted quantities, condensed or powdered. But butter and cheese are used in immense quantities. The Canadian soldier gets an ounce of cheese a day in his rations, 1 ounce of milk powder and 2 ounces of butter. Besides this, the civilian population of Europe is in dire need of the fats which we are not producing in them as freely as we might.

There need be no skepticism about the foreign market for dairy products. It is a reality. And it stretches into the future with infinite possibilities.

Anyone who is expecting to raise a number of hogs during the coming season, should try to get some seed of an early maturing corn, such as Quebec Yellow, for use in the finishing period next fall. With the price of grain as high as it is, hogs may be pastured during the summer. The hogs come off the pasture, and might probably be "hogged down" as they do in the corn belt of the United States. It would help to sow rape between the rows of corn at the last cultivation. In this way a large number of hogs might be finished on a small acreage without much labor.—G. R. Rothwell, C.E.F., Ottawa.

It is usually quite hard to convince a man what is good for him when his face is set in the other direction. In the same way, it is not the easiest thing in the world to lead an industry along the road leading for ultimate, rather than immediate advantage.

This is how it is with the dairy industry in Canada at the present time. It has a grouch on—so end of a grouch. It is kicking every inch of the way, and, naturally, is not gaining much momentum. This is a pity for its own sake, as well as for the sake of the consumer.

In plain English, the dairy farmer is bidding fair to miss the best opportunity ever presented to him. He is being penny-wise and pound-foolish by putting the brake on an industry which should be one of Canada's greatest after the war. The trouble is that he is not looking beyond to-day. He is meandering around in a circle and failing to see his problems in the spotlight of national economic advantage. It does not take much perspicacity to realize that the dairyman who helps his country now is going to help himself in the future, and in war time personal relations must be subservient to the national cause.

The dairy farmer has taken cold feet and the consuming public has got to help him warm them up. He raised the price of milk and immediately people jumped on him—very unreasonably, too. He had a whole lot of problems to meet that Mrs. Housewife knew nothing about. If she had she would not have been so ready to blame him. There is this to remember—that since the beginning of the war the price of cows has gone up 50 per cent., feeds 75 per cent., and labor 75 per cent. During this period the increase in the price of milk has been under 30 per cent.; butter has advanced about 40 per cent. and cheese 50 per cent.

#### Price Up—Consumption Down.

As the price went up, consumption went down. The dairy farmer was discouraged. He was having the time of his life securing labor. Two years ago the cost of labor on a dairy farm ranged from \$25 to \$30 a month. Now it is anywhere from \$37 to \$60 and hard to get at that. And for some time the dairy farmer has been asking himself: Is it worth it?

He has not seen his way very clearly and he has been kicking so hard that he has not had much chance to progress. He sees a cloud hanging over the dairy industry and feels the lack of appreciation as the part of the consumer. If the sky were as clear as in 1914; if the Atlantic were as free of danger; if there were as much shipping space available as before the war—all would be well. He would go ahead. As it is, he can only see the difficulties of export and feel the lack of response on the part of the public. What he is discounting altogether is the fact that after the war the dairy industry of Canada may be fairly expected to assume gigantic proportions.

#### And why?

Because Europe to-day, in her dire need, is killing off her breeding animals. This is the kind of thing that all nature rebels against. In the final analysis, she exacts her toll for such wanton destruction—but that is her lot to be, when there are starving people clamoring for meat.

#### Great Britain's Markets for Us.

Not only that. In the past Britain has imported much of her butter from markets which are now cut off for various reasons—Russia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, for instance. Her dairy imports from foreign countries have far exceeded those from her own possessions. In future she will lean more on her colonies for dairy products. And of all her colonies she will lean most on Canada!

This is one salient point for the dairy farmer to remember when he is facing odds. Britain's



### Canada First in Food Production Per Capita

Dr. C. A. Zavit, C.A.C. Guelph, Ont.

FOR the three years previous to the war, viz.: 1911, 1912 and 1913, the average crop acreages of the most important agricultural staples of the world, excepting China, for which statistics are not available, are given in the following order: United States, Rumania, India, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Argentina, France, Italy and Canada.

Those countries which had the greatest crop acreages per capita were: Argentina, Canada, the United States, the Russian Empire and France.

Based largely on Danish experiments, and on estimates made in the United States Department of Agriculture, the following give the relative percentages of food stuffs produced from farm crops of the most of population, in the leading agricultural countries of the world:

Countries.	Per Cent. per Capita of Food Materials from Farms Crops.
Canada .....	80
Argentina .....	60
United States .....	45
Australia .....	35
Germany .....	30
Austria-Hungary .....	25
France .....	23
Russian Empire .....	24
Italy .....	14
Great Britain and Ireland .....	11

It will be seen that Canada produces, per capita, more food materials obtained from farms than any of the other principal countries of the world. Her domestic consumption is low. This enables her to export a relatively large production of the essential food materials produced in the country.

The Canadian farmers form one of the greatest food self-sufficiency of the present time. Every effort should be made to produce and then to export the maximum possible amount of surplus production of the strongest possible agricultural product.—[Editor.] Canada's farms of their skilled labor.—Editor.]