

many products of the farm have increased in value beyond their original fixed rates. For butter, which formerly sold at 15 cents, 30 is demanded, and cheese of first quality, at 10 cents, is freely selling at 20 cents, and very few of our farmers are in a position to avail themselves of these extreme market prices. If they are, the articles are not forthcoming in quantity sufficient to meet the local demand. The sudden rise of the dairy interests from comparative nothingness to commercial importance is claiming your attention. Farmers in other localities are uniting and organizing associations for the purpose of advancing the dairy interest, and improve the art of manufacturing through a better knowledge of the properties of milk, and a more extensive acquaintance with the qualities required to constitute a good cow. Such an advance in prices should stimulate you to increased exertion with full faith in the business, having regard to the selection of stock, the quality and properties of the food, as these are the first principles of success in the dairy.

Among our native cows are many that excel as butter producers, yielding on grass an abundant flow of rich milk. These so-called natives, being a mixture of various breeds imported formerly at different periods and suffered to cross and re-cross indiscriminately, have no fixed character except the one very desirable trait of hardiness—roughing it. In breeding from them we have this difficulty to contend against, the great uncertainty of the progeny being as good as the dam, a knowledge of selection possibly would, to some extent, remedy this defect, and, were a determinate course of breeding adopted, employing thorough-bred males, an improvement would be made, and animals reared suited to the various districts of the Province that would rank high not only as dairy stock but combine other desirable qualities. There are a variety of points requisite in a good cow, viz.: the quantity and richness of the milk, the duration of the flow after calving, gentleness and disposition to fatten when dry. Your aim should be to select from your own stock the 'best,' give an abundance of food, good care, and regular attendance. If you have no best, and should hear of a cow that will average a pound of butter a day for six months on a stretch, 'go for' that cow, and don't haggle about the price.

SHEEP.

In this department we have little to present favourable to the production of wool or mutton; although the interest taken by our farmers in this business has not abated, yet there are many obstacles to be surmounted, some of which suddenly arise and fearfully curtail the profits, before this branch of industry can be sustained as a paying investment. The primary object appears to be the produc-

tion of meat, lamb being in the ascendant. Wool is comparatively neglected, as it is not produced in sufficient quantity to make it an article of commercial importance.

Our sheep-husbandry, to be successful, will require to be modified by the application of a more thorough knowledge of the principles of the art. Different breeds of sheep like cattle vary in constitution, habit, and quality of wool. In England, the nursery of high breeding, are found sheep adapted to the various localities of the country; attempts are made with periodical importations of such as are most approved, to perpetuate the breeds in this Province—we are not informed of an instance where it has been successfully carried out. Superior animals of the most popular breeds, viz.: the Cotswold, Southdown, Lincoln and Leicester have been introduced, and, without regard to their characteristics, allowed to roam at large, taking their chance with the sheep of the district. For a limited period the two former will hold out against climate and rough usage, but the latter soon disappear, unless sustained by good care and liberal feeding. The facilities which the country affords to keep and maintain the various improved breeds should make sheep-husbandry a prominent feature in our agriculture. One successful attempt would be speedily followed by another, and a general enthusiasm awakened which would radiate in every direction through the community. The spirit of improvement attending all new and profitable enterprise would lead to increased activity in other departments, to the necessity of applying skilled labour in their management, to a more extensive knowledge of the culture of roots, and a greater use of green crops, better cultivation of the soil, which would induce a more abundant supply of manure, and the greatest care in its application, with the aid of the most approved farm implements. These varied industries in connection, working for the benefit of all, would help to re-suscitate some of the many undeveloped resources of the country. The great obstacle in the way of successful rearing of sheep, and one most difficult to guard against, is the sudden onslaught of dogs; the loss inflicted by their attacks is much greater than the profit derived from the flock. The loss throughout the country annually amounts to a very large sum, and few farmers in the vicinity of towns and villages are willing to risk a flock however small. As consumers of meat we are all interested in having good lamb and mutton cheap and abundant, and, on the question of rates we are all very sensitive. Now here comes indirectly a tax the magnitude of which we have no adequate conception of. On the farmer it falls in many instances with ruinous ef-

fect, and deters him from pursuing what would be a profitable business. No man is willing to invest money in thoroughbred animals at a cost of thirty to fifty dollars apiece and run the risk of having them destroyed or maimed by dogs. Thirty years ago the bears, in their attacks, were not a circumstance to the present generation of curs. The havoc made the past year by *Canis major* and *minor*, is unprecedented; reports have come to hand from different quarters of losses sustained, different individuals report two, three, six and nine, all choice animals, lying round in promiscuous mortality. The difficulty of knowing 'whose dog' leaves the evil without redress. Farmers should take hold of this matter in earnest, and insist on having the tax on dogs made imperative, otherwise sheep husbandry will continue to make slow progress. If the owners of dogs on the rampage were compelled once to pay the cost price of a heavy Lincoln or Leicester it would give them a prominent idea of the value of mutton, and would serve as a gentle hint, on the score of economy, to dispense with the useless services of their prowling "automata" suddenly.

SWINE.

In this class we have little to notice; all of you appear to rest so well satisfied with the pigs that we should like to congratulate you on your felicitous repose. The rise on two cents on the pound no doubt will stimulate you to look sharper after the sty, and give more attention to the selection of the male you desire to breed from. The catalogue is as long as an auctioneer's list, and embraces a variety of breeds from the large Yorkshire down to a Porcupine; you have pigs with the hide of a Rhinoceros and the wool of a Southdown—no doubt they would be profitable if you could manage to shear them. You have long haired pigs, short haired pigs, and pigs without wool or hair, the latter sporting a skin as thin as a wafer, and as bright as polished parchment. If you fail to make a judicious selection the farrow will be a squealing witness against your science in pork; so don't trust to luck, and when too late find you have had the wrong pig by the ear.

Many persons object to high grade pigs with thin skin and little hair, the climate being too cold for them; they are certainly more sensitive to cold than the coarser breeds, and if not properly cared for will consume a great amount of food, but in pens so constructed as to exclude drafts of cold air, and supplied with plenty of dry litter, the whole economy is reversed, a change is at once perceptible, the animals being satisfied with half the quantity of food, and luxuriating in a good bed of straw, a large amount of valuable manure is made in the course of the year, which