

The flock requires attention: this is a bad month for the fly; particularly where sheep are allowed to run in the bush. Keep the hind-quarters clean; the wool between the thighs should be clipped to prevent the fleeces from accumulating there. Do you ever dip your sheep? It pays well to do so. Lambs and all. There are plenty of good mixtures for the dip to be had of any druggist: Sir John Lawes, who has been a manufacturer of fertilisers for more than fifty years, has just brought out a new dip of which English flockmasters speak highly; but it probably has not yet reached this side of the Atlantic.

Why let your ram-lambs run about uncut? It is not a difficult job, the castration of a lamb, and the meat is much improved by it. There is no objection to allowing the ram-lambs intended for winter-consumption to run uncut till weaning time, but, then, they should be cut at once. Lambs, to be eaten as lamb, should be castrated at ten days old.

Horses are hard at work in harvest time, and deserve better food than they can pick up in the over-eaten pastures: a bushel of oats, or better, of *gabourage*, should be allowed each as a weekly ration. Take care the foals do not suck the mares when the latter are heated from work.

Swine in the clovers, as last month, ought to be doing well. The young ones, intended for October pork should be getting a little better food. Skim-milk, barley or corn-meal, with a few pease, is about as good for them as anything. More profit from young porkers, if fairly kept from weaning, than from bigger hogs. A good breed of pigs ought to turn out porkers of 100 lbs. at 5 months' old without any great expense for food, but if kept principally on clover, they must have pease, or else the meat will be too soft. In the country-markets, coarse, big, old hogs are sought for, as being more economical—such things as we have seen at Sorrell—, but at Montreal, there is a great demand for good, tender pork, and it is almost impossible to find it. Hogs fattened from their birth ought to make a stone (8 lbs.), or rather more a week; but we are not speaking of such as those.

Poultry will soon be moulting and should be well fed. Horses changing their coats and hons moulting are weak enough without having to hunt for their own food.

Fences should be looked after. Pastures being pretty bare this month, the least weak place in a fence will be an inducement for the cattle to break through into the standing crops.

The milk will be increasing in richness these days. Cream is good in many ways, but do not let that induce you to rob your brother patrons by skimming the milk: the Babcock will, we hope, put a stop to this atrocious piece of dishonesty.

The Dairy.

JUNE OR JANUARY BUTTER?

This dairy, consisting of fourteen cows, four of which are with their first calf, averaged 331.57 pounds of butter per cow.

"What were your receipts for butter?"

"The total net receipts were \$1,161 for butter, not including value of skim-milk and calves."

"And the cost, please?"

"Estimating the cost of pasture during summer at 50 cents per week

for six months or \$13, the six months in the stable cost \$21.29 each—a total of \$34.29 per cow. This leaves a balance of \$680.94, a profit of \$48.61 per cow for the butter."

"The statement is made that one can make a quart of milk as cheap in January as in June. What do you think of that?"

"You see that I made 360 pounds of butter in December, and 565 pounds of butter in January. The cost of keeping is \$2 per month in summer, and \$3.55 in winter. So, for butter, summer is cheaper."

"I have a friend who claims that for profit cows should be fresh in spring. What do think about that?"

"A cow will probably give more milk if fresh in fall, provided she is kept in the best manner."

"But I" said I, "if she is fresh in spring, she gives the bulk of her milk when food is cheapest, as she dries up towards winter, less grain is required. In the coldest months, when dry, no grain is needed, and the cost of keeping is reduced to just a maintenance ration."

"How about the price of butter in winter?" he inquired. "You have to feed enough to maintain the cow, why not add grain and get butter enough to pay for both?"

My answer was, "Good butter packed in firkins sells in the fall for only a few cents less than winter butter. So many have gone into winter dairying that there is not difference enough in price to pay for increased cost of winter feed. But that is not the worst trouble. When fed on good hay and grain, the cost is from 18 to 30 cents per day, if the cow is fed, as she must be to keep up the flow of milk, so that she will be profitable during early summer. Now, how many cows are there that will make enough butter to pay for this ration? I think with scrub cows, barns and owners, there is more profit in letting the cows go dry from December till March."

"Well! Perhaps you are right, but there is no month in the year when my dairy does not more than pay for the food consumed." Let's leave this to the RURAL readers.—R. N. Yorker.

CANADIAN CHEESE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Total single exhibits of cheese 667, of which Canada sent 162 from 110 different factories. Of the 135 medals awarded, Canada won 126, and had 31 cheeses that gained more marks than the highest number assigned to the best cheeses from States' factories. Ontario received 69 medals; Quebec 52; New-Brunswick 1; Nova-Scotia 2; Prince Edward Island 2. Of cheese made in '93, twenty lots from Quebec received medals, but only one went to Ontario. (1)

THE NINETY DAYS TEST.

"The ninety days test at the Colombian Exposition has been very even so far. The markings of the judges on the butter have been very uniform, so much so that there is no difference in flavor for or against either of the breeds, as far as the market value is concerned. This being the case, of course the amount made, and the cost of the feed, and the increase or decrease in the live weight of the cows, will have to determine the awards.

(1) Many of our cheeses were destroyed at the lamentable fire in the "Cold-storage" department.—Ed.

The Shorthorns were at a disadvantage in regard to numbers when the test was started. Two or three extra cows did not calve as soon as was expected, but if they do well the amount of milk and butter will increase, rather than decrease, as the test progresses. Of course, the Shorthorns can hardly be expected to win, as no one has ever claimed that they were a dairy breed alone, though their beef qualities are everywhere admitted. The object of going into the test was to show the farmer that he could get good milk and butter, besides raising a calf that would weigh, at the end of one year as much as the calf of a strictly dairy cow would at the end of two years, besides, the quality of the beef would be much in favour of that Shorthorn calf. The test, so far, is helping to establish all that has ever been claimed for the Shorthorns."

The above extract is from the *Farmer's Advocate*. The writer, we suppose, is talking of the Shorthorns admissible to entry in the herd-book as not being dairy-cows. If he would visit Darlington fair, or any market in the North of England, or even Lincoln or Peterboro, he would see that the *Dairy-Shorthorn* is a dairy-cow indeed. The herd-book Shorthorns are dried off as soon after calving as possible, to make them breed again at once; they suckle their calves, if they can, and no cow wants to make more milk than her calf will take, so like the Horthorns and the Highlanders, or Kyloes, they are about the worst milkers that wear horns. There are exceptions, but the rule is as we have stated it.

DAIRY-FARMING.

Read by R. Campbell before the Farmers and Gardeners' club of Quebec at Bergerville.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have taken a subject to address you upon this evening which is so vast, that really it will allow of my taking up only a small portion of it and going over that in a very cursory manner and upon which there is so much to be said that I must necessarily leave a lot unsaid. It is "Dairy Farming."

The popular idea is that dairy farming is only concerned in the production of milk or the handling of its products. I think dairy farming has a much wider range than that. Dairying is attached to the earth: to have milk we must have good cows if we have good cows, we must feed them, to feed them we must cultivate the soil; so you really cannot talk of the dairy industry without mentioning agriculture. General dairy farming should certainly concern itself with having the soil in such a state of fertility that the dairy man will obtain plentifully and profitably the raw material out of which he has to obtain milk, butter, cheese, beef and other animal products of concentrated quality and value. I shall begin therefore by trying to tell you what I conceive to be the purpose of skilful farm work. It is to procure and provide food of excellent quality: to maintain and increase if possible the fertility of the soil that there may be abundant store wherefrom to draw the raw material; and to give profitable occupation upon the farms of the country. In the production of food, dairy farming enables every one who follows it carefully, skilfully and with judgment to get more food from the same number of acres than he would otherwise do.

We are enabled by dairy farming

to protect our soil. Dairy farming, while providing large supplies of food will protect our soil and keep it rich to go on sustaining the large population for which food is to be provided. It will give employment to a large number of hands, and as we increase the population on our own lands so do we add value to our property and augment our profits. A dozen square miles in the heart of Africa where nobody lives would not be much of a fortune, but a small portion of land in the heart of London, Paris or New York would have some value: so as we get population we get more value in our land.

Now I think dairy farming will enable our farmers to follow agriculture with these results: the obtaining of large supplies of food, the maintaining of the fertility of the soil as well as the increase thereof; and the supporting at remunerative rates of a large agricultural population. First then, the obtaining of large supplies of food. It will increase the supplies by giving to the plants which the soil produces an increased life-sustaining value by their being transformed from the vegetable state to that of an animal product. A man cannot live on grass, and even if we made twenty blades grow where there only used to be one, it would do the man no good, except the dairy farmer stepped in and turned them into a product fit for man's consumption. A corn crop cannot do much for us, unless the cow steps in between the cornstack and the man, then the man will be able to live on the corn and live on the best of food.

There is a great tendency to increase the consumption of food of a concentrated quality; and here let me cite a fact that in England to day the consumption of milk is quite five fold larger per head of the population than it was twenty years ago. The same is true of Canada, and the consumption of cheese has increased in United-States to such an extent that it is five-fold as many pounds per head of the population as it was 25 years ago.

Then, dairy farming while doing so much in the way of providing the world food will maintain the fertility of our fields. Many say this country is played out for growing grain and yet you hear many say that these northern climates are the very best for growing grain; so I consider that we should grow grain, but where the fault is you grow a large crop of grain and sell it all off the farm. I think you ought to grow cereals but quit selling so much; we should agriculturally be a grain-growing people selling animals and their products. Thereby we shall grow more grain, have richer fields and get more food. By this method we should get from our soil an ever increasing supply of food from a never diminishing store. Every plant that grows on a farm for the service of man requires three substances—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. Now, when a farmer having an abundant crop sells the whole crop from his farm, he removes the whole of these three things which the plants took from the soil; but when a man feeds these plants to animals they toll their feed to the extent of 12 or 20 per cent.

Now, men may talk as they like about having strong hands and a willing back, but the man who has a clearhead, and can know what to do and how to do it is far better furnished for any task, even for digging drains, than the man who has only strong muscles. The cow is only a boarder with the farmer and if she eats more than she can pay board, she is not profitable, she ought to be made to pay her board as she goes and not allowed to run all