

companies for reduced rates to Guelph to attend the Experimental Union Meeting, and other interesting events which take place during that week.

All enquiries regarding railway rates, etc., should be made to C. A. Zavitz, Secretary, Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

### Notes by the Way.

*Flax.*—Is there no possibility of increasing the present production of flax in this province? We do not mean the growing of flax for coarse bagging, the place of which is now taken by *jute*; nor the production of flax fit for lace-making, as it were hopeless to try to compete with such climatic conditions as are to be found in Flanders, on either side of the line.

But, surely, there must be a demand for good, finish fibre, suited to the manufacture of the coarser kind of lawn or cambric, the cultivation of which does not forbid the ripening of the seed as does the quality grown for lace.

The soil is, in many parts of the province, well suited to flax, and the preparation of the land is not costly, as it would follow well after a well manured root-crop; neither, where the seed and bolls are kept at home and the fibre prepared there, is the land necessarily impoverished to any great extent.

As for the demand, there is no want of that, for we read in the English papers that the decrease of flax in Ireland from 45,537 in 1897, to 34,489 acres in 1898, has so alarmed the Flax Supply Association that special efforts are to be made to revive the cultivation of that crop. The Society has made arrangements to engage an expert from Belgium to travel through the North of Ireland and to teach the farmers of that district how to manage flax-growing and preparing as they are managed in Belgium.

Cannot we, in this province, supply the evidently eager demand for flax, at least in part?

*Milk.*—The consumption of milk, in its natural state, is something surprising! We remember well how, in the period from 1835 to 1850, it was an utterly unheard of thing for an English farmer, outside a certain radius from large towns, to sell milk at all; even the children of the workingman, who would gladly have bought milk, could not

get it, as it was considered too much of a nuisance and bother for the farmer's wife, daughter or dairymaid to run to the dairy for it.

But since the above period, 1850, what a difference! Mr. Rew, in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England for 1892, gave the average consumption of milk consumed per head of the population in 1890, as 60 quarts, or about 150 pounds, a great increase indeed; but, the consumption was far greater 7 years later, as in 1897, Sir Jos. Blyth, a most trustworthy authority, "has no hesitation in assessing the milk consumed in the United Kingdom at 80 quarts, about 200 lbs., for every man, woman, and child!"

This is truly astonishing, and if the quantity of milk consumed is brought into money value, it is more astonishing, as even supposing the milk reaches the people at the low price of 3d. a quart the amount paid for the whole will equal the whole wheat-bill of the United Kingdom, namely, £40,000,000, i. e., \$200,000,000! By this calculation, the average consumption of each man, woman, and child daily, is rather more than half a pound of milk a day, or half a pint, and the cost about \$5.00 a year per head of population. And this for a home-grown article.

The amount of money paid for imported milk is, as yet, but trifling; last year it only came to £1,500,000, or \$7,500,000, something like 9d., or 17 cts., a head.

Butter, however, tells a different tale; the consumption of British-made butter was, last year, \$2.40 for every inhabitant, against \$1.92 of foreign-made goods.

Of course, in Scotland and in the Northern counties of England, where the wages of farm-labourers were paid partly in kind, milk was a much more common article of diet in past days; and this will in some degree account for the superior physique of the Northern as compared with the South of England man: it was not entirely due to porridge!

*Storing cabbages.*—A question we saw asked, in the *Agricultural Gazette* the other day, referred to the difficulty of keeping cabbages throughout the winter. When we grew cabbage for the Joliette market, in 1870, we used to pull them as late as possible, i. e., just before the ground froze up tight; the beds, so to speak, we made about ten or twelve feet long, and eight cabbages wide,