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DAIRYING IN WESTERN CANADA SEEN THROUGH EASTERN EYES

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Some Impressions Gained by Mr. Stephen on a Recent Visit to Our Prairie Provinces. Conditions Discussed and a Solution of the Greatest Difficulty Proposed. But the Greatest Need is Better Dairy Farmers

THE farmer and rancher of our Canadian west provides for his necessary supply of dairy produce by keeping one or more cows. He is as yet unconcerned as to where the city home is to get its supply of milk and butter. But as the population of our west increases so will there be a greater demand for milk and cream, butter and cheese. At present comparatively few farmers want to produce these choice and necessary articles because of the constant labor involved in caring for the cows as compared with the intermittent labor of ranching or wheat growing. As long as the soil will produce wheat at paying prices, present occupants of our prairie lands will not largely engage in dairying. The dairyman must yet come in.

There is no need to ask "if there is room for more dairymen in the west?" The land is there, the food is there and the opportunity—ever growing and widening—is there too. Even now the west is not meeting the demands of its people in this regard; large quantities of milk and butter are brought from the south and east. In conversation with the manager of a large dairy concern in Winnipeg, he informed me that last winter, at a heavy cost, 1,000 gallons of milk a day were brought from Minneapolis and St. Paul. Also many car loads of butter were brought from Montreal to supply the demands of the westerners in Winnipeg and other cities and towns.

The need for a larger milk supply is evident when it is known that in the dining room of one of the first hotels in a large western city in the middle of July the guests were supplied with condensed milk owing to the scarcity of the raw article. All this goes to indicate the need of more dairymen.

WHY DAIRYING IS PROFITABLE

Is dairying profitable in the west? Yes. The prices paid for butter fat and milk are such that with a good herd of cows and with the cheap feeds of the country, the intelligent and industrious dairyman may get handsome returns. The price of milk paid by the creamery concerns to the farmer varies from \$1.40 a cwt. net in summer to \$2.25 in winter, for cream from 25 to 35 cents a pound, butter 1.25 in summer and up to

45 cents in winter. These prices are higher than can be realized in the east, where feeds are higher in price. Thus the western farmer will receive a higher return for his fodders and grains, if fed to his cows and sold in milk and cream, than if marketed in the raw state.

Then again the fertility of the soil will be main-

man, whose work is largely educative. In Manitoba, under the charge of Prof. J. W. Mitchell, great advancement is being made and dairying is on the increase. The Department is of the opinion that the cooperative cow testing association is one of the best means of fostering dairying, by culling out the "weed" cows and getting larger and more profitable returns from those kept, thus showing to the farmer the wisdom of keeping only good cows, and hence getting larger profits. Last year in Manitoba there were 250 farmers in cow testing associations, and the interest in cow testing is increasing from year to year.

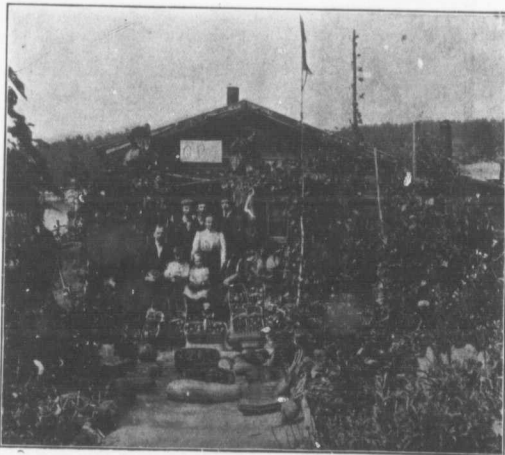
In Saskatchewan, the great wheat growing province, under the direction of Prof. Wilson, much is being done to foster the industry. Here and there farmers are turning their attention to producing some milk and cream, and we are optimistic enough to believe that within a few years we will see large herds of dairy cattle on the plains where once roamed the buffalo.

A COMING DAIRY PROVINCE

Alberta has given even greater attention to dairying. The policy of the government some few years ago in establishing creameries in various parts of the province has done much to encourage the dairy industry. These creameries, conducted under government supervision for several years, are now owned and operated on the cooperative principle by the farmers themselves or by private individuals. The government still assists in the marketing of the butter from their cold storage plant in Calgary, when so desired. The Dairy Commissioner, W. E. Marker, has been most diligent in pushing the dairy work in Alberta, and under his direction great progress has been made.

"What is the greatest dairy need of the west?"

I asked the Dairy Commissioner of Alberta. Emphatically he replied, "Our first great need is more and better dairymen." After spending several weeks in this western country, meeting farmers in their homes, and at the exhibitions, and discussing dairy problems with them, I had come to same conclusion. The great percentage of the present day occupants of the soil in the west will not readily turn to dairying because of the continuous labor involved. A few will turn their attention to producing milk and cream as they see the profits to be derived therefrom. I believe, however, that to meet the march of progress, dairymen from the older provinces or other countries will go to those western lands and



Striking Testimony to the Agricultural Possibilities of New Ontario

Many visitors to the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto last week expressed surprise at the splendid exhibits of farm crops from New Ontario. In our illustration is a field of crops, can be grown to perfection. The display herewith was grown by Mr. Geo. Page at Kenora in the extreme North-West of New Ontario.

tained, or restored if depleted, which is a factor of importance that must be considered in the near future. What? Can the rich soils of our western prairies become depleted of their fertility? Surely they will, and even now experts such as Prof. Shaw and others of like reputation are sounding a warning note and advising that our farmers turn to dairying and stock farming ere the soil is depleted of its fertility. Grain growing surely depletes the soil. Dairy farming increases soil fertility and likewise the bank account of the dairy farmer.

What is being done to encourage dairying? The Departments of Agriculture of the several western provinces have each established a dairy division under the superintendence of a capable