

COBBOURG FARMER'S CLUB.

Dairy Farming.

A meeting of the township of Hamiton Farmer's Club was recently held at Cobourg. Mr. John Pratt, President, in the chair. The subject for discussion was "Cheese making as a branch of Canadian Farming," which was introduced by Mr. Henry Wade. He said it was only about ten years since the first introduction into Canada of the Cheese-Factory system. Up to 1862 we imported more than we exported. We imported as high as 2,530,950 lbs. of cheese in 1861. The great change which has since taken place will at once be seen by the following returns of the exports and imports of cheese during the last two years:

| | IMPORTS. | EXPORTS. |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1869-70 | 50,491 lbs. | 3,827,782 lbs. |
| 1870-71 | 44,470 lbs. | 3,271,439 lbs. |

These figures in themselves are a revolution in this branch of Canadian farming, as up to that time we did not produce enough for home consumption; now taking the difference between the import of 1870-71, and the exports we have 3,201,964 lbs. representing in money value \$821,000, besides the enormous quantity used at home. The home demand is steadily increasing every year, as cheese is much more generally used for food than formerly. It was formerly used more for a relish, but now it is largely substituted for meat. A pound of cheese containing more nutriment than one pound of meat, while the relative value per pound is about the same. Assuming no waste, a pound of meat may make a pound of flesh; but a pound of cheese, by absorbing water, will furnish material for more than one pound of flesh. It is, therefore, a very good substitute for flesh, leaving the matter of taste out of question. Before cheese became an article of export, farmers in this grain growing locality, I am sorry to say, were (and unfortunately still are) in the habit of depending almost entirely on raising the cereals. With but limited means, and unable to give the land that amount of working which is necessary, and without stock sufficient to provide manure, it is no wonder that our lands have deteriorated. All of us can remember how some years ago, what with dry weather, and the mildew, it was hardly possible to grow a crop of wheat worth harvesting. Then we took to raising barley as a substitute; and now, as a natural result, in many of our fields we can hardly tell which is master, barley, thistles, or charlock. The only cure for this that I can see, is for farmers to raise more stock, work our land thoroughly, seed down more, and manure liberally from our own barn-yards. Many people argue that our land is not adapted to dairying. True it is not as well adapted as the land is in some parts of Canada. But then we have the advantage of being able to grow a large quantity of grain in conjunction with dairying. As a general thing in dairy districts the other branches of farming are neglected; but my idea of farming is that it is better to have several irons in the fire, than to have merely one specialty, for if that fails you are in a tight place. With a certain amount of grain growing, a certain amount of dairying which necessitates more stock—you have more manure to enrich your grain land, more roots to feed the cattle, and last but not least, the necessity forced on you of keeping a sharp look out for a dry season, and the wherewithal to feed your cattle. In my judgment, one of the essentials of dairy farming in this locality is a liberal supply of green corn-stalks for fodder, to soil your cattle during the dry and hot months of summer, and the bare months of autumn. It is exceedingly difficult to keep cows milking regularly through the season without this provision. I could say a great deal on the subject of soiling during the dry months. I do not mean soiling altogether as we have never tried that; but hardly think it comes under the scope of this discussion. And now, supposing we all determined to keep more stock, the question naturally arises, what should we do with our milk? We are not in the neighborhood of Toronto or Montreal, or we would at once know what to do with it; we could dispose of it for domestic uses to much more advantage than by cheese-making. We have, however, another outlet in butter-making. Who does not know the hard work butter-making forces on our wives and daughters, who have enough to do in the house, without slaving over butter-making. Who amongst us has not tried on a hot day in summer to churn, when the butter would not come, and going away in disgust. I do not mean to say that butter-making is not profitable, but where a number of cows are kept, it involves much more labor than cheese-making.

True, in some parts of the States butter factories are in vogue, but they have not come into universal use like cheese factories. We are all, of course, conversant with the old tub method of making cheese, and I do not doubt that quite as good cheese is made that way as by the factory system; but not as a general thing, for there is frequently about two cents per lb. difference in price for mercantile purposes. This is one reason for adopting the factory system, but there is another strong argument for it in the economy of production, or the saving of labor, the same process having to be gone through to make the cheese from the milk of five cows or fifty cows, as from that of five hundred. It is not too much to say, that whereas ten private dairies of fifty cows each would require ten skilled cheese-makers. One factory for five hundred cows can be carried on by one skilled manufacturer, with two or three assistants, and do the work better. Mr. Pratt proceeded to explain the rise and progress of the cheese factory system and the whole operation of cheese-making on that system. He concluded with an earnest recommendation in favor of the extension of dairy farming—and better cultivation of the lands. Mr. J. Russell, Mr. A. McDonald, Mr. Jephin, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Sidney, Mr. Lapp, and Mr. J. Burgess followed with good speeches in favor of the extension of dairy farming, more cattle, more cheese factories and better tillage. We would gladly have published the proceedings entire—but our space forbids.

Mixed or Special Husbandry?

THE EDITOR OF THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR.—A few weeks since I read in your valuable paper, an extract from the speech of an agriculturist in Maine advocating the devotion by the farmer, of his entire capital and attention to some particular branch of his vocation, in order to secure success, and with the extract, a criticism also of the views expressed in it. With the criticism, I heartily concur, for my knowledge of farming in Canada teaches me that, though some may possibly succeed by pursuing such a system, the majority of Canadian farmers will not. The nature of our business, and the principles on which land is cultivated and grain produced, make such a course disadvantageous. Every kind of soil contains a variety of the constituent elements of vegetation, and different soils, even on the same farm contain these in different proportions, and every kind of cereal or vegetable raised on the farm extracts these in different quantities from the soil. This will be best illustrated by a comparison of the elements of wheat with those of the turnip. Wheat contains in every 100 parts:—

| | Carbon. | Hydrogen. | Oxygen. | Nitrogen. | Water. | Other mat. |
|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Wheat | 33.4 | 5.5 | 37.1 | 3.0 | 14.5 | 2.0 |
| Turnips | 3.2 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 92.5 | 0.6 |

A comparison of other products of the soil would show further difference, but this is sufficient for my purpose. Every practical farmer knows that while wheat does not grow well after wheat, it does so after turnips, and the reason, as seen by the comparison given, is that the two crops, widely differ in their food requirements. The first wheat crop draws from the soil the constituent elements of itself, leaving the same soil badly impoverished for the satisfactory development of a second crop, while the turnip crop only demands a greatly diminished proportion of the same constituent elements, and thus leaves the soil in a more fruitful condition for the succeeding wheat crop. Hence the indispensable and now universally acknowledged necessity for a rotation of crops. The necessity of a representation of the different classes of stock on a farm is equally urgent. This may be illustrated by a reference to the dairy business for the past three years; three years ago cheese was high, and dairy cows rose in proportion, and a great many farmers seeded down their farms, and bought cows at very high figures, expecting to realize large profits from the sale of milk. But the season (1871) was a very dry one; cheese fell, the cows failed in their milk, strange to say fell in price also; the dry weather made feed scarce for the coming winter; this, together with the depression of the cheese market, made cows cheap, and hundreds of cows were sold at a great reduction of the price paid for them. One farmer to my knowledge, who had seven cows thought dairy business so profitable that he would double his herd of milkers, and purchased seven more at about \$40 each, taking the money from a bank to pay for them, expecting to replace it by the sale of milk. Well, to be brief the note in the bank had to be renewed until he could sell his grain in the fall. No matter how

fair the prospects are for such a course, it is always dangerous, and the farmer who gives attention to all of the different branches of his business, keeping each in proper proportion, will, one year with another, be most sure of success. At present sheep and wool are above the average in prices, while pork and beef are below, and while this would justify the farmer in adding to his sheep and decreasing his cattle and swine in proportion, it would be utterly folly to discard all his cattle and swine to be replaced by sheep, as the probability is that one or two seasons will in a great measure, if not entirely, reverse the demand and the prices. An increase to a certain extent may always be made in that which gives promise of paying best for the time, but this increase should not be so great as to become a risk, and should not lessen the attention paid to the rest of the business. The careful tillage of the wheat crop, because it is considered the most profitable, should not cause barley, oats, or peas to be slighted, for despite all the attention given to the former, it may fail, and then the others if carefully tilled will probably make up for the loss thereby entailed. To keep the soil of the farm in such a condition that it will yield grain abundantly, a great amount of manure must be made and used, and this can be best done by keeping stock, and attending to them properly, so that to sum up the whole briefly, the farmer will best secure success by attending to each branch of his vocation, as if it were a specialty, thereby securing as far as possible success in each, for the connection of the one with the other is such that the prosperity of the one tends materially to increase the chances of success in the rest.

AGRICOLA.

Jan. 21st, 1873.

When to Sell Pears.

A writer in the New York Tribune says that pears of any of the leading popular sorts bring the highest prices just as that variety is beginning to get scarce in the market, the price advancing to even treble that obtained for them when they are in the height of their season. Yet if these pears are kept in refrigerator houses until some weeks after their season is wholly past, and are then offered, they meet with very little demand and depreciate very low in price.

Flax Growing in Ireland.

The annual report of the Flax Supply Association of Belfast gives an unfavorable account of the crop during the past year as regards the area under cultivation, but highly encouraging in a financial point of view. The acreage under flax in 1872 compared with 1871 showed a diminution of 22.23 per cent., but there was an increased yield of fibre amounting to 38.99 per cent., and had the weather been moderately fine during the grassing season the yield per annum would have borne comparison with that of the most prosperous years.

Excellent Whitewash.

As the house-cleaning season is approaching, it may not be amiss to say a few words in regard to whitewashing. There are many recipes published, but we believe the following to be the best. Sixteen pounds of Paris white, half a pound of white transparent glue, prepared as follows: The glue is covered with cold water at night, and in the morning is carefully heated—without scorching—until dissolved. The Paris white is stirred in with hot water to give it the proper milky consistency for applying to walls; the dissolved glue is then applied with a brush like the common lime whitewash. Except on very dark and smoky walls, a single coat is sufficient. It is nearly equal in brilliancy to "zinc white," a far more expensive article.

The Census Returns.

The detailed returns of the census of England and Wales taken on the 3rd of April, 1871, have been published in two large volumes of nearly 600 pages each. According to the revised returns, the population of the United Kingdom, exclusive of the army, navy, and seamen abroad, was in

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|------------|------------|
| 1871 | 31,628,338 |
| 1861 | 29,070,932 |

showing an increase in the ten years of 2,557,406, or 8.8 per cent. Ireland decreased 6.7 per cent. The number of men in the army, navy, and merchant service is estimated at about 221,000. The area of England and Wales, estimated in 1861 at 37,324,883 acres, is now estimated with the recent corrections at 37,319,221 acres.