

Dairy Conditions in Eastern Ontario.

Although situated far to the east of our Province, and its people engaged in different lines of agriculture from those of the western counties, Dundas County is not without its quota of appreciative and inspired readers of the "Farmer's Advocate." The gospel of agriculture is being disseminated throughout the land through the agency of this grand and good paper, and that our county is receiving in proportion we may be sanguine.

While the crop reports, stock records and general conditions of the year just passing stand unprecedented in the history of our county, we never enjoyed a more promising outlook for a successful year than we now have for the year soon to be ushered in. The approach of winter finds our farmers well prepared. The fall work has been well advanced owing to very favorable weather throughout the corn and root harvesting season. Both these were very satisfactory. The corn, being well matured, will surely make silage of fine quality. We had an abundance of clover hay, the bulk of which is well cured, as our farmers seemed to be unanimous in their efforts last season to improve on their old methods of curing this valuable crop, and we believe that in a large measure they were successful. With such a store of clover hay, silage and roots, our dairy queens should enjoy summer conditions throughout the winter months as nearly as such conditions can be supplied.

The exceptionally high prices realized for our dairy products the past season appears to be acting as an incentive to our dairymen to improve their methods of caring for and to raise the standard of their dairy herds. One fact to be deplored, however, is the indifference of a great many of our dairymen about the care of their dairy herds throughout the fall months. Instead of giving their herds such care as would be conducive to a large flow of milk, or even maintaining the flow of milk and also the extra flesh gained through the excellent pasture afforded by the clover aftermath, the animals are exposed to the elements night after night; they are not supplemented with any extra feed whatever, until natural conditions make it imperative for the owner to shelter and feed his stock. As a result of such treatment, the milk flow decreases so that no matter how judiciously the animals be fed afterward they cannot be again brought up to a compensating flow; they go dry, and are so for three or four months, which means that about one-half of the year they are simply boarding with their owner, so as to be ready to work the other half. Few if any steers are fed for export in this county; dairying is our industry, consequently it is in this line of work we are endeavoring to effect improvement. At present a great many small factories exist, lacking equipment and facilities necessary for making cheese of first-class quality, and being operated in some cases by incompetent makers. Many are now realizing the mistake of such a plan, and public feeling is for consolidation of many of these small, poorly-equipped and poorly-managed factories (the curse of the dairy industry) into fewer and larger factories, fully equipped, thoroughly modern, and operated by competent operators. By this plan we would have fewer grades of cheese, and cheese of finer quality. The production of high-class bacon has not received the attention from our farmers it demands to be made profitable. For this there is a reason. The drovers do not discriminate between the hog of ideal bacon type and the short, thick, fat hog; the one price is for all, consequently all the farmer has in view is pounds, and the hog that will produce most pounds in the shortest time is the one he is going to produce. That this is not as it should be we are satisfied. Prices this season have been splendid, and farmers have received good returns for the hogs produced.

Sheep-raising is being revived with great rapidity. Although the scarcity of farm help has not been a serious problem with us as yet, a great many are increasing their flocks, and so preparing to meet the problem half way. The high prices realized for both wool and mutton the past season warrant satisfaction, financially as well, in the advancing of this industry. Poultry-raising receives more attention than formerly. Very high prices have ruled through the season for eggs and meat. Thousands of birds of very fine quality are fattened in this county annually for export. Farmers are beginning to develop the hen, the most profitable asset of the farm.

Evidences of the prosperity enjoyed by our agriculturists the past few years are not lacking. Improved buildings, roads and schools will be lasting marks. Very recently a rural telephone line was inaugurated in our county, and a number of phones have been installed in rural houses, and fortunate indeed are their owners, but they are not envied, for soon we anticipate having this line within access of every home in our county. The mail service has been greatly improved of late in several localities of the county, a movement very timely and very much appreciated.

CLARK HAMILTON,
Dundas Co.

Saved Him a Colt.

Enclosed please find the sum of \$1.50 for "Farmer's Advocate," which I subscribed for last May, and I am well pleased with it. It saved the life of my little colt last spring.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

Patrons Helping to Pay Factory Instructors.

"Get your patrons to pay part of the instruction fee for your factory," was the thought brought out in a recent meeting of the Western Dairymen's Association. The patrons are the ones who derive the principal benefit from any improvement in the quality of the output, and if they pay part of the fee for instruction, it is held that they will be likely to take an interest in seeing that they get the worth of their money. The most expert maker is the better for an occasional visit of the instructor, and a very little help from the latter may be easily made up on fifty or a hundred tons of cheese. The past year, in a good many districts, the patrons paid half or two-thirds of the fee, and the maker the balance.



J. M. Steves, Steveston, B. C.

Owner of Holstein-Friesian cow, Janet of Lulu, winner of grand championship prize as best cow or heifer, any age or breed, at the Dominion Exhibition, New Westminster, B. C., 1905.

Cheese-factory Conditions in Western Ontario.

In order to procure some figures regarding conditions in the cheese factories of Western Ontario, Secretary G. H. Barr, of the Western Dairymen's Association, sent this season to every one of the association's instructors lists of printed questions, with a request that conditions in each factory be reported in the answer spaces. In all, 162 factories were thus reported upon, and from the returns the following statistics have been compiled:

Number of makers	wearing aprons.....	82
"	" who keep their clothes clean...	97
"	" " " floors dry.....	110
"	" " " gutters clean...	132
"	" " " utensils clean.	114
"	" " " curing-rooms tidy	103
"	" " " " curing-room floors clean...	93
"	" " " " curing-room shelves clean.	62
"	" " " who wash their shelves every shipment.....	28
"	" " " who keep their engine-rooms tidy	90
"	" " " " engines clean...	63
"	" " " " whey tanks clean	12
"	" " " factories with bad odors around them	64
"	" " " that have flowers in windows	55
"	" " " (out of 162) which in the instructor's opinion would be entitled to a license.....	98

The above showing is the less creditable, seeing that nearly all the shortcomings mentioned could be remedied at practically no expense. Of the 64 which the instructors did not consider would answer to a reasonable license standard, \$60 or \$100 spent on them, together with a little more care on the part of the maker, would easily bring the majority up to license requirements, and there were hardly any which could not be put into shape to meet the requirements of such a law by an expenditure of \$150 to \$200.

Mr. Barr informs us that in the series of district meetings held by the association this year the subject of licensing was discussed more freely than last. While the members are by no means unanimous in favor, there is a growing feeling that either it or a law similar to

one in force in Wisconsin should be enacted, with a view to better regulation of the conditions in cheese factories and the farms from which their milk comes. The problem that arises is as to the means of enforcing a license law. Ordinarily it might be expected, perhaps, to devolve upon the instructors, and the question is whether or not it would be better that the offices of inspection and instruction be kept clear.

GARDEN ORCHARD.

Prices for Ben Davis.

A. McNeill, Chief of the Fruit Division, Ottawa, is a redoubtable champion of the Ben Davis apple for the commercial plantations. In a recent note sent out from his office he says:

"For the last two or three years the Ben Davis has been somewhat low in price. This has shaken the faith of a good many in old 'Ben' as a financial proposition. This year, however, Ben Davis comes up smiling at about \$4 a barrel in the Market of St. Louis, with, of course, no other apple in the market. Let not the friends of the Ben Davis be unduly elated. No one can deny that up to date it has been the money-maker, but in all probability the next phenomenal crop will again show a weakness in the price of the Ben Davis, as compared with other varieties. It would be a great mistake to push the principle of a few varieties to the extreme, but no one who wishes a continuous revenue from his orchard can afford to do without some Ben Davis trees.

"It will be noted that comparatively large quantities of Ben Davis were taken by buyers from France this year, though they had the choice of other varieties at the same or lower prices."

Should the Baldwin be Planted?

The Baldwin apple is admittedly not so hardy as many others. It has, however, during two generations proved itself sufficiently hardy to induce its planting in all the great apple regions of Canada and the Eastern States. It has proved the greatest moneymaker of any variety up to date, though at the present time, owing, perhaps, to some losses during the last few winters, there seems to be a decline in the popularity of this grand old apple. This, I consider, would be a great mistake. The Baldwin is thoroughly well known in all markets, and very much sought after. It has that even combination of good qualities that goes to make up a widely acceptable apple. A good keeper, a good shipper, prolific, of good quality and well known; surely there is no apple yet in the field that will fill its place for Southern and Middle Ontario. Those who contemplate planting next spring should hesitate before omitting this variety as a standard.

A. McNEILL,
Chief Fruit Division, Ottawa.

Many Canadian apple-packers, says the Fruit Division, Ottawa, brand Talman Sweets "Golden Pippins," for which there is not the slightest authority. The Golden Pippins of England and of the New England States are entirely different apples from the Talman Sweet. Of course, the object of the Canadian packers is obviously to pass the Talman Sweet off for a variety which is regarded as superior in Great Britain. This marking constitutes a violation of the Fruit Marks Act.

POULTRY.

How to Get Eggs in Winter.

I thought I would give some experience in regard to poultry and eggs. In feeding, a person must use judgment, for if one were to give the same quantity to each kind of fowl, some would be too fat and wouldn't lay at all. For my light breeds I feed quite a bit of millet seed to make them scratch. All the garden stuff we don't require for the house the chickens get. There hasn't been a day in two years that I didn't get one egg out of 26 birds, and they average me about \$40 a year in eggs alone. From the first of January to the first of April, I got out of the 26 birds \$12.67 worth of eggs, figured at regular market prices. Then I sell half of them off in May, so that I just get enough eggs to use. If I didn't sell half off in May, I don't think I would be able to get any profit at all. My hens are all laid out in May, and it is either hatch or a rest. I have three breeds and some mongrels, and must say they hold their own so far as laying goes. I don't think there is any difference to speak of, so far as breed is concerned, among the Rocks, Wyandottes, and fowls of that class. The only difference I find is in the individual pullets. But for warm-weather laying, the Brown or White Leghorn will beat all I have ever had. I would like to know a little more about the Black Minorcas. I would like to know if ever there were pullets before that missed only one day in seven. I have never had them. Would like some controversy among the readers.

Welland Co., Ont.

[Note.—While it is not common for pullets to lay