

Paper and pulp mills may be mentioned in the list of industries which could be carried on to advantage. Straw is practically of no value here and is usually burnt after threshing. Flax straw could also be obtained cheaply. In the eastern and northern portions of Manitoba and the adjoining districts there are vast forests of spruce and poplar which could be turned to account in the manufacture of wood pulp and paper. As in the case of Keewatin, these forests are situated in proximity to water power.

It is also supposed that the manufacture of binder twine could be carried on to advantage here. The consumption of twine is of course very large. It is claimed that Winnipeg, for instance, is favorably located for the manufacture of twine, being on a through line of railway from coast to coast, and having a large demand for the product in the tributary country. The raw material for the higher grades of twine would have to be imported, though twine from native material, such as flax, might be used to some extent.

Another native product which might be turned to account is salt. No salt is manufactured anywhere in Manitoba or the Territories, though salt has been found in several locations. A large quantity of salt is used in the Lake Winnipeg and other Manitoba lake fisheries, and the demand is now large enough to support a considerable industry.

Another product of the country which could be utilized for home manufacture is wool, the production of which is now considerable. There are three or four

mills now in the country, but the great bulk of our wool clip is exported to the United States or shipped to Eastern Canada in its raw state. A woollen mill at Winnipeg should prove a profitable investment—in fact one of the best openings presented in any line.

The minerals of the country will no doubt afford opportunities in time for some extensive industries. Gold and silver mining has proved profitable in the country east of Winnipeg to Lake Superior. Iron ore is known to be abundant in the Lake Winnipeg region, though nothing has been done to develop the territory. In the far north-west great petroleum fields are supposed to exist. Coal, varying in quality from indifferent lignite to true anthracite, is found in various parts of the country, the area of coal lands being estimated at 50,000 to 75,000 square miles. Coal mining is carried on at several points. These and other minerals will form the basis of flourishing industries, no doubt, in the future. Much is hoped for from the development of the iron and petroleum deposits, at some future date.

In this article we have referred mainly to the capabilities of the country between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, for industrial development. Special articles dealing with British Columbia will speak of the industrial progress made in that part of Western Canada, and indicate possible directions for further expansion. In that great province, with its vast mineral, timber and fishery wealth, there are undoubtedly many opportunities for the profitable investment of capital.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Improvement in Quality and large Increase in Quantity of the Output—Number of Factories increased Over 100 per cent.—On the Road to Prosperity.

PERHAPS the greatest progress made during the past year in Manitoba and the territories in any single industry, has been in dairying. This is very gratifying to all those interested in the progress of the country. Dairying is acknowledged to be one of the greatest sources of wealth which a country can have. There is always a cash market for choice dairy goods, and dairying is not, like growing crops, subject to immense destruction from a brief period of adverse weather. Like the constant dropping which wears the stone, dairying is a constant source of wealth to a country. It is a noteworthy fact, that districts which have a large dairy industry do not suffer as severely from periods of depression, as other agricultural communities where dairying is not an important factor.

The Commercial has long urged the dairy interest upon the attention of the people here. More recently both the Dominion and provincial governments have taken up the matter, with the object of encouraging high class dairying in this part of Canada. For the past two seasons in succession the Dominion government has had travelling dairy outfits going about the country, in charge of expert dairymen, for the purpose of giving instructions in dairying.

Last year the provincial government secured the services of an expert dairyman to act as provincial dairy instructor and inspector of butter and cheese

factories in Manitoba. A measure was also passed by the local legislature for the encouragement of dairying, under the provisions of which a small loan is granted to assist in the establishment of butter and cheese factories. In addition to this, a school of dairying has been established in Winnipeg, and during the present winter practical instructions will be given in the manufacture of butter and cheese. The school is in charge of the provincial dairy inspector. As the factories generally close down in the winter, the dairymen will have an opportunity of attending the school and perfecting themselves in their work.

As a result of all this interest in the work, the dairy industry has made great progress during the past year, and what is of still more importance, there has been a *great improvement in the quality of the product*. There is room for further improvement, however, in the latter respect. In past years not as much attention has been given to quality as was desirable, as goods were manufactured largely for the local market. The situation is now changed. A considerable surplus quantity of butter and cheese is now produced which must be exported, and in order to find a profitable market, it is most important that the greatest care should be given to quality. With the facilities now available for receiving dairy instructions, and the efforts being put forward to improve the quality of the output, we look for better results in the future.