

And having said this, we wish to inquire shortly into the best means to be taken to ensure a regular, normal, and rational development of the dairy industry, not only in our own province but throughout the Dominion, an inquiry, which others have instituted before us, and to them it appeared good, and we agree with them, that a Federal Association of the Dairymen's Associations of the whole Dominion would be one of the best means of assisting the development of the Dairy-industry.

It is to Mr. Lynch that we owe the first germ of this idea. He it is who has done the most for the advancement of agriculture as connected with the manufacture of butter and cheese. He has done all in his power to cause this germ to take root, and, last April, he succeeded in getting together at Ottawa a number of delegates from the associations, who then and there laid the foundations of a Federal Dairymen's Association.

At once, the new society set to work. Interviews were had with the Committee of the House on Agriculture; then with the Premier and his colleagues, who were compelled to admit that, to promote effectually the advancement of the dairy-industry of the Dominion, the appointment of a dairy-commissioner, charged with the special duty of looking after the wants of that business, was absolutely necessary. And more; at the request of the new association, a grant of \$3,000 was voted for the promotion of the interest of the dairy business.

Here, indeed, was a good starting post. Unfortunately, the principle accepted and the vote carried, the affair ended. In fact, an interview of the committee of organisation of the association with the federal authorities ended in nothing being done, and nobody knows how to begin the work to carry out which the new association was instituted, and for which it prayed for the appointment of a dairy-commissioner.

Our local dairymen's associations are about to hold their annual meetings. Last year, they agreed to what Mr. Lynch proposed, and, at his request, sent their delegates to Ottawa. Well, they should now continue the work they then began. The new association holds its meeting on the second Tuesday after the opening of the federal parliament. Let delegates be sent there again, charged to come to an understanding about the appointment of the dairy-commissioner whose existence has been already acknowledged to be necessary, and about the employment to be made of the \$3,000 voted for the dairy-industry.

We wish to suggest certain considerations as to the nomination of the dairy-commissioner, and the expenditure of the grant.

To begin with, the first point to be established as regards the commissioner is, that he shall be a perfect master of English and French. We must not forget that this high officer will have to discuss questions of the greatest interests with, not only the English people of the whole Dominion, but also with the entire population of the province of Quebec, with the important groups of French-Canadians inhabiting Manitoba and Ontario, and with the French-Acadians of New-Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island. When we consider the proportion of French-speaking people engaged in dairy-work, especially, Quebec after Ontario having of all the provinces the greatest interests, we shall not be considered too exigent if we insist that the commissioner shall be master of both languages.

In the second place, if there is some hesitation as to where the improvement of the dairy-business should begin, we will point out a work of pressing importance, that might be begun this very year, and which will give the federal government an opportunity of expending a part of the \$3,000 voted for this year, between the present time and the 1st July, in a most beneficial manner.

In the past summer, we visited the Eastern part of Quebec and the maritime provinces. Passing by the Baie-des-Chaleurs, we traversed the Northern district of New-Brunswick, inhabited by Acadians, and Prince Edward's Island, returning by the Madawaska country. In all these districts we found as many central places marvellously well adapted to the development of the dairy-trade. What is wanting is a spirit of enterprise and a knowledge of the advantages offered to farmers by this industry. Let specialists, under the control of the commissioner, who will, we trust, be appointed by that time, be sent during this winter into these districts. Let them get together, in small groups, meetings of the farmers. Let them show the advantages to be derived from farming conducted in connexion with dairy-work, and lead them to second the enterprise of those manufacturers who, the moment they find farmers willing to supply them with milk, will always be ready to establish cheese- and butter-factories on the co-operative plan. And more; let them do on a large scale what our government has done; i. e., let them offer a grant of money to the first factory that shall be started in a place where there is not one already, provided it be a model one, and marvellous practical results will be obtained from the very beginning.

Our local Dairymen's Associations have not the means of starting these creative undertakings. All that they can do is to guide those who have already entered on this road, and who want information to help them on their journey towards perfection. The work of these associations, to be effective, must as far as possible, be de-centralised. To that end, the federal association ought to labour for de-centralisation, by favouring the creation of numerous local societies wherever the dairy-business has an opportunity of establishing itself.

And, with all this, we must not forget that the idea which dominates the development of the dairy-trade is not that of increasing unreasonably the production of butter and cheese, so much as that of favouring an entire system of rural economy and of well studied cultivation which will enable us to preserve the fertility of our land. This system will lead to the development of the dairy-industry, because it is a recognised fact that this industry is the best suited to the northern countries, which excel in the production of succulent grass and nutritious fodder-crops.

J. C. CHAPUIS.

(From the French.)

Whether the cheese exported from Canada to England comes chiefly from Quebec or from Ontario, I know not, but this I know: Canadian cheese is fetching now—in November—a halfpenny a pound more than the best whole cream thick Gloucesters made on the richest alluvial meadows on the banks of the Severn. My brother wrote me word yesterday that his people cannot get sixpence a pound for theirs, and I see the Liverpool quotation for best Canadians is 56s. a cwt. It was a long time before I could believe that such pasture as I see every day could make good cheese; but I was mistaken. It is the maker's skill and not the quality of the land that determines the value of the cheese.

Shorthorns.—I am sorry to see by the papers that M. Couture, the veterinary-surgeon, has so bad an opinion of shorthorns for the dairy. I am not surprised, however; as most if not all of the shorthorns imported from Britain are of the show kind, no real dairy shorthorns having been introduced into this country. Nine-tenths of the butter and cheese made in England comes from these cows, and, except locally, no dairy-farmer there keeps any other stock, so they cannot be very bad after all.