

visited. The heating of the whey to about 160°, and allowing to remain at this temperature over night, destroys the organisms which formerly got into the milk because of returning whey in cans, which cans were improperly washed at the farm. All the men seem agreed that this "pasteurization" of whey at the factory has resulted in lessening the troublesome flavors which formerly gave much concern to the cheesemaker. However, it is well to be on guard, as they are likely to "bob up" in some other quarter.

Our next stop was at Cassel. Here we found a nice, neat, red-brick factory, with cement floors and cool-curing room. The racks in the curd sinks at this factory are worth special mention. They were made of long strips of Georgia pine, and presented a nice, clean appearance. Mr. Hens said that they find the soft wood for curd-sink slats much preferable to the old hardwood slats, which are very hard to clean. Mr. Francois is the cheesemaker at this factory. His cheese were of nice quality. We had expected to see nothing but "black-and-white" cattle in the neighborhood of Cassel, but we noticed that the greater number of the cattle there, as elsewhere through all the sections visited, were Shorthorn grades. We were somewhat surprised at this. The Shorthorn appears to have a hold on the affections of Ontario farmers which seems difficult to shake.

Eastwood factory is one of the older class of factories. The curing-room is a modern brick structure, with ice storage to cool the cheese. Mr. Brierly holds sway here. The machinery is not quite so up-to-date as in some of the other factories, but doubtless this and improved methods of handling the whey and sewage will receive attention at the hands of the directors as soon as they can do so.

The Lobo Cheese and Butter Company is a short distance south of Drumbo. Mr. Oliver is the maker and dispenser of justice to cheese patrons. He is assisted by the Babcock test, which is used for dividing proceeds among the patrons. No doubt the wooden floors in this factory will soon be replaced by cement floors.

From Drumbo to Bright the farms are for the most part excellent. A farm with nearly one-quarter of a mile of spruce hedge, nicely trimmed, was the admiration of the party.

At Bright factory we found the same general characteristics as at the "Big Sister" factory, near Innerkip. We presume it is because "Ted" Johnson's "Big Brother" is in charge, that we note family resemblances in methods of management. There are four Johnson brothers connected with the cheese trade in Western Ontario. "May their tribe increase!"

From Bright to Hickson the road passes through a continuation of good farms. Large fields of corn, silos, milk cans, milk stands, good herds of cows, splendid crops of oats and barley, excellent homes—all these things testify to the value of the dairy cow as a messenger of hope and prosperity to the Ontario farmer.

The Strathallan Cheese & Butter Co. have an excellent man in "Billy" Bothwell, who is the manager of what is probably the largest factory in Canada. The output averages about 250 tons of cheese and 20 tons of butter annually. The value of their output annually is about sixty thousand dollars.

We had expected to visit Tavistock and Spring Creek factories before our return, but the extremely hot weather prevented our doing so.

#### IMPRESSIONS.

1. It would seem as if there is still room for improvement in the dairy herds of this good old County of Oxford, which improvement could be brought about by the introduction of more dairy blood. The average farmer, even in dairy districts, seems to be casting admiring glances at the dairy cow, and at the same time is favoring her beef sister. Or he may be trying to get milk and beef at the same time, which is a difficult matter in America.

2. Owing to the fact that all the factories visited reported a serious falling off in the milk delivery, there would seem to be room for improvement in methods of feeding, guarding against attacks of flies, etc., during a hot, dry spell. Cows standing about fighting flies nearly all day are likely to drop in milk. On making inquiry at one factory we found that those patrons who were applying mixtures to the cows to keep off flies were able to maintain the milk flow much better than those who were not doing so.

3. There is need for improvement at many factories in methods of sewage disposal, and in the handling of the whey, so as to prevent spilling about the tanks. Very few whey tanks and their surroundings are up to what the surroundings of a first-class factory ought to be. Pasteurization has done good work, but there is still room for improvement.

4. So far as we were able to learn, only one of the factories visited tests the milk and pays patrons according to cheese-producing value of the milk. There is room for missionary work along this line.

5. Nearly all the factories visited ship out the cheese weekly, and most of them did not have more than ten days' cheese on the shelves. This reduces the labor and risk at the factory, and is doubtless a wise policy on the part of factory managers. If the factories would go one step farther and build co-operative cold storages at central points, to which cheese may be shipped once a week, the expense of individual storages would be saved, and the factories would be able to reap the profits now being made by the "other fellow."

6. In order to hold the best men in the business of cheesemaking, factories will have to provide good accommodation, in the way of suitable houses, pleasant surroundings, and moderate hours for the men. The strain of handling the milk to make one to two tons of cheese daily through the flush of the season, with a double dose on Mondays, is too much for men, unless they have wholesome surroundings and are paid good wages. To do this, and also to make it profitable for the farmer, the price of all kinds of dairy produce must increase. It is a question of better pay or go out of the business.

H. H. D.

#### COW-TESTING ASSOCIATIONS.

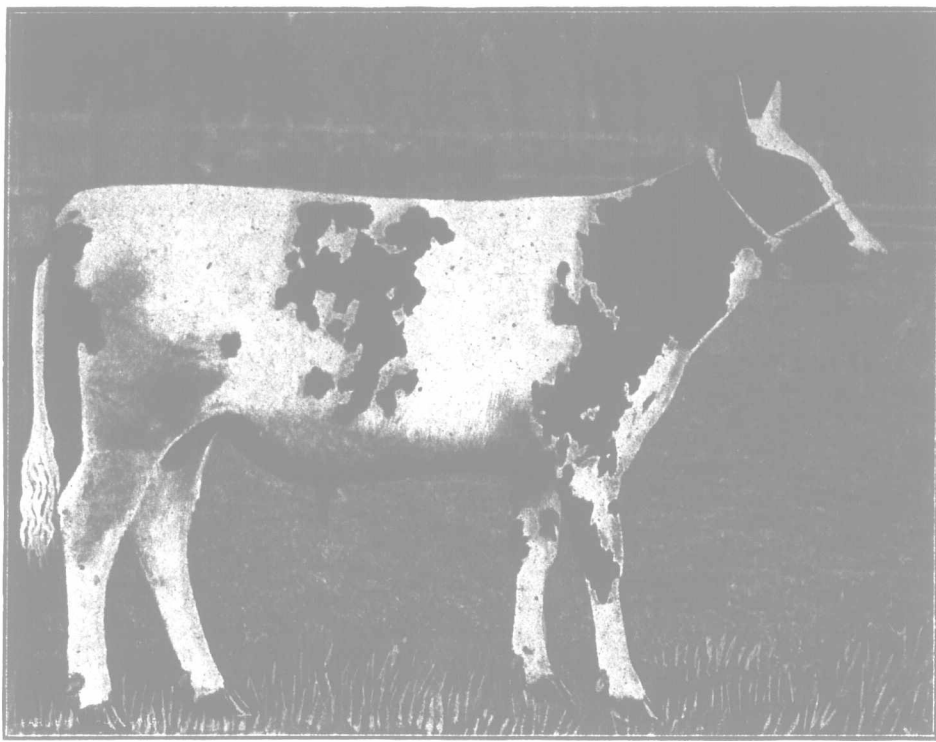
##### WHAT IS A GOOD AVERAGE?

At Ste. Emelie, Que., in June, 142 cows gave an average yield of 546 pounds milk, 3.8 test, 20.8 pounds fat. The best herd average was 631 pounds milk, 3.8 test, 24.3 pounds fat. The highest yield of any one cow was 1,030 pounds milk, testing 3.5. The poorest herd was one of 13 cows, that averaged only 392 pounds milk and 16 pounds fat. If the 13 cows in this herd had given only enough milk extra to bring them up to the average yield of all the 142 cows in the association, they would have given enough milk in the month to make an extra 182 pounds of cheese, worth \$20. That would not be much improvement to ask just to bring them up to the average, not the best, herd; and if the cows are such that they cannot be made to yield an average quantity, should they be kept?

At Warsaw, Ont., in June, 118 cows gave an average yield of 929 pounds milk, 3.2 test, 29.9 pounds fat. The best herd average was 1,042 pounds milk, 32.3 pounds fat, from a herd of 26 cows. This association record is in rather sharp contrast to the one above, and indicates the great differences that exist between the results obtained in different sections of the country. Stated in another form, if the Ste. Emelie cows were as good milkers as those at Warsaw, they would have given an extra weight of 54,340 pounds during the month.

C. F. W.

Ottawa, July 9th, 1908.



Likely 6481.

Ayshire yearling bull. First in his class and reserve for male championship at Ayr Show, April 29th, 1908. Bred by Andrew Wilson, Ochiltree, Ayshire. Property of M. Logan, Bargaenoch, Drongan.

## GARDEN ORCHARD

#### SOW A COVER CROP.

The thrifty farmer is enjoying these days the product of his garden. Green peas, beans, lettuce, radishes, beets, onions, baby carrots and fresh potatoes all contribute their share towards making the meal hour a delight to the inner man. Here's a suggestion: Be getting ready for next year by keeping up the fertility of the soil. A very little effort will provide the next year's potato ground with manure, and half an hour will see that it is provided with a cover crop that will take up the manure and leave it in such a condition for next spring that the likelihood of potato scab will be greatly diminished. No better crop can be sown for this purpose than peas or vetches. An hour's labor now on the early potato plot will afford a thrifty farmer a return next year that will surprise him if he has not tried it. The cover crop means the death of weeds, increased fertility, and comfort and profit.

P. G.

#### FRUIT - CROP REPORT.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has issued the following report of fruit-crop conditions and prospects on August 1st:

Weather conditions in Canada have been favorable during the month of July for the fruit industry.

Apples are estimated somewhat lower for July than for June. Early and fall apples are estimated as slightly above medium. Winter apples at less than a medium crop. Quality good.

Pears are reported a light crop, except in British Columbia and Southern Ontario, where a medium crop is expected.

Early peaches are reported a full crop.

Late peaches are reported light to medium.

Cherries have proved a medium crop, and have sold at fair prices.

Plums are reported light generally. In British Columbia certain sections report a medium crop. In the Georgian Bay district three or four varieties promise well.

Grapes are reported a full crop.

Strawberries and raspberries have been reduced by dry weather, but the average has been very good.

Small fruits, other than the above, are yielding or promise a full crop.

Tomatoes are a medium crop, ripening early.

Insects and fungous diseases are not so prevalent as usual.

The United States report prospects for a medium crop of apples, evenly distributed in season and territory. Peaches are a full crop. Other fruits good.

Great Britain has prospects for a medium crop of apples, other fruits being good.

A. McNEILL,  
Chief, Fruit Division.

#### NOT READY FOR CO-OPERATIVE SELLING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to yours, re co-operative fruit selling, I may say that I do not think the Ontario Association is yet ready for such an undertaking. It takes some time to educate all the interests involved up to this point, and this, I think, has not yet been done; then, too, there is another important point that will have to be attended to before a central salesman can handle the business satisfactorily, that is uniform packing and

grading. We are not doing this properly yet, I am satisfied. It takes some time, in the first place, to educate the growers to realize that the fruit that would formerly do for local or less particular customers at a distance will not do for the class of buyers we are selling to now. The consumer is getting more and more particular. He is paying higher prices, perhaps, but certainly expects a better article than formerly.

Some of the associations, I believe, are still packing in the orchards—perhaps some members packing their own apples—and under these conditions it seems to me that uniformity is impossible. I think if the central organization brings the different associations into closer friendship and acquaintance, and encourages uniformity in packing and grading, keeping this idea of consolidation always to the front, it is about all they can do for the present. Personally, I should

be glad to see the fruit handled in this way, but we ought to be sure we have a good, uniform article ready, that we can with confidence push in an exacting market.

The central association may feel that it is not accomplishing much as yet, although I think it should not do so, but if it could manage to bring the different associations together—say at the time of the Provincial Fruit Show (which, I think, is one of the very best things ever undertaken for this trade)—a good deal more might be done, as already a good deal has been done, in improving the appearance of the fruit we are offering for the market.

As to our own association: We have a membership of 65, all shareholders (incorporated). We have been doing business for between 13 and 14 years, and although last season's returns were not as satisfactory as usual, I think we did well, in comparison with a great many fruit-growers, and prospects for this season are encouraging.

W. D. A. ROSS.

Kent Co., Ont.