

he will reject their milk. In this way he secures first class milk.

In Northern New York State, my experience was not up to that of my Western Ontario trip, but still I found their factories ahead of some of our factories in this Province; but I would urge you to take pattern by our Western Dairymen, and not be content with trying to equal them, but go in to excel them, and this can only be done by strict attention to the matters that I have made reference to.

After having visited the Ingersoll section, I cannot be at all surprised that their cheese should be looked on with so much more favour than ours, and command a better price; the reason is before you, and it is for you to remedy the present state of affairs. You have the pastures and the cattle; and you only want the care and attention to your milk and factory which the Westerner gives, and there is no reason why you should not equal him in quality.

It is discouraging to cheese buyers to have to buy through this Province to compete with Western cheese, and when the fault is often put on to the buyer's shoulders it really lies with the factorymen.

So much for improvements which may be made; now a word or two in reference to our Inspectors and their work in this Province.

During the past season I have bought cheese all over the province of Quebec, and visited every section where they had an inspector, with one exception, that being Chicoutimi: I was through the Eastern Townships, and there I found a great improvement. The patrons had done their utmost to take good care of their milk, and the result was easily seen by their carrying off the prizes at the Fair at Sherbrooke, which was open to the Dominion; this is different to what it was in the Townships two years ago, when their cheese had a very bad flavour, which seemed hard to get over. I think the greatest improvement in the province can be noticed in the Townships, and I consider it due in a great measure to the work of the inspectors; this seems to me more the case when comparisons are made with the cheese from Rimouski, &c., where they have no inspectors; the cheese from there being poor; some factories turn out fairly good cheese one day, and very poor the next; altogether they are very uneven; which shows the need of instruction. The want is also felt badly on the north shore below Montreal, and all the way along the line on the north shore between Montreal and Quebec. The marked improvement in the sections where the inspectors have been at work, is sufficient proof that their work has been fruitful; and those sections which have no instruction are so very much behind, that it behoves them to secure the instruction they so much need.

Having spoken so much in favour of the inspectors, now, a word or two to the contrary. In some cases, I think the inspectors have over-stepped their limit by interfering between the buyer and the seller. I had one case myself of this, which cost me some four or five hundred cheeses through the season. It occurred in the case of an inspector having an interest in three factories, the cheese of which I had bought early in the season, and on going to see them at another time to buy them I found them to be not first class cheese, and told the President of the factory so; but the inspector having pronounced them to be first class my opinion went for nothing, and he would not sell the cheese to me, thinking that I was trying to buy them under false description, and as a consequence, I lost the cheese for the rest of the season. At the same time, my verdict was perfectly right, and that of the inspector entirely wrong; that is an evil which comes from an inspector misrepresenting the cheese and pronouncing them first class, when he knows perfectly well that they are not so: should any such case occur to me again, I shall most

certainly make a complaint against the inspector so offending, as no good can possibly come of such work. Our inspectors are not paid to hide faults, on the contrary, they are supposed to find them out, and not only that, but take off their coats and go to work to remedy them, and give such instruction to the maker, that will enable him to get rid of the faults in his cheese. There is too much of the gentleman about some of our inspectors, who drive up to a factory, get out of their buggy and inspect the cheese, pronounce them first class, and drive on, many a time passing over faults, where they should stand by and see them remedied.

I notice that in cases where the inspector took off his coat, and went to work, that the result was very much ahead of the factories visited by our gentleman inspectors.

Of course I do not consider the judgment of the inspectors infallible. I had the good fortune to be present at a meeting of three inspectors, and some cheese makers. The General Inspector being present, also the district inspector, and an inspector from the Ottawa Experimental Farm, the latter inspected the milk, and between them they made the cheese. I was present in the morning and saw the milk, and I pronounced it very fine. I was back in the afternoon, and was asked to give my opinion on the curd, which I did, namely, that it was not finest, having too much acid, they admitted the fault, though each blamed the other for it, and of course no one would admit it; this may have been a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, and may not occur every day.

I trust that my remarks may be received in the spirit that they are given in, namely, that of furthering the dairy interests of the province of Quebec and I shall be pleased if they bear good fruit amongst the patrons, makers, and inspectors.

With all good wishes for the success of the dairymen in the province, as represented by the gentlemen present, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very truly,

JOHN A. McDONALD.

First-Prize Cross-Bred Steer at Birmingham Show

We regrave from the Mark-Lanc Express this portrait of what our contemporary calls "a very nice beast, a grand example of early maturity"—"the capital grey roan cross-bred, Little Wonder, with which Mr. Robert Wright won the championship of the Oakham Show, the reserve for champion steer at Norwich, and which was first in its class at Birmingham." No further information as to the animal's breeding is given here; but the London Live-Stock Journal says he was got by a "polled" bull (whether red white, Aberdeen-Angus or Galloway, the reader is left to guess) out of a Short-Horn cow, and weighed "15 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lb." at 2 years and 11 months. "He is almost faultless at his rumps," the writer adds, "and particularly nice over loin and crops."

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

This is the last number of the fourteenth volume of the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*. I have been associated with it from the very commencement, and I can honestly say that I have done my best to help to make it the means of spreading a more general knowledge of what *good farming* really is than previously existed in the province of Quebec. I say "a more general knowledge," because no one knows better than I that there are, both in the Townships and on the Island of Montreal, many men who work their farms as well as any agriculturist in the British Isles. But there is, no doubt, a visible improvement, taking the province as a whole,