

breeds in France, in the Paris markets. Moreover, it is established in a manner which seems to be incontestable, that the production of the best meat, under the most favorable conditions for export, does not offer the same advantages to the farmer, in our old parishes, as the production of milk. I do not hesitate to affirm that our Canadian cow is one of the best milch cows in the world. Apart from exceptional circumstances, therefore, we must attach most importance to the manufacture of cheese and butter.

The immense territories situated at the foot of the Rocky Mountains produce millions of cattle at a nominal price, the Texas cow is worth little more than \$2, the prairies are, there open to all; on them are found thousands of animals, all belonging to the same owner. Latterly, their herds have been greatly improved by crossing them with the best breeds for meat-producing purposes. This improvement is rapid, since a single bull annually affects the produce of from 80 to 100 cows. A few horsemen conduct these immense herds from one place to another, until the cattle arrive, half-fattened, at the first railway station. Thence they are transported to the localities where maize abounds, and after a few months the animal is brought to the New York, or even the Montreal market. If he be a choice animal, he generally sells for five cents a pound, live weight, but the average price per head for heavy cattle is about four cents per pound for choice animals. Everything leads me to believe that these prices will be maintained for many years to come, owing to the immense territory, both in the United States and in Canada, where the food of the cattle costs nothing, or next to nothing.

It is also established, that in order to produce 100 pounds of meat, live weight, the animal must receive the same food as is required to produce 64 pounds of butter or 175 of full-milk cheese. Counting the butter at 23 cents, and full milk cheese at 11 cents a pound, on the average, we get the following result: The same quantity of food would give, say,

100 lbs. of meat, live weight.....	\$ 5 00
or 64 lbs. of butter at 23 cents.....	14 72
or 175 pounds of full milk cheese at 11 cents.....	19 25
or 64 lbs. of butter, \$14.72, and 120 lbs. of skim-milk cheese at 8c. \$9.60	24 32

The last mentioned fact was clearly proved last year in the United States and in Ontario. I have given the average prices obtained last year for the best produce. Unfortunately our average butter and cheese is far from doing so well, but this is solely due to want of care and knowledge on the part of the makers.

I know of no statistics which give the number and value of the cattle fattened in this Province, but it is a fact that the Quebec markets, and especially those of Montreal, are largely supplied from Ontario. I think that we can hardly produce enough for our home consumption, and the small number of fat cattle exported from this Province is more than compensated by what we import for the supply of our most important centres.

But we must at present possess at least a million milch cows; and our farmers might easily treble the number if they knew how to get more profit from the production of milk. It is equally certain that our cows can easily be made to double their production, and, in some cases, treble it, by feeding them better and thus render them more remunerative. Still, in the present state of our agriculture, the production of butter for our local markets, and for export, must be 33 millions of pounds, or its equivalent in cheese. Counting the butter at 15 cents a pound only, this makes about five million dollars per annum which our farmers get for their dairy produce.

It is this sum which it is easy for us to double, and in a few years multiply ten fold, while transforming our agri-

culture, not spasmodically, but without radical changes, I might say without routine perceiving it!

But in doubling the present revenue of our dairies, we increase all our farm produce in the same proportion. More productive herds give richer and more abundant manure. This, in its turn, increases the returns of meadows and pastures, to which succeed better harvests of grain, without increase of labor or expense.

By thus developing the produce of our dairies, hardship, poverty, and the depopulation of our country by emigration, will be succeeded by ease, plenty, and comfort. It is, unfortunately, established that, from want of knowledge and care, the butter made in this province only fetches one third of the price of the best butter on the European markets. As to our local markets, we every day see fine butter worth, and selling regularly, for double the price obtained for the greater portion of the butter offered for sale.

The following figures taken from English market reports prove this.

For instance when butter from Denmark and Norway is quoted at 140 to 160 shillings stg. per 112 lbs.; American and Canadian factory butter, at 110 to 135 shillings stg. per 112 lbs., that known as Kamouraska, obtains from 60 to 70 shillings per 112 lbs., and considerable quantities are sold to make cartgrease.

As to the few butter factories established in this province, it is admitted that they get about double the price paid for ordinary butter on our markets. From this we see how important it is to give as much assistance as possible towards establishing butter factories.

Ten years ago, we had not in the French portion of the province, as far as I know, a single cheese or butter factory worked by a company. The lecture, given in our parishes, by order of the Government, showed the advantages of such associations, of which our neighbors had the monopoly. To-day we must have over 200 cheese factories, and their number is increasing in a surprising manner. I estimate at one hundred the number of new cheese and butter factories which will commence working next spring.

Unfortunately, what we still want is adequate knowledge, to enable us to derive all we should from this industry. For instance, I know a good many factories, among the very best, which are often obliged to have recourse to foreign workmen, who cannot even speak French. I know American women who get, in our Canadian factories, from \$50 to \$60 a month and their board, while, in Ontario, the average wages are \$25, without board, for men, who are stronger and equally expert. Here, also, the buildings and apparatus are too primitive, and the consequence is that we lose from 10 to 20 per cent of the value of all our cheese products. As to the butter factories, I know several which are looking for workmen without knowing where to find them, and who are asked as much as five dollars a day, while in Ontario and the United States the prices are the same as for cheese makers, say \$2 a month.

In Ontario the same obstacles had to be overcome. As early as 1867, the Provincial Government took the matter up, and passed an act to encourage associations for the manufacture of cheese and butter. There are two of them, known as the "Eastern" and the "Western Dairy men's Association." They are worked on the same principle as agricultural societies, and receive from the Government an annual grant of \$1000. Each of these associations meets annually, and their sessions last three days, there are three sittings a day. I have frequently attended these meetings, and have been astonished at the interest they excite; the rooms were crowded, and the sittings lasted from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m., exclusive of meal hours. Short-hand writers take