

charged. Animals cannot be packed into a car like ordinary goods. At the same time The Commercial would like to see a special effort made to meet the views of the breeders, in the interest of the live stock industry of the country. The farmer who raises a poor class of live stock, is losing a large share of the profits which should result from his labors, and it is indeed quite as desirable to encourage the raising of a good class of live stock, as it is to encourage the growing of the best varieties of grain crops.

A LINSEED oil mill is to be started at Mission City, British Columbia. The flax seed for this mill will be drawn from Manitoba, as there is scarcely any flax grown in British Columbia. Manitoba, however, will be able to easily supply all the seed that is required, as our production of flax seed is now greater than is required by all the mills in Canada.

THE dominion government, it is reported, will go ahead with Prof. Robertson's scheme to place Canadian dead meats in British markets. To carry this trade on on a large scale, will require a thorough system of cold storage at all principal points. This year, however, it is intended to slaughter only at Montreal. The export of dead meat, we believe, will eventually supersede the shipment of live stock to a great extent, and much good may be expected from the experiment to be made this year.

SO FAR as The Commercial is able to learn, no definite arrangement has yet been made regarding the proposed dairy exchange. As we stated last week, the dairymen decided not to work with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Later a deputation of the dairymen waited upon the provincial government to see if they could induce the government to come to their aid in the matter, but the government very wisely declined to do anything. The government is of course at liberty to assist the dairy industry in a general way, by giving instructions in dairy matters, and trying to improve dairy methods, but the government could not undertake to act as salesmen for the dairymen, in competition with ordinary commercial facilities. The dairymen appear to be anxious to arrange in some way for the handling of their product among themselves, and marketing it independent of the dealers or middlemen. The matter is now in the hands of the executive committee of the Manitoba Dairy Association.

It has been rumoured repeatedly of late that the Manitoba government proposed to completely secularize the schools. This is what should have been done in the first place. The position of the provincial authorities would undoubtedly have been greatly strengthened all through this school controversy, if the national schools had been made purely secular at the time separate schools were abolished. With coercion staring us in the face it is perhaps a little late to take this wise step, but it is better late than never. It is really a matter for much regret that the national schools were not established at the

outset on a purely secular basis. In this mixed community it would certainly appear better to have religion left out of the schools entirely, as it is altogether impossible to devise any system of religious exercises which would be agreeable to all concerned. Opponents of secular schools may call them Godless schools if they like, but the arguments in favor of secular schools certainly appear to be good common sense. If with all our churches, Sunday schools and religious institutions the religious education of the young cannot be properly attended to, assisted by home education, then we say there is something wrong with the aforesaid churches and religious institutions. It is more to their shame than to their credit to keep the country in a turmoil by insisting on religious instructions in the public schools, on the ground that there are not sufficient religious influences outside of the schools. If the Manitoba government decides at once to secularize the schools, then we can with better reason declare that we will not submit to coercion from the Dominion.

THE sealing regulations resulting from the Paris arbitration, do not seem to be satisfactory to the United States. It is now claimed that these regulations are altogether inefficient to preserve the seals. The United States is now working to secure more stringent regulations, and pending the further investigation of the question, the United States government wants to conclude a modus vivendi with the countries interested, to protect the seals in the meantime. If this cannot be accomplished, congress has passed a bill authorizing the government to kill off the entire seal herd when they come within United States jurisdiction as they annually do at the Alaska islands. The evident intention of the United States is no doubt to destroy the Canadian sealing industry, by making the regulations so stringent as to render the business unprofitable.

An Opinion on Butter.

A gentleman who has had many years experience in handling butter has sent the following letter to the *Manitoba Mercury*:

1st. How is the best way to produce our butter?

I think the creamery to be the proper place in which to manufacture our butter, as that institution is supplied with all modern appliances, the article produced is of a uniform grade and therefore commands a better price on the market. I would also advise every farmer to purchase a cream separator, similar to that used by John Davidson, whose dairy is a model of perfection. He takes the warm milk from the cows, separates the cream and gives the warm skimmed milk to the calves which do as well as when allowed to run with their mothers. Another advantage is that the cream is perfectly sweet and has no chance to become tainted as is sometimes the case when put into cans or creamers and placed in old cellars or wells of stagnant water. The cream being perfectly clean and in proper condition is then taken to the creamery, made into butter, and placed in cold storage. Manufactured under these conditions it has every advantage over dairy butter, as so very few have a proper place to either make or keep their butter after it is made.

2nd. How is the best way to market our butter?

If it be creamery butter it should be sold

by tender to the highest bidder at least once in every month, and should be shipped in a refrigerator car. The dairy butter should not be marketed as it is at present, brought to the store and all traded for merchandise at the same price. This is simply putting a premium on uncleanness as the poor butter maker gets as much as the good, simply because the merchant cannot afford to offend his customer by telling him that his butter is only second or third grade, as that would mean the loss of the customer. This evil not only affects the good butter maker, but also the spot cash buyer. The former has no redress, but the cash buyer says, I shall not trade in the Manitoba stores because they have to charge extra on their merchandise to make up for the loss on the excessive price they have paid on butter, and I shall send my cash to eastern houses where they turn over their goods on a spot cash basis, and therefore our own noble province is being robbed of the hard cash she so much needs simply because merchants have had to keep their prices up to come out even on the unjust trading system. Now the way I would remedy this evil is this: Let every farmer bring the butter into town say once a week or as often as they see fit, and let there be a cold storage room in each town where the farmer can put his butter till the commission men come, say once in every two weeks or as often as practicable, and buy the butter from the farmer on grade for spot cash at the cold storage where his butter would be all labeled by the caretaker. This system would have a tendency to make the ladies all good butter makers as they would not like to have their butter graded No 2.

3rd. How is the price of dairy butter affected by the present system of marketing?

We have in Manitoba as good dairy butter-makers as in any country under the sun, but in many instances all their trouble has been for naught. They have brought first class butter to town and the merchant not having a proper place to sort and keep the product, leaves it standing in an unfit place, and by the time the butter reaches the consumer the No. 1 butter is No. 2, and that is all the merchant can sell it for. He therefore makes a loss on the butter and as the merchant cannot afford to lose, so the goods have to go up in price to meet this continual loss. Let farmer and merchant join hands in this butter industry to help one another and therefore lighten the burden of both, and consequently build up our own towns and province of Manitoba.

Argentine Wheat Crop.

Concerning the Argentine wheat crop, the cables received this week have still been more or less unfavorable in tone. The estimates of the probable yield have been reduced, and what is also rather serious, there is much disappointment with regard to the quality. The mail advices received this week, are dated the end of December and describe the effects of the terrific storms of rain and hail as heartrending. One authority in the Santa Fe province expects the wheat crop to be 80 per cent. and the linseed crop 50 per cent less than last year. Meanwhile the movement of new wheat to the ports is very small, and the freight market this week has been very depressed. At the present moment there are probably not more than 25 steamers chartered for February and March loading, whereas at this time last year the recorded charters amounted to more than 50. The shipments of wheat during the present month will not exceed 40,000 quarters, against 120,000 quarters in the same month of last year, and 165,000 quarters in 1894. In February and March last year nearly 1,600,000 quarters were shipped. This year judging from the charters effected the quantity will with difficulty reach 1,000,000 quarters.—Beerbohm, Feb. 1.