

The improvement is in this direction :—Not that the very best dairies have been enabled to make better quality, but that the poorer dairies have been enabled to make the goods that they turn out, nearly equal to the best. An averaging up of the qualities has been the advantage the country has reaped.

Now, the experimental dairy stations in Canada have just the same object in view,—not so much to help men to make cheese and butter different from, and better than what are now made in the best factories and creameries, as to average up the poor quality until the goods we send abroad are uniformly fine, carrying a good reputation with them and thus fetching a higher price. I need not detain the Committee with a long explanation of what such countries as Denmark, Sweden and Holland have been doing, since it is probably familiar to most of you that they have been spending larger sums of money to promote skilful dairy practice, than in any other branch of effort to improve the condition of agriculture. To such an extent has this work been carried, that in Denmark alone there are something like seventy-five dairy stations which may be used as schools. They are on rather a small scale, but these stations have been the agencies through which Denmark has been enabled to produce the largest quantity, and the finest quality of butter sent by any country to England.

It is the expectation of some of us that through the work of these stations in Canada, we will be able to develop an export trade in butter quite equal to that of Denmark and larger than our own export trade in cheese now. So one main purpose of our experimental dairy station work in Canada, is to develop an export trade in butter of the very best quality to meet the needs of the English market. At the same time we will not forget to bear in mind this, that we should try and get for ourselves the value which our own goods carry in themselves, by having everything sent from Canada branded “Canadian,” so that those who produce our goods and sell them under our name may get a higher price for them.

I come now to a specific statement of what we are doing in Canada. Before I make that, however, let me refer to one other aspect of this work. In most countries the work of experimental investigation has been done by scientists pure and simple. Even in agricultural science, the Germans have done more in the way of investigation during the last twenty-five years than we have done,