

The Produce of our Dairies.

Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well. This old maxim is not to be disregarded in any position of life or by any class; and we farmers should not lose sight of its importance. As the great wealth of the country is derived from her soil, it is evident that her prosperity must, in a great measure, depend on the industry and skill of the farmer. Nor is it enough that our lands yield us heavy crops. We should see to it that the products of our fields be of first quality, and be put to the best account. What profit is it to us how many bushels to the acre our grain crops average, or how many hundreds weight of butter our firkins contain, if, from their inferior quality, we must sell them for the lowest price in the market. We now direct you to our dairy products, not the least important source of our agricultural wealth.

The great value of the dairy husbandry of Canada to the landowners and country can only be estimated from the quantities of cheese and butter that are exported. Those we are able to ascertain, but an estimate of the quantity for home consumption to be added to our exports can only be a matter of conjecture. "The productions of cheese rose from four and a half millions of pounds to twenty-four million between 1869 and 1874, or over 500 per cent. in five years." This extraordinary increase was due to the erection of cheese factories throughout the country. That cheese factories have been a source of profit to their patrons is shown by their continued increase. And so great has been the increase of the production of cheese that the production of butter decreased greatly. The export of butter from Montreal had increased from 72,824 kegs in 1868 to 204,357 kegs in 1871. Owing to the great production of cheese the butter export trade decreased to 102,572 kegs in 1874. In 1875 the butter production again improved, and up to the 30th of November the exports from Montreal amounted to 151,318 kegs. The value of our exports of dairy products in 1869 was \$2,891,842. It increased to \$6,143,506 in 1874. That there has been a great improvement in the agriculture of the country is shown by the great increase in her dairy products. Wheat is no longer the only article of farm produce that the farmer relies on, and when the profit from dairying is more generally known, pasture, soiling and root growing will receive more of his attention. He needs not dread over produce or glutted produce for his butter and cheese, or his beeves. There is an ever increasing demand in Great Britain for all his surplus. In 1875 she imported, up to the close of November, no less than 137,833,604 lbs. of butter, and of this there had been little more than 6 per cent. from Canada, though the greater portion of her dairy products were exported to British markets. Our country is well adapted for dairy farming; the soil and climate are suitable to it; and we can, if we will, supply Britain with a large proportion of the cheese and butter she needs.

That our dairy farming may be profitable, and its products find a good market, we must have regard to quality even more than quantity. It was said, a few years since, by a Canadian journal, that much of the butter exported to Great Britain from Canada was used only for smearing sheep, and was considered utterly unfit for the table or cooking purposes, the greater portion of it having netted the shipper 7c. to 12c. per pound. If the butter of Canada were of such quality when that was written, we are happy to say it is not now applicable. There has been a very great improvement; but there is need of still further improvement. Why should not our butter rank as high as that of the United States. The butter exported from that country is worth, at New York, from 26c. to 33c. per lb., while ours is worth only from 17c. to 22c.

This ought not to be so. Their soil is not better than that of Canada. Their grain crops are not equal to ours. Our oats and barley especially are much superior to theirs, and demand higher prices in their markets. In our meat, our beef, still more our mutton, excell them; and the same land the cows are fed on. There must be some cause for this exceptional inferiority.

The fact is, we do not pay sufficient attention to dairy farming. In the United States, on the contrary, everything connected with it is studied with the greatest interest, and the result of their studies and investigations is thoroughly tested and acted on if found beneficial. We require to pay more attention to the food of our cows, to the purity of the water they drink, to the ventilation and cleanliness of their stalls and mangers, to the pure air and freedom from everything that would offend the eye or smell in our milk-rooms and milk-houses. If these be neglected we need not expect good, sweet butter. Much of the value of exported butter depends also on the packing, and no little on the kegs in which it is packed. In the place of packing, as well as in the milk-house, there should be the most scrupulous cleanliness; everything that might by any possibility communicate an undesirable odour should be excluded.

It is better to sell our butter when new. Butter is apt to lose its sweet, fresh flavor when some time made. None will retain it long but such as is of the first quality, and much even that would be classed as such when new will soon deteriorate if badly packed, and betimes from other causes. See also that, in its transit to market and in the warehouse, if it be put in one, no ill odour be communicated by contact with other substances.

The Railway and Agriculture.

Another Canadian railway has been completed. The London, Huron and Bruce Railway has been opened, and the splendid farming country away to the north is brought into immediate connexion with an excellent market for the products of its fertile soil. That northern country has made great progress, even when it was wholly dependent on the gravel, and in many cases mud roads, for access to market; and now their progress will, we may expect, be much more rapid than it has been. There is every reason to expect that the road will be extended still further north, till it reaches the lake, and perhaps, as some anticipate, to Owen Sound. We hope there will be no restrictive tariff, but that the farmers will, by liberal tariffs, receive that encouragement that they so well deserve and that only can promote the prosperity of farmers and citizens, that this section of country may still be called the "Garden of Canada."

In some parts of Canada there is dissatisfaction with the tariff of railways for local freight. The municipalities have given large bonuses for the building of the roads, and now find that such tariffs have been fixed as are quite unjustifiable. We will give one instance. There are grave complaints of the tariff of the Intercolonial, as being oppressive. The Colchester *Sun* says that promises had been given that special rates would be granted that would counteract the baneful effects of the tariff, and that, on the contrary, abundant proof can be furnished that they are unjust, unfair and inconsistent, and only tend to encourage and foster monopolies at the expense of farmers, who are the mainstay of our country.

We do not anticipate any such unfair preference and restriction on the L. H. & B. The directors know the country and what is needed for its improvement; and that a liberal and just management of the business is fully as necessary for the success of the enterprise as for the prosperity of the country, and we believe that such wise principles will actuate their counsels and govern all their measures.

Poisoning Effects of Wild Mustard.

Wild Mustard, or Charlock, as it is called in the old country, appears to possess very injurious qualities, so much so that the seed, if partaken of by animals even in moderate quantity, has now been proven to produce deadly effects. In the last part of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Professor Simonds, Principal of the London Veterinary College, inserts in his report on the health of farm animals, some novel and interesting facts by Mr. Tuson, an able analytical chemist, relative to this matter.

In one case rape cake was given in quantities varying from 3 lbs. to 6 lbs. to 37 young animals, all of which were more or less affected with symptoms of poisoning, and eight eventually died. Another instance: two beasts were supplied with a feed of from 3 lbs. to 6 lbs. of the cake, both of which died in 24 hours. A third case, consisting of 21 beasts, having partaken of 1½ lbs. of the cake, all the animals were more or less affected, and 3 died the same night. The symptoms were indicative of narcotico-acrid poisoning, and the post mortem examination revealed in every instance intense inflammation of the stomach and intestines. By chemical analysis and microscopic investigation considerable quantities of wild mustard were discovered in the rape cake, as well as in the stomachs sent for investigation.

The conclusions arrived at from these and analogous cases of poisoning by rape cake, may be thus summarized:

1st. That lengthened practical experience has established the fact that green rape cake is a perfectly wholesome food for cattle.

2nd. That it is equally a matter of fact that wild mustard seed is an irritant poison, giving rise to inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

3rd. That, under these circumstances, and owing to chemical and microscopic analysis having both demonstrated the existence of considerable quantities of wild mustard seed in the rape cakes in question, and in the stomachs of the animals that had eaten it, it is apparent that such cakes are wholly unfit for feeding animals.

4th. That it is probable the wild mustard seed was not in these instances intentionally added to the rape, but that both plants had grown together, and that their seeds were not separated before they were crushed and pressed into cake.

Unfortunately wild mustard as a weed is not unknown to the farmers of Canada, in some instances almost destroying the crop. The facts before stated should be a warning against allowing domestic animals to partake of the plant in any form, which, perhaps, in a green state they will seldom do unless pressed by hunger; and the seed should never be allowed to be mixed with flax or rape seeds in any quantities whatever.

A Diversity of Manures.

Manure, when frequently applied to a tract of land, will, after some applications, cease to have the same effect that it had when applied at first, if the manure be of the same kind. It is becoming apparent to farmers, and more especially to such as are living near large towns and who avail themselves of their opportunity to manure their grounds very frequently with stable manure, that some change is necessary, some diversity of fertilizers. That it has not received more attention generally is owing to the fact that in most cases a number of years elapse from the application of manure to the soil till the same soil is again manured; and the fertilizing elements supplied by the former manuring are consumed by the succeeding crops before the next application of manure.

The more frequent the application of manure of the one kind, the necessity for some change be-

comes the more upon the attention where the four division is made a rotation of manure. It is not at fault, but that of the same kind.

This is especially true. Than in general purposes, the swine manure properties of the waste and abundance of the soil is so there is a great temptation to crops as are in injurious effect.

Not only do but also their had been. In able. Cabbages rooted. Turbative. Potatoes that floury when of good color, bitter to ease. In the disease is more ground so treat other circumstances.

The evil effect of fertilizer is not too frequent reduce similar as a fertilizer, intervals, cease applied. The elements for. The term "lime" where lime is

The effects as a fertilizer, has been manure partial disease to this cause, to a falling of tained. From fertilizer, we want than as manurely or it in our growth germination to the rough manure and stimulant.

The Manure

From the extracts exhibit that are profitable "believe no" "attempted" "made on the" "never give" "first correct" "yet to be p" "education" "all over the