

The farmers are intelligent and intellectual as a class, and show an anxiety to excel in everything when once they see the way, and they are honest and industrious, and fully recognise the importance of having and maintaining a good reputation for themselves. Thus country people of all nationalities are to be found, but they all work together with a willingness which is truly admirable in furthering any object which will add to the prosperity of the nation. In fact they are all interested in the one great question of "How to farm the land to the best advantage, and how to obtain the best prices for its production." Everything is more or less dependant on agriculture, and in these days of rapid development and great competition it is no wonder that a country so purely agricultural as Canada should aim at placing dairy and other produce of such a superior quality not only on the one best market for the whole universe, but on all possible others, as to merit the highest awards for their general excellence, and all forces have been mustered to accomplish this as quickly as possible. The Dominion and provincial governments, the agricultural colleges, the railway companies, and the steamship companies are all working in combination with the farmers towards the same end, and that is to produce cheese and butter, fruits, and meat; butter especially in larger quantities than at present, of a quality which cannot be surpassed, and to put these products on the markets at a price which will make competition from other countries almost impossible. Whether this can be done remains to be seen, but the Dominion and provincial governments, with the dairy associations, have such a splendid system of co-operation with the farmers in establishing creameries and cheese factories, and in educating managers for them, and the interests of the two are so thoroughly united that the most beneficial results must follow.

In the provinces of Quebec and Ontario dairying has been practised from the days of the earliest settler, but in the Far West, Manitoba for instance, it is only recently that the farmers have come to the conclusion that anything but wheat can be produced, and, although thousands of acres of golden grain about harvest-time form a beautiful picture, it is too treacherous a crop to be relied on entirely, and so now mixed farming is being gradually introduced, and the Dominion Government have laid down creameries both in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and others have

been started from different sources, so that dairying is largely on the increase in the West, and winter dairying in all the provinces. Originally, cows were only milked long enough each season to support the cheese factories, but now farmers are improving their breed of cows, are building siloes, are growing larger crops of suitable winter fodder, and they find it more profitable in many ways. The principal advantage is that the factory can be kept going all the year, but is converted into a creamery during the winter months. Canada considers England her best market. British Columbia has been a very good market of late owing to the prosperous times of the mining population, and if only a road can be opened up to the Klondyke, and it turns out to be as good as many people would like to believe at present, it is impossible to calculate the fortunes in store for Canada. One shipment of 10,000 lb. of butter in 2-lb. tins has been made, and realised 5s. per lb., but how much must be deducted for freights I could not find out.

A few years ago there was a very small quantity of butter exported, from the fact that the quality was not good enough for the export trade, the result being the local markets were often overstocked, and it was no encouragement to the farmer to produce milk for butter-making. There was great need for something to be done for the development of the dairy industry in this direction, and there was some agitation on the subject about 1889, which resulted in the assembly at Ottawa of delegates from the existing dairymen's Associations in the several provinces, and, by the courtesy of the Speaker of the House of Commons, the meetings were held in one of the committee rooms, and, after much discussion, a resolution was adopted in favour of the organisation of a "Dairyman's Association for the Dominion," the aim of the Association to be to foster and promote the general dairy interests of the Dominion of Canada. The Association was in due course formed and officers selected. Several conventions were held, and in a short time the Association was accorded the privilege of laying its views before the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture, at one of its Sessions, and at that meeting several members expressed themselves as being entirely in sympathy with the movement by deciding, in the first place, to advise the appointment of a dairy commissioner to carry out the objects of the Association. The appointment