

Dominion and Provincial.

[Letters from practical farmers stating briefly the conditions of crops, sales, quotations and similar items of interest, are welcomed. Short, pithy accounts of farmers' meetings and the helpful points brought out may be included. New ideas and short cuts in farm work are especially solicited. Where future prospects for a special crop are unusually bright, our readers want to know it. We have space for short, crisp, newsy jottings from each state.]

DAIRYING IN MANITOBA.

In the last few years dairying has made very rapid strides in Manitoba. Eleven years ago no dairying was done in the province except by a few farmers who made a limited quantity of dairy butter for their own use and not enough to supply even that demand. The first creamery was established in 1888 and up to about 5 yrs ago there were but five creameries and 19 small cheese factories. In the early part of 1895 the Manitoba government endeavored to increase the creameries by granting farmers aid to establish them throughout the province, where joint stock companies were formed and incorporated, and by obtaining this aid the people of Manitoba had at the close of the year 1898 32 creameries in operation.

In 1896, the government established a dairy school at "A. and G.", which has proved a great success and a great benefit to the province generally. There has been a large attendance of students every session. The majority of but and cheese makers that are managing factories throughout Manitoba are those who have taken a course in the school. This school is a free gift to all residents of the province. It is fully equipped with all modern machinery for giving instructions in both home, dairy and creamery butter making and factory cheese making.

There was exported in '94, \$34,000 worth of butter of all kinds and in '98 \$309,454.

Manitoba is pre-eminently a dairy country, being exceedingly healthy for stock of all kinds. The facilities for dairying in Manitoba are unexcelled by those of any province in the Dominion. In nearly every part of the province there are water and pasture for the stock and pure water for the manufacture of butter. One great advantage is that the land does not have to be tilled in the least to produce excellent pasture.

Manitoba being the natural home of stock it naturally follows that dairy cattle cannot fail to thrive and produce excellent butter. The cool nights which invariably follow the hot summer days are a great advantage to the dairy industry. The milk can be kept sweet over night with very little trouble; the cheese holds its flavor on the shelves for a good length of time. In short the climate is all that could be desired for dairying, and when proper care is taken with the dairy cattle there is sure to be a good paying profit to the dairy farmers of Manitoba.—[T. H. Malone.

TOBACCO IN QUEBEC.

Farmers engaged in the production of tobacco are now hard at work upon deciding how much of their land and time they will devote this year to this crop. The unsettled condition of the market makes it difficult for one to decide this. One fact, however, which will certainly carry weight, is that a small portion only of last year's crop has been sold and practically none of it has been bought by the large manufacturers; and this will undoubtedly cause a reduction in the acreage, even compared to last year's.

The market for direct consumption of old leaf has been supplied as usual mostly by growers outside the principal district of production, which looks more to manufacturers and large buyers, and prices paid by dealers ran from 2 to 6c. The latter price could be willingly accepted by the majority of growers, but buyers have not put in an appearance. Last year's crop is not a large one, probably 50 per cent smaller than the previous year, and in my estimation below average in quality, owing to lateness in the growth last summer, early cutting of unripe tobacco and the presence of much frozen "st. fl."

Work at the experiment station was started last year and will continue this year. It is too early yet to report on the results of experiments and general operations, as the crops are being put

though the principal and most interesting operations, viz, selection, assorting, fermentation, rehandling, etc. A special building comprising two sections has been erected for the purpose of determining certain facts relating to the curing under certain conditions, and also a stripping room and store room where the fermentation will be done. The flue curing will be tried this year and no doubt very important and interesting demonstrations will be made to the advantage of the growers after a sufficient time. It is to be hoped the department of agriculture will endeavor to facilitate this work, the value of which will be fully realized soon.—[L. V. Labelle, Montcalm Co.

HINTS TOWARD SUCCESS.

If the farmer had a sure market for fruits and vegetables, it would encourage him to produce them instead of so much wheat. The day the farmer wakes up to the importance of being a seller instead of a buyer, he will be the most independent man on earth. To become one he must first supply his own house with good food, and still have some for sale. If grain and hay were fed to horses, cows, hogs and chickens, instead of selling them as soon as harvested, which is always the wrong time to sell, a far larger profit would be realized for crops.

The time has come when we must think seriously as to where our meat is to come from. At the price consumers are paying for meat, the time will come when the laboring class will look upon meat as a luxury. My idea of settling this food question is for every farmer to produce his own milk, butter, eggs and meat, and sell as much as possible, but never buy. Under such conditions food will not be so cheap as not to pay for its production. But let it be cheap, if it will, for a man never feels as confident as when well fed. I have seen farmers sell corn at 20c per bu and before the winter is over pay 12c per lb for bacon; sell tomatoes and other vegetables so cheap he could not feed his horses, and then buy them back at 10c per can.

Fruits and vegetables can be canned or preserved at very little cost, and if done right will keep two years, which would enable them to keep over a bad year in better shape than if sold as soon as ripened. By farming along these lines the farmer could always have a good living, which is one way of making a family satisfied with their lot. The next thing is a pleasant home. It is not necessary to have a mansion to have a home. The humblest place if taken a little care of by loving hands would be more of a home in the true sense of the word than a mansion cared for by hired hands. Because a place is in the country is no reason why it should be ugly. Every home should be surrounded by trees, lawns and flowers. Often in the country a place could be beautified with very little labor if the cows and hogs were kept away from the house. The farmer should take more pride in his work, secure better schools for his children and keep up with the world. Good books and papers are so cheap as to be in the reach of all. Let a neighborhood club together in getting reading matter; let each subscribe for a paper and then exchange. Have more social gatherings, get more pleasure out of life and treat your children as if they were made to enjoy life as well as work, and your boys and girls will grow to love the old farm best of all because it is home.—[Lillie Dykman.

Grazing Land.—The Dominion lands act allows the governor to grant leases of unoccupied Dominion lands for grazing purposes for a term of 20 yrs at a rental of 2c per acre, conditional upon leasee putting one head of cattle or horses upon each 20a of land leased. A lease does not prevent homesteading of leased lands or withdrawal of such as may be attached as land grants to railway companies or the Hudson Bay Co. This arrangement seems to be unsatisfactory and the result is as in the states, the public graze their cattle, horses and sheep on public lands and pay nothing for the privilege. The government of Assiniboia has made application to the Dominion government for the privilege of assuming the territorial control for grazing purposes of the crown lands in that territory. If such application is permitted, it is proposed to make every stock owner take out grazing permits, the revenue

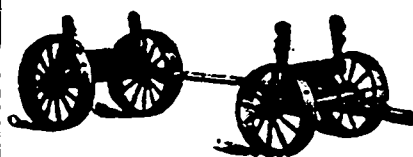
derived therefrom to be expended in encouragement of irrigation and the development and improvement of the water supply for stock watering in the grazing area. This is a matter which the federal government should give thorough investigation. There is little doubt but what the granting of this privilege and its resulting investment on the part of the territorial government would result in great good to the territory.

New Brunswick—St John, the winter port of Canada, is to have a cold storage warehouse where farmers and others can keep produce when prices are low, or until steamers arrive to carry their produce to Great Britain. The New Brunswick legislature has passed a bill to assist the erection of cold storage houses at St John and other ports of the province, guaranteeing interest 10 yrs on a sum not exceeding \$60,000 at 4 per cent from the time of erection and completion of a building at St John. Any year the company makes a net profit sufficient to pay interest no claim shall be made on the government. —The country looks like winter April 9, a two days' snow storm has changed the spring-like appearance to one of mid-winter. Hay and other supplies for the British in South Africa are being forwarded from St John by the steamer load.

In the Northwest Territories spring has opened in fine shape and seeding began April 4, earlier than in '98 or '99. Most of the land is in fine condition and prospects are for a large acreage of spring wheat. Stock has come through the winter in fine condition with plenty of hay to spare. Stockers are selling high, hogs and fat sheep are scarce and in good demand, while small products such as butter and eggs are low. Wheat has advanced to 53c, but most farmers are holding for better prices. Farm laborers of the right class are scarce and demand good wages. We have been relieved of a lot of so-called men that have gone to South Africa, and they are styled Canadians. Why call them such, when nine out of ten are English? The Canadian government is making this a dumping ground for the scum of foreign countries. Why not encourage immigration from Ontario and let Great Britain keep her surplus at home?

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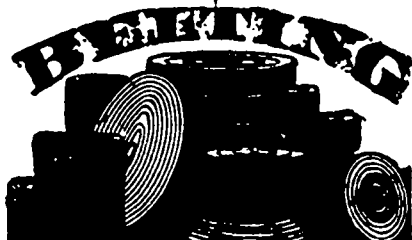
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