

ing information and endeavoring to bring about some improvement in the country roads.

In Ontario the movement has kept pace with the advances made in other lands, and during the past two years a definite and comprehensive plan of imparting instruction has been carried on by the Local Government under the direct guidance of a competent road instructor. When the movement began the desire for information came chiefly from the rural districts, and the work of giving instruction was carried on mostly through the Farmers' Institutes and dairy conventions. Within the last year or two, however, the towns and cities have become interested, and are, perhaps, utilizing the services of the Provincial Road Instructor in a more practical way than the rural districts.

That a vast improvement in many of our country roads and city streets is a necessity goes without saying. There is hardly a township, town, or city, in the whole province in which the roads or streets do not need to be improved. When we think of the miles and miles of roadways in the rural districts, and the numbers of streets in our towns and cities that need improvement, the question becomes very far-reaching indeed. The Good Roads Association of the Province and the Provincial Road Instructor and his staff, have a large task before them. However, from the energy displayed so far in disseminating useful information, these factors seem to indicate that they are able to cope with the situation.

It is estimated that there are 300,000 miles of highways in the United States, which is about 20 per cent. of the roadways of the world. Great Britain has 120,000 miles of roadways, and these are the best in the world. Germany has 275,000 miles of roads, and, strange to say, that country, so renowned for scientific and modern advancement, has some of as poor roads as they could very well be. France has a larger mileage of roadway than any other country in the world, being 330,000 miles, and has taken an enlightened view of the good roads question for many years. More than \$1,000,000,000 have been spent in road improvement in that country during recent years. Russia, with an enormous area, has only 70,000 miles of roadways, while Italy, a much smaller country, has 55,000 miles. As a rule the European highways are in much better condition than the American highways. It is estimated that it would be necessary to build about 1,000,000 miles of macadamized roads in the United States in order to have as good a system of public highways as is found in several European countries. At \$4,000 a mile this would involve an outlay of \$4,000,000,000, which is a pretty large sum.

It will thus be seen that to improve our roadways a large expenditure is necessary, in order that they may be made equal to the roadways of European countries. No one, however, expects that our roads can be put in such a good condition at once. The expenditure must be gradual, and a definite plan of improvement carried on. One good feature of the present method of imparting instruction in Ontario is its uniformity. By getting all the townships and cities working along some definite uniform plan a uniformity in road improvement will be secured. One of the bad features of the statute labor system of the province is the lack of uniformity in its methods of working.

Manitoba's "Klondike"

In conversation recently with the Hon. Thomas Greenway he pointed out how easy it was for a young man to pay for a farm in Manitoba. As a case in point, Mr. Greenway stated that last spring he rented a neighboring farm, upon which considerable plowing had been done, and sowed it to wheat. The wheat yielded twenty bushels per acre, and was sold by Mr. Greenway for 75 cents per bushel, making the gross receipts per acre \$15. The land already plowed was rented by Mr. Greenway for \$3 per acre. The cost of sowing, supplying seed, harvesting, threshing, etc., amounted to \$6 per acre, or \$9 per acre for total cost. This left a clear profit of \$6 per acre. In the fall this

farm was sold for \$6 per acre, or for an amount equal to the actual profit which Mr. Greenway realized from one season's wheat crop. Other instances of a similar kind are given where a farm in Manitoba can be paid for by the net profit from one year's wheat crop, i.e., if the year is a favorable one, as last year was.

There is perhaps no other country in the world where a similar opportunity is afforded of paying for a farm so easily. A country that offers such advantages does not need a gold mine in order to enable its people to become wealthy. The past year has, perhaps, been one of the best on record for the Manitoba farmer, and will enable him to recover from the depression of the two previous years. Manitoba is without doubt one of the best wheat producing countries in the world, and if the season is at all favorable there is big money in farming in the Prairie Province. During the past few years of bad crops and low prices the Manitoba farmer has been turning his attention more to stock-raising and dairying; but it is expected that the good crops and high prices of the past season will have the effect of directing more attention to grain growing. In that case stock raising and dairying will be left more to the farmer of the older provinces. Mr. Greenway reports, however, that dairying is progressing in Manitoba, especially the butter-making branch, as is also stock raising. 1898, therefore, opens up very bright for the Prairie Province, and the coming season should see a large influx of settlers. All Canada will rejoice at the prospect. For what is good for one portion of the Dominion is good for the whole.

The Condensed Milk Business.

Condensed milk factories in some countries seem to return large dividends to the shareholders as well as to those who supply milk. A condensed milk company in Ireland pays annually £20,000 in dividends to its stockholders. The condensed milk factories in the United States are also very remunerative and are excellent investments. In some States in the West, manufacturing condensed milk is one of the main industries in the dairy sections.

Very little has been done in Canada towards developing this branch of dairying. Besides the factory at Truro, N.S., and at one or two other points, no extended effort has been made to develop the business. At one or two points in Ontario condensed milk factories were started a few years ago. These, whether owing to lack of capital, mismanagement or ignorance of how to carry on the business, were not successful.

It is very difficult to get accurate information as to the manner of operating condensed milk factories. Those in the business seem loth to impart any information regarding the business. Some few years ago we had occasion to visit several condensed milk factories, both in Canada and the United States, but failed to get any definite idea as to the process or method of working, owing to the disposition on the part of those in charge not to reveal anything. This may be wise, but such tactics often lead outsiders to wrong conclusions. Many, because of this attitude on the part of those already in the business, come to the conclusion that the business is very profitable.

However that may be, there is no doubt that the business is a profitable one when the producer has free access to the large cities of Europe and the United States. Canada may not be so favorably situated as some other countries for the development of a home market, but why would it not be a profitable business to cater to the export trade in this regard? We have splendid facilities for producing good milk and at comparatively low cost, and it might be possible to produce condensed milk at a profit to both the manufacturer and the person who supplies the milk. Such a business would go well in conjunction with the butter business in some sections. The business is worth looking into, and some of our enterprising dairymen should take the matter in hand.

Swine Products.

The following extract from the *Montreal Trade Bulletin* sums up the situation regarding the future of our bacon industry very well:

"If the present high price of dressed hogs continues, it is claimed by packers here that they will not be able to compete with American mess pork. For instance, Chicago mess pork can be laid down here for about \$15, while Canada short cut cannot be produced under \$16 or \$16.50 on the basis of the present price of dressed hogs in this market. The price of hogs in Canada now appears to be ruled more by the English market, the kind now raised being much lighter than formerly, and more suitable for the curing of lean bacon, which is wanted for the English trade, than turning them into mess pork. Consequently, the heavy hogs that in former years were raised for making mess pork for the home trade have been supplanted by lighter and leaner hogs for the curing of bacon for the export trade, and therefore if the price of dressed hogs keep at their present comparatively high level, Canada will import more American mess pork and export more bacon and hams. It remains to be seen, however, if the price of hogs will be maintained owing to the scarcity, which some maintain, exists in the country. Until now there has been no suitable weather for killing, and from this out the nature of the supply of the different hog sections of Canada will be tested."

Whether the scarcity of hogs exists, as intimated, it is hard to say. The fact that prices for dressed pork is higher here than in the United States is a sure sign that Canadian bacon has the preference in the British market. Prices here are governed more by the export demand than by the prices in the west. And this feature of the situation is growing more marked every year.

Sheep Raising on a Large Scale.

Canadian farmers can hardly realize the vast extent of some of the Australian sheep ranches. One of the largest sheep raisers in that country is Mr. Samuel McCaughney, who will shear 1,250,000 sheep this season. His yearly average of lambs is from 300,000 to 400,000. He has 600,000 sheep on a fenced farm of 1,500,000 acres in one district, 400,000 in another, and so on distributing his flock in many sections.

Mr. McCaughney realizes the importance of giving special attention to improving his flock year by year, and to this end imports largely of rams from the State of Vermont every year. By improving the quality of his sheep by breeding, he has increased the annual wool output of the flock one pound per sheep, or a total of \$500,000 per annum.

What will apply to sheep raising on a large scale is just as applicable to the smallest sheep farmer. Whether many or few sheep are kept, an effort should be made to keep only the very best. The aim should be to keep the kind of sheep that combines both the mutton producing and wool producing qualities. We are afraid that many Canadian sheep raisers do not give as much attention to this part of the business as they should. Too many of them allow their sheep to look after themselves. Though sheep need less care than any other animal on the farm, they need some attention in order to do well.

Blending Butter in France.

The system of blending butter is carried to a somewhat high art in France. When the butter arrives at some central point it is graded into two or three qualities. The very best grades are sent to Paris. The others are put through a kind of process which expels superfluous butter-milk and allows of more salt being added, and sometimes coloring matter. An expert judge is always on hand to test the graded butter, and to state when the blending process has been sufficiently carried on.

There are two main objects to be accomplished by this process. The first one is to procure a uniform quality in the butter and to eliminate the but-