

the \$80 worth of butter can be carried as cheaply to market as the \$6 worth of flour. This alone is an immense advantage; for when the farmer comes to deduct freights on a low-priced bulky product, together with commissions to the middlemen for handling, it will often take a microscope of great power to discover the profits saved by the producer.

In New York we have studied this question of the dairy and its relative advantages for many years. We cannot afford to grow corn; for the West, with its rich prairie and bottom lands easy of cultivation by machinery, can undersell us.

Look at the price of wheat and flour to-day, and tell me if the hard tenacious soils of New York, New England, and Canada, can produce it at a profit? How is it with wool? The immense plains of Texas and the West are competing with us, and can always afford to sell for less money than we can afford to produce it.

We have no chance to enter European markets with our wool, for Australia and South America stand in the way. There is nothing permanent in a protective tariff for the wool grower in the States. Work the card as skilfully as he may, the politician and the woollen manufacturer will always insist on having the "golden fleece." Now, a good dairy farm is a good stock farm; but stock farms are not necessarily good dairy farms. It is doubtful whether the great stock farms of Kentucky and the South-West will ever be employed largely for dairying. The lands are not so well provided with water, and the climate is too warm to secure the finest flavored goods.

Besides, the stock-farmer of the West and South-West can make more money in raising stock than by dairying.

With the great railroad facilities being developed in these directions, the New York and New England farmer will find it more and more difficult to compete with these people in making fat cattle for the shambles.

On the other hand, there has been for the past few years a gradual but constant increase in the demand and price of dairy products. If you take the gold prices for different kinds of food in London for a series of years, the statistics present the remarkable facts that dairy products have remained steady, while other products have fluctuated in price, and at times become very much depressed. The reason of this is, that the whole world is not competing in this class of production. The supply being uniformly within the limits of consumption, a good article is always needed, and prices do not fall so low comparatively as for other products.

It must be observed, too, that upon dairy farms, the milk product year after year is pretty uniform as to quantity. Upon natural grazing lands, there is no crop so reliable as grass.

Grain, fruit, hops, and the like, are liable to numerous accidents, that lessen or destroy the yield, but which do not obtain in the grass crop. Hence the dairymen can count pretty accurately upon what his farm will yield, if stocked with an average lot of cows.