

Unfortunately, many Canadian exporters neglect this advice, and, as we said before, persist in not consigning butter to England in the early summer because prices are then low, and keep the butter till its quality is injured and the reputation of our dairies and creameries impaired.

In April, 1895, a request, signed by Messrs. Albert Orr, M. D. Curran, and others, was received by the Hon. Louis Beaubien, to the following effect:

"The only profitable branch of the dairy industry of late years, has been the manufacture of cheese. If all milk-producers turn their attention to making cheese, the result will be that this industry will very soon become unprofitable, owing to over production. It is neither wise nor business-like to depend altogether upon one channel of outlet for the disposal of our entire milk-production."

The petition concluded by asking the government to grant a premium for a specified quantity of our finest fresh creamery-butter, to be shipped to Great Britain weekly, in sufficient quantity throughout the season, while fresh and in a condition to secure a reputation for itself.

Petitions, of a like character, were signed, in 1894, by representatives of nearly 200 out of the 240 or 250 creameries existing at that time in the province, and supported by a resolution, passed unanimously, by the Convention of the Dairyman's Association, held in December 1894, as well as by a resolution unanimously carried by the Chambre du Commerce (Board of Trade) of Quebec.

Montreal, January 18th, 1897.

A. R. Jenner Esq.,
4 Lincoln Ave., City.

DEAR SIR;—

We herewith return the letter which you handed us to-day, and would advise that the only steamer of this line that was ever fitted out with cold-storage was the "Labrador". When this steamer first came out, she was fitted with cold-storage, but it was subsequently taken out, as the shippers would not use it.

Yours truly,

D. TORRANCE & Co.

BUTTER FOR EXPORT.—At the late Iowa Convention the following statement was made as to the character, flavour, etc., required to satisfy the English consumer of butter, and the most popular shape of the package:

"The exporter wants a square box made of white wood, twelve inches square inside, holding fifty-six pounds. The British retail dealer strips the butter from the box, and has a square from which he can cut pound quantities conveniently. The British require a paler butter than we have been making, with less salt in it, and drier than is customary with our makers; that means working the butter twice, so as to get more water out." Quite right, on the whole. The English of the higher classes object to too much flavour or too much colour in butter. A nutty flavour and a colour not deeper than "primrose" suit their palate and eye; and, moreover, the English of all classes object to pay for water instead of butter.

MILCH-COWS.

The Canadian cow — Guernseys — Jerseys — Ayrshires — Crossing — Dairy Shorthorns.

At a late agricultural meeting, at Jollette, I think, our worthy minister of agriculture for the Dominion, congratulated his French-Canadian hearers upon possessing the finest breed of dairy cows in the world. What is the breed, that the Hon. M. Fisher speaks of? As a matter of fact he has always kept a herd of thoroughbreds Guernseys himself, and is one of the vice-presidents of the American Guernsey cattle club. He apparently prefers them to cows such as the farmer can get here, and I think it is a pity that we do not think as he does, and are quite satisfied with what we have got, having been told that we are the lucky possessors of the finest dairy cows in the world.

Like the Canadian pony, the Canadian cow has been crossed and mongrelized out of existence as a type, and the cows that we now have in this district (1) cannot be said to belong to any breed, all that you can say of them, is that they show a cross of this or that breed. You could not find about here if you tried, a single specimen, that Prof. Couture would say was a genuine Canadian cow. There may be some parts of this Province where cows are to be found, more or less similar to the old type, about which their admirers have so much to say, more in the way of tradition and of latent possibilities of development than of actual superior merit; but there are certainly none here. If the old Canadian cow was anything at all, she was a small, hardy cow, giving a moderate quantity of rather rich milk, on poor feed, and quite useless for beef. There have always been plenty of cows of this type in different countries, doing fairly well, under local conditions, such as the Kerries, the Dexters, in Ireland; the small Brittany cow, etc., etc., that have either not been considered worth taking up and developing, so as to attempt to rival the great dairy breeds of England and America, or, if the attempt has been made to a partial extent, have quite failed to succeed in doing so. The great Dairy breeds of England and America, we know, and their reputation rest upon a solid foundation. They breed true to type, and by their aid, with crossing and selection, improvement is both certain, and progressive. I do not know of any more heart-breaking task than to endeavour how to get the French-Canadian farmer to improve his live stock. From year's end to year's end, the immensely large majority of our habitants keep on the same average number of cows they have been accustomed to keep on their farms, without any attempt at weeding out the bad ones, or improving or even keeping up the average of good ones. They know perfectly well, without any assistance from the Babcock, which of their cows are large milkers of poor milk, or moderate milkers of rich milk, and which give little of either milk or cream; but they keep them on all the same, because their neighbours do not want to buy their bad cows, and they think it would cost too much to fatten them for beef. A habitant is generally anxious to get a heifer calf out of a cow that he knows to be a good milker, but, after having reared this heifer, more or less carefully, he will

(1) Ste-Thérèse.

afterwards, no matter how well she turns out, put her to any bull at all, provided it costs him nothing. But, that is indispensable. He will not pay 50 cents for the service of the best registered Guernsey (1) or Ayrshire bull;

(1) Our own Guernsey bull "Rufus," from Sir John Abbot's herd, stood 3 years at Sorel for 50 cents a cow, and only served 2 cows besides those of his owner! Ed.

Even if it cost him nothing, he will not do even that, if he has some distance to go, and can turn his cow into a "pacage" of his neighbour's, where any sort of a scrub bull is running with the cattle. There is no attempt whatever made to have cows to come in calf at any certain time, nor can it be otherwise, as the bull is always allowed to run loose with the cows. Of course under these circumstances anything like an attempt at winter dairying is impossible. They will listen to all the arguments in favour of winter dairying, and go on doing just the same as before.

Our native cattle in this Province, owing to their inherent defects are not capable of improvement by selection alone, but they are good enough to serve as foundation stock if judiciously crossed, and constant efforts at improvement and selection were followed. There will of course always be, even amongst scrub cattle, some exceptionally good specimens, but it would be as unfair to take these animals as representatives of a so called race, as it would be to take the most inferior individuals amongst Ayrshire or Guernseys, for instance, and judge them according to that standard. It is possible to create a distinct breed of animals, breeding true to type; out of almost anything, if time and money be no object. Mr. Havemeyer, of New-York, is at present carrying out an experiment in the way of breeding dairy cattle, which may, not be successful. He is crossing Simmenthal and Normandy cattle on Jerseys, and vice versa.

Leaving out the money part, which is not the least important to us millinaire farmers of Lower Canada, it takes about 40 years of time. We shall not improve our cows much by starting herd-books alone, because a herd-book is of no use until a breed has been established, and all the careful process of selection and proper mating has been accomplished by such natural born breeders of animals, endowed with that natural intuition for the fitness of similarities and the unfitness of dissimilarities, which constitute the art of the breeder, and has always pre-eminently characterized English breeders and farmers.

The whole object of a breed of domestic animals is the concentration as much as possible of certain desirable attributes, with the certainty of having these attributes faithfully transmitted by their descendants.

We all know the four great dairy-breeds of this country or if you like it better, of England and America. The Dairy-shorthorn, the Ayrshire, the Jersey and the Guernsey. I have never known nor have I ever heard of any herd of Dairy shorthorns in this Province, but we know what they are good for; and what they can do. They give a very large quantity of milk of a very fair quality, the large yield practically making up for the lack of richness, so that a large quantity of butter can be made. They are very large, fatten easily, and make beef of the best qua-

lity. The Shorthorn of the type affected by the English Dairyman, is the nearest approach to perfection in the way of a general purpose cow; and they certainly would be very useful, if we had them here.

The Ayrshire, a smaller cow than the Shorthorn, gives a lesser quantity of, somewhat richer milk, is of a hardy constitution, is easily kept and fattens fairly for beef. The Ayrshire cross crops out most frequently among the cows in this part of the country, and appears to be the favorite one.

The Jersey is of course the butter cow, par excellence, where a fine quality of butter is desired to be made on the farm. The late Father Labelle introduced some Jersey blood into the north of this district and the benefit has been felt in the way of Jersey grades, that have remained. Individually, while admitting that a first class Jersey is unrivalled as a butter cow, I have a preference for Guernsey for the following reasons:

The Guernsey is the most placid, docile, easily managed and universally good-tempered cow that I have ever seen, and much superior on this respect to Jerseys, whom, in my experience, I have often found, shy, nervous, and difficult to handle, if not bad tempered. There is not much difference in the richness of the cream, and they are supposed to give the deepest coloured butter; (1) on dry feed, without artificial colouring; of any breed. I think that there are fewer poor Guernseys, than inferior Jerseys. Jerseys in America have been boomed and advertised according to characteristic yankee methods, as no breed of cattle ever has been before. We hear a great deal about the butter tests of phenomenal Jerseys, but we do not hear anything at all about the numerous cows with long pedigrees, but very, very small quantities of milk. Both Jerseys and Guernseys, are larger and coarser on this side in type than the Island cattle, and the Guernsey is always a medium sized, cow, often inclining to large, and fattens quite well for beef, producing just about that size of carcass, that the Montreal butchers, at any rate, prefer. (2) They do not want very large carcasses even of the finest quality of beef, as the large cuts are not saleable. I do not think that any farmer wishing to make high class butter at home, or having a personal connection in some good market, where he can obtain a good price for rich milk, could do better than to keep Guernseys or Guernsey grades. The man who sells milk to a creamery, may find it more profitable to keep Ayrshires. There are different methods of procedure amongst dairy farmers, and they ought to know their requirements, and the kind of cow, that suits them best. Only, having once made up your minds about that, do, oh my beloved brethren stick to these lines, and breed for continuous progressive improvement in your dairy herds. In view of Mr. Lister's remarks about the possibilities of Canada as a Dairy country, and of competition with Denmark, the subject of the improvement in the quality of our cows, as well as the augmentation of their numbers, is one of great importance.

"To obtain a fair share of this trade, Canada will have to establish fully two

(1) The English, as our friend knows, abhor deep coloured butter. Ed.
(2) And the best English trade too. Ed.