

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

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CHEESE DAIRIES.

We commence the publication of the Report of the committee on cheese, of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, which we alluded to in our last. We at first thought we would give a few extracts only from the report, but on a more careful perusal, we find that the whole of it is well adapted to our pages. The subject is one of great and increasing importance to the farmers of Canada. They can no longer depend with the same confidence as formerly, on large profits from their wheat crop, and the *dairy* is one of those things to which the necessities of their situation will compel them to resort. The great object, will, or at least ought to be, to conduct the business of the dairy on the most improved and economical plan. The extracts from the standard English author, Youatt, which the committee insert in their report, we could have given from the original work, but finding the directions of the English writer so highly recommended to the American cheese maker, by such good authority, their applicability to Canada, and the non-existence of any later or better instruction on the subject, became more apparent. We shall be obliged to extend the report into two or three numbers, in order to give it entire:—

(From *Transactions N. Y. State Agricultural Society.*)

The committee to whom was referred the applications from the owners of cheese dairies, &c., respectfully report:

That they have examined with care the applications which have been presented, to which particular reference will be had in a subsequent part of their report.

The manufacture of cheese both for the domestic and foreign markets, is increasing rapidly in this State, and is becoming a source of wealth to our farmers, and adds much to the income from our internal channels of communication. The importance then of securing the largest yield, and a superior article for market, is apparent. From all the means of information which has reached the committee, they are satisfied that an improvement is making in each of these particulars, though slowly.

First in importance in the management of a dairy, after the necessary buildings are prepared, which should be of such dimensions as to afford room for all the operations without inconvenience, is cleanliness in every thing connected with it. "Cleanliness may be said to be not only necessary in dairy husbandry, but to be the foundation of it, and the most indispensable part of good management. A farmer may be in possession of the most valuable breed of cows, and these may be fed on the richest pastures, but unless cleanliness prevail in the dairy, his butter or his cheese will never stand high in general estimation."

The increasing importance of the dairy interest demands from this Society all the encouragement they can give to this branch of agricultural industry. From our location, and the peculiar adaptation of most of our State to the raising of stock and for dairy purposes, it is becoming a question of deep interest to our farmers, in what manner their farms shall be cultivated. The great emporium of our own State, and the numerous towns in New-England, studded with manufactories, are opening increasing markets for our beef, butter and cheese, and the experience of the last few years has abundantly proved, that the farms devoted to the dairy have yielded a larger return, than any other, when they have been managed with care and economy. The competition from the Western States in our grain markets, has tended to render the products of the grain farms somewhat less lucrative than formerly. Our soil and climate are well adapted to Indian corn, and there is no more valuable food for fattening animals, it is believed, than this, and its usefulness for soiling when sown broadcast or in drills is unsurpassed. We would, therefore call the attention of our farmers to the importance of directing their energies so as to secure the best returns from their investments. Our railroads, canals and plank roads, are opening speedy and safe channels of communications to the seaboard; and when the railroads now in progress shall be completed, two unbroken channels of communication from Lakes Erie and Ontario to the ocean will be secured. The cattle and the products of the dairy will then find a ready, and, it is to be hoped, eventually a cheap transit to market at all seasons. How important, then, that, in these departments, in which for a long time to come, there will a demand exist at home and abroad, for all our supply,

vigorous efforts should be made to bring our land, especially in the eastern, central and southern counties into a suitable condition for grazing.

The selection of cows best suited to the dairy must be attended to, if success is expected. Experience has proved that the milk of some cows has a much thicker consistence and richer quality than others, and he that would be successful in securing a large yield from his dairy, must give attention to this; and when he has succeeded in obtaining cows suited to his purpose, care should be taken to breed from these, so as to continue the same superiority in his stock.

In relation to the selection of cows for the dairy, the description given by Mr. Youatt in his *Treatise on Cattle*, may be useful, and the same points substantially are given in various other treatises as regards cows suited to the dairy.

"The milch cow should have a long, thin head, with a brisk but placid eye, be thin and hollow in the neck, narrow in the breast and point of the shoulder, and altogether light in the fore quarter, but wide in the loins, with little dew lap, and neither too full fleshed along the chine, nor showing in any part an indication to put on much fat. The udder should especially be large, round and full, with the milk veins protruding, yet thin skinned, but not hanging loose or tending very far behind. The teats should also stand square, all pointing out at equal distances, and of the same size; and although neither very large nor thick towards the udder, yet long and tapering to a point. A cow with a large head, and high back bone, a small udder and teats, and drawn up in the belly, will, beyond all doubt, be found a bad milker.

"Besides these qualifications, a great point to be considered is the temper; for kindly cows will not only give far less trouble in their management than those of an unruly disposition, but are commonly observed to have a more copious flow of milk, as well as to part with it more readily."

Experiments should be made by those who are engaged in the dairy business, as to the value of their cows for dairy purposes. Let them be fed with the same food, measure its quantity, as well as that of the milk from each, and when used separately, it will be no difficult matter to determine which is the most profitable. This is all important to success in this business.

In regard to the management of cows, we select from *British Husbandry*, vol. 2d, page 389, some suggestions that are worthy of consideration:

"Experience has very decidedly shown, that no food is comparable to that of good natural pasture for milch cows; for not only does it yield a greater quantity of milk, but the flavor of grass butter may always be distinguished by its superior richness and delicacy from that which has been made from milk produced from soiling in the house, and its quality may be injuriously effected even by the application of manure to the land. Common salt given in moderate quantities to cows, increases the quantity and improves the quality of the milk. Milch cows should at all times be maintained not only in good condition, but in what may be termed a "milky habit," and for this purpose, during winter, roots or grain should be given, so as to prepare them well for the opening of the pastures."

"The act of milking is one that requires great caution; for if it be not carefully and properly done, the quantity will be considerably diminished, and the quality also will be inferior, as not only is the first of the milk the poorest, but it gradually becomes richer, until the last drainings of the udder, or what is commonly termed the "strippings." It should therefore be thoroughly drawn from the cow, both to secure this latter portion and to ensure the continuance of the usual supply; for if any be allowed to remain in the udder, she yields a less quantity at the next milking—a fact which has been accounted for by supposing that the portion left in the udder is absorbed into the system, and that nature generates no more than to supply the waste of what has been taken away. The greatest care therefore should be paid, to have them clean milked. They should also be treated with great gentleness, and soothed by mild usage, especially when young and ticklish, for they never let their milk down pleasantly to a person whom they dread or dislike. If the paps are sore or tender, they ought to be fomented with warm water before milking, and, indeed, if the operation of milking be nicely performed, they should each time be clean washed, but this, we are sorry to say, is too often neglected."

TO PREVENT THE ROT IN POTATOES.

We take the following letter from the *Montreal Transcript*. It is only from experiments like that which the writer appears to have made, that we are ever likely to arrive at any thing like a remedy for the potato rot. We publish his statement in order that our readers who are so minded may verify the experiment:—

Spread a little slacked lime under the seed, and cover the seed about two inches deep; then spread more lime over the whole surface of the field, to the amount of 100 bushels slacked-lime, to the acre. What is put on the surface may be roach, but what is put under the seed must be slacked. I have