

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

Vol. XXXIII.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., FEBRUARY 1, 1898.

No. 447.

## EDITORIAL.

### Our Dairy Industry.

Judging from the large number of earnest, enthusiastic and intelligent representatives of the dairy interest who attended the annual conventions of the Butter and Cheese Makers' Associations of Eastern and Western Ontario, recently held at Lindsay and London, reports of whose proceedings are given in this issue, we are persuaded they have full faith in the future of the special branch of farming in which they are engaged. We have been pleased to note the hopeful and even confident feeling prevailing as an offset to the pessimistic view of some people outside of the pale of the dairymen's domain who have feared the business was being overdone or had nearly reached the limit of its profitable prosecution. The fact that the value of our exports of butter and cheese for last year was close to \$20,000,000, and that the value of those products shipped from the port of Montreal from the first of May to the twentieth of November in 1897 was \$3,370,000 more than during the same period in 1896, and that without materially breaking down prices, only serves to show how vastly capable of expansion is our market for these products, if we but continue to hold the grip we have secured on the British market for our cheese, and to gain in the same proportion a place in the same market for our butter.

But it is practically certain that our trade in butter will grow to immensely larger proportions in the near future, since we are assured of the success of shipping in cold storage, and an increasingly large number of creameries are being operated in all the provinces, many of our cheese factories having arranged for the necessary plant for making butter during the winter months, while they will continue to manufacture cheese in summer, a system which has much to commend it, since it furnishes work for the whole year, giving constant and profitable employment the year round to many who but for this would be out of work for nearly half the year.

If the possible output of these productions were to be of doubtful or only average quality we could readily understand the possibility of overdoing the market, but that is just what our intelligent dairymen are determined it shall not be. *Quality* is the watchword they have inscribed on their banners, and they all understand it to mean first-class, and will aim at that standard, realizing the truth of the axiom "There is always room at the top." If we produce an article which suits the tastes of those to whom we cater, the market is capable of almost indefinite expansion, and we have all the requisite facilities to meet those conditions, and, best of all, we have the people fired with the ambition to excel in the line of their chosen vocation.

There is no branch of farming so intensely interesting or which requires and calls into action so much intelligent study and skill as that of dairying, since it includes the science and the arts of breeding, feeding, and manufacturing, dealing with the delicate problems of the development of animal life and of molding it to the performance of a purpose and the attainment of a high standard of perfection. The problem of profitable and economical feeding for the production of the

largest quantity of the best quality of milk and butter or cheese at the least cost is an equally interesting study, while the manipulation of the product through all the processes of manufacture with the aid of modern appliances and in the light of modern discoveries has a fascination about it which none but those who have experienced it know how to appreciate.

While all the advantages of modern methods are possible to the private dairymen of only moderate means, we are persuaded that the greatest measure of success in these lines lies in the principle of co-operation. Uniformity of quality is immensely important as a factor in gaining and holding a place in the preferences of the people to whom we cater, and it is more easily possible to attain that point in the factory system where the same methods are followed and mainly by men trained in the same school or affiliation of schools.

What is needed is that every butter and cheese maker in Canada shall catch the spirit of the leaders in this campaign and do his individual best to raise the standard,—first for his own sake, of his cows and his methods of feeding, and then for the

in the Central Farm report on stock, while there are 3 from Brandon, 3 from Indian Head, a few lines from British Columbia, and none at all from the Maritime Provinces farm; while the reports on horticulture at Ottawa alone take up 82 pages! And the accounts of experiments with endless varieties of potatoes (no less than 90), grapes, small fruits, ornamental shrubs, flowers (generously illustrated), etc., fill up a great deal of space, and must have cost an immense amount of thought, time, and money to carry out. Surely the great end and aim of these farms is not to make them show-places for tourists or visitors from the towns, but rather to render a source of useful instruction and object lessons for the farming community. The work done by our Manitoba and Northwest farms along the lines of successful grain, grass, and shelter-belt growing is worthy of all praise; but what we, as farmers depending on mixed husbandry for our living, want to see is more attention paid to the best methods of live-stock farming and less to fads, or to renewed tests of inferior grains, potatoes or fruits. As to ornamental shrubs, etc., a very small amount of time is all any farmer can spare for them in actual practice, and not one in a hundred of those who receive these reports ever read the results of the hybridizing of grain or berries, but the great majority want to know what the farms are doing with the marketable articles—wheat, barley, oats,

cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses. Cannot more attention be given these lines, and less to the ornamental side? Prof. Robertson did thorough good work in the dairy lines. Let us have an equivalent in the beef and mutton branches, horse-rearing, etc., which, properly done, would surely prove more profitable to the country than the exploiting of Ladoga wheat in the West and two-rowed barley in the East a few years ago! It may be objected that the Government has no right to engage in live-stock breeding, feeding and selling, as it would prejudice the sale by private owners. As a stockman and owner of a few pure-breds, I cannot see it in that light, unless the Government stock were of inferior merit, or bought from political friends in the neighborhood of the several farms; rather, on the other hand, it would serve to show the capabilities of good stock in good hands, and such a demonstration is certainly needed in this Province, where some 17,000 stockers were sold last spring. There was plenty of feed in sight for them, and if there had been more knowledge of stock-breeding and its advantages, they might have stayed here until fit for the butcher. The ornamental departments of the farms

will "keep"—say for ten years—for the present let us have more of the practical, every-day, bread-winning variety of demonstration. Stock-raising is an essential part of a permanently successful system of farming in Canada. In 1896 our exports of animals and their products brought us nearly \$35,000,000, or two and a half times that of our exports of all other farm products, including grain, hay, fruits, seeds, etc., and more than one-third of all the exports of Canada put together. Exportation is being developed at heavy cost. Each season will develop fresh problems in regard to production and demand, where experimental investigation can be of great service to the farmer. All these facts point out the pathway our investigators should pursue. Trusting that the farmers who largely sustain these institutions will insist that such features be made more conspicuous in future—in short, be given first place, as their importance demands—and that the suggestions made will be adopted in the spirit in which they have been given, I remain,

Yours respectfully,  
H. NEWMARCH.  
Rockwood Municipality, Man., Jan. 20, 1898.

JAMES McMAHAN, Lambton County, Ontario:—Gentlemen,—Please accept thanks for premium ring No. 4; it is all right, better than I expected. Will try and send more subscribers. We take three agricultural papers in our house, and all think the ADVOCATE beats them all. Please send order blank and envelope.

## Appreciation.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—Having just returned, after an eight days' absence, have seen the Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for the first time, and feel so pleased with it that the thought came into my mind that it was the right and proper thing to let you know that the good work you are doing for the farmers of this country is appreciated. Although I am writing only for myself, I am quite sure that I am but voicing the sentiments of the great body of your readers when I say that it is a good thing for the farmers of this country that we have such a splendid agricultural paper, and it is not at all too much to say that if the ADVOCATE was read in every farm home in this country that the average farming would be very much better than it is. I am not ashamed to say that I am a better farmer because I have been a constant reader of your paper.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN I. HOBSON.

Guelph, Ont., January 3rd, 1898.

sake of his country, including himself, of the quality of the goods placed upon the market. This juncture has the merit that there is money in it for every man who makes a forward movement, and at the same time the satisfaction of healthful and comfortable home surroundings. Compared with the lot of those who have booked for the far-away fields of Klondyke, where the blanks will certainly be in sad proportion to the prizes, the odds are immensely in favor of the patient plodder on the home farm.

### Experimental Farms -- Useful or Ornamental -- From the Standpoint of Our Greatest Farming Industry, Live Stock Rearing.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In a late issue of the ADVOCATE—that of November 15th—the management of the Dominion Experimental Farms was criticised, and (without deprecating good work undertaken with great care and zeal) to my mind rightly so—first of all because of the disastrous records of the Central Farm with tuberculosis. Then the last report of the farms, that for '96, issued in '97, deals very sparingly with stock farming, with the exception of poultry, on which subject there is a full report of great value. In a volume of 474 pages there are only some 18 pages