

FARMING

VOL. XVI.

AUGUST 15th, 1899.

No. 50

"Farming" at the Fair

"FARMING" will be found at the old stand at the Toronto Industrial Fair this year. Kindly bear in mind that our tent is located near the cattle rings, and in close proximity to the cattle and horse stables, in the northern portion of the grounds, immediately opposite the Farmers' Institute tent. We invite all our old friends, as well as every breeder and visiting agriculturist at the Fair to call and see us there. A representative of "FARMING" will be on hand at the tent during the Fair to give information regarding subscriptions, advertising, etc. Pens, ink and paper will be at the disposal of stockmen and others who call to use them, and we shall take it as a favor if all our friends will avail themselves of all the privileges of the tent at any time during the exhibition.

Our exhibition number this year will be ahead of anything we have ever published, which is saying a good deal. When at the Fair do not fail to call at the tent and secure a copy to send to a friend or neighbor who is not already a subscriber.

Canadian Cheese Improving in Quality

There was some little excitement among dairymen last winter when the statement was made at the dairy conventions by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture and the Dairy Commissioner that the Canadian cheese trade was not in a very healthy state, owing largely to the British consumer becoming more fastidious about his food, necessitating an improvement in quality if we wish to hold the place we now have in the English market. While some were fearful as to the consequences likely to follow the making of such a statement, yet this season's operations so far show that they were not at all detrimental, but, on the contrary, induced a wholesome desire on the part of those engaged in the business to remedy matters, and to bring about that improvement in quality suited to the needs of the trade. The British consumer desires a little meatier and milder flavored cheese than we have been in the habit of sending him. To secure this the curing-room of every cheese factory must be put in such a condition that the temperature can be under the complete control of the maker.

These statements in regard to the quality of our cheese and the subsequent discussion of them, largely in these columns, have had the effect of creating a distinctly forward movement in the way of improved facilities for ventilating and controlling the temperature in curing-rooms, and it is to be hoped that it will continue till every cheese factory has a curing-room properly fitted up for this purpose. No cheese factory need expect to stay in the business very long unless active measures are taken along this line. It is a matter of impossibility for a maker to make meaty, cool-flavored cheese such as the British market demands unless he has a curing-room in which the temperature can be kept at least below 70° during our hot season, and the sooner factory owners and patrons realize this and take action the better for the trade and all concerned.

In last week's issue and in this week's also appear several letters from cheese-makers, cheese manufacturers and the

instructors employed by the dairy associations, giving some practical information on this subject. All of our correspondents state that in their respective districts there is a noticeable improvement in the quality of the cheese made this season, as compared with that of last year for the same period. This improvement, it is also stated, is largely due to the cooler weather we have had and the better conditions in the way of ice-boxes, sub-earth ducts, etc., in many factories for ventilating and cooling the curing-rooms. There are yet numbers of factories, as these letters show, where those in charge of them are seemingly unconcerned in regard to this question. But there are evident signs that the movement is growing and that this season will witness a vast improvement in the general facilities at hand for curing cheese.

Prof. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, who has just returned from Great Britain, bears out the statements made by our correspondents. In a recent interview he states that Canadian cheese is suiting the English trade better this season than last. All that is wanted now is to keep up the evenness of quality and get a milder cool flavor by curing it at a temperature of 60 or 65 degrees. These facts should be taken note of by our dairymen and an effort made to meet the requirements of the trade. As this whole question of curing cheese is of vital importance just now, we would like to have the views and experience of others in the business for publication.

Ontario Crop Reports

The Ontario Bureau of Industries has issued another crop report compiled from statements received from correspondents under date of August 1st. The fall wheat crop is poor. The quality varies all the way from plump and hard to small and shrunken in the same localities and sometimes in the same fields. The crop was harvested in good condition. Spring wheat, which is more largely grown in the eastern part of the province, is on the whole a good crop and the yield likely to go above the average.

The barley crop this year is reported to be highly successful in the main. This crop is now grown more largely for feeding purposes, and the acreage has been largely increased this season. The oat crop is reported to be rather backward in many parts, but the reports as a rule are satisfactory and the yield promises to be a large one. Late sown oats appear to have flourished better than the early crop where they have had a fair supply of moisture. The reports regarding the pea crop are somewhat variable but indicate an average yield.

The production of hay and clover will be somewhat below the average, the principal cause of the shortage being the heavy frosts of last winter. The quality is good, the crop having been got in in excellent condition. Some correspondents anticipate a scarcity of clover seed. Though cold and wet weather at planting delayed the corn crop, still the reports indicate a promising crop in most counties. Quite a number of new silos are in course of erection.

Potatoes promise a good yield, though in many sections rain is badly needed. There is reported to be a decreased number of bugs owing to the severe frosts of last winter. On the whole mangels, carrots and beets promise well. The reports are not so encouraging regarding turnips.