

the best and poorest producers in the herd so that the unprofitable ones may be eliminated and the herd improved by rearing the progeny of those which have the best records. This work is only just begun and it is a fair presumption that by the time another census is taken an even greater increase will be shown. This feature of the situation is often overlooked by those who would point with alarm to the decrease in the number of cows in some sections. It must be abundantly clear that there is no real decline in the dairying industry although to the superficial observer the decrease in milch cows in Ontario coupled with the decrease in the exports of dairy products for some years past, have given some color to that view. It has been customary for many years to estimate the progress of the dairy industry on the export trade, largely because of the fact that the figures of this trade were the only ones available from year to year. They served the purpose fairly well as long as the number of people to be fed at home was nearly stationary, but with the population growing at its present rapid rate, they are no longer a reliable index of production.

Before dealing at length with the export trade it may not be out of place to refer briefly to a phase of the development of the dairy industry of Canada which has been of the highest importance, and probably the strongest of all factors in bringing it to its present high position among the basic industries of the country, namely, the introduction of the factory system.

Although there were over one million cows in British North America in 1861, the outlook for dairying at that time was not encouraging. Progress was impossible under the conditions which then existed. Cows were kept in most cases as a sort of side line and very few farmers specialized in dairying. The production of milk for cheese or buttermaking was limited to the amount of time which the farmer's wife and daughters could spare for that purpose from their other and oftentimes arduous duties and the supply of dairy products so far exceeded the local demand that prices were unremunerative.

The Cheese Factory.

The introduction of the factory system of manufacturing cheese saved the situation by making an export trade possible and opened the way for an increased production of milk with greater profit to the farmer. The first cheese factory in Canada was established in the County of Oxford, Ontario, in 1864, by a Mr. Harvey Farrington. During the following year, a factory was opened in Missisquoi, Quebec. The number of factories increased rapidly in Ontario until about the year 1900 when the suitable territory was fairly well occupied. In Quebec there was not so much progress until after about 1882. A cheese factory was started in New Brunswick, near Sussex, in 1869, and during the following year a small factory was opened at Paradise in Nova Scotia. Prince Edward Island fell in line with this new movement in 1882, in which year the first factory was started in that Province.

Organized dairying has never made as much progress in the Maritime Provinces as the conditions would appear to warrant, except in Prince Edward Island where there are more factories in proportion to the number of cows kept than in either of the other two provinces as will be seen by a reference to the tables herewith. The movement for the establishment of cheese factories in the Island received a great impetus in 1891 and following years by the active participation of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, as represented by Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, who was then Dairy Commissioner, in the organization and operation of a number of factories.

Attempts were made to establish cheese factories in the four Western Provinces, beginning in 1886 in Manitoba, and ending in British Columbia in 1894. The cheese factory has not been generally successful west of the Great Lakes. The sparse settlement and small number of cows kept within a reasonable radius of any given point

have so far made it impossible to secure sufficient milk to put the cheese factory on a self sustaining basis except in some parts of Manitoba. The result has been that the cream gathering creamery, whose operation may be extended to a very wide territory, has been adopted as the most suitable form of the factory system for that part of the country.

The Creamery.

The first creamery was established in Huntingdon County, Quebec, in 1873. The organization of other creameries immediately followed in both Ontario and Quebec and later in the other Provinces, but there is still a large quantity of butter produced on farms in some districts. There is practically no cheese made on farms in Canada.

Another forward step in the progress of the dairying industry which deserves special mention, was the introduction of the centrifugal cream separator. The first one used in Canada was imported from Denmark in



Mr. J. A. RUDDICK, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner.

1882 by Lt.-Col. Henri Duchesnay for the equipment of his creamery at Ste. Marie, Beauce County, Quebec. Next to the inauguration of the factory system, this was probably the most important improvement ever made in connection with the industry.

Cheese Factories and Creameries in Canada.

The latest returns show that there are 3760 cheese factories and creameries in Canada and 12 condensed milk or milk powder plants. The cheese factories and creameries are distributed by provinces as follows:

Provinces:	Cheese Factories	Cream- eries.	Com- bined Factories	Skim- ming Stations
Ontario.....	1019	128	59	1
Quebec.....	894	576	698	125
Alberta.....	3	53	1	..
British Columbia.....	..	23	..	..
Manitoba.....	18	30	1	3
New Brunswick.....	24	17	3	..
Nova Scotia.....	7	13	1	..
P. E. Island.....	17	8	19	..
Saskatchewan.....	2	17	..	..
	1,984	865	782	129