

The subject of the dairy is one that must continue to possess an increasing interest to the Canadian farmer. Much of our soil is well suited for dairy purposes, and this business might no doubt be made profitable in many localities, if conducted with care and judgment, upon proper principles. It is of importance to bear in mind that the *quality* of the article which we produce, especially for a distant market, should be a first consideration. The Americans have made of late years great improvements in the cheese they export to England, which of course obtains a higher price; and it would appear that they are fast increasing this, an already important branch of business, from the fact that they have recently been purchasing large numbers of cows in various sections of this country. What, we ask, should prevent the Canadians from doing a profitable business in butter and cheese in the markets of the mother country? The first thing to be done is to direct the attention of our farmers earnestly and practically to the subject.

In pursuing the routine of the dairy business, next to a selection of good cows (a cross of the best natives with the improved breeds will generally be found to answer well), follow considerations of management, feeding, &c., all which require to be done on a strict uniform system. Without suitable pastures, covered with a healthy growth of the cultivated grasses, it is in vain to hope for a copious supply of good milk. When the pastures become parched, in the latter end of summer and autumn, cows might be advantageously fed on the fresh stalks of Indian corn, sown thickly for that purpose. A cool, capacious, well-ventilated cellar, properly supplied with pure water (if a running stream can be obtained all the better), with the most scrupulous attention to cleanliness in every department of the management, are among the most essential requisites of a good dairy.

Since writing the above, we have met with the following excellent observations on the subject of cattle, in our cotemporary *The Church*, forming a portion of its monthly agricultural article for July. Although somewhat long, we readily transfer them to our own pages, for the information of our readers.

**NEAT CATTLE.**—The term cattle, in its most extensive sense, is used to denote all the larger domestic animals which are kept on the farm. In the more usual acceptation, it is applied to animals only of the ox kind, which are also called black and horned cattle; but as all are not black, and many are without horns, the technical term,

"Neat Cattle," is used as more definite and appropriate.

During the early part of summer, in the months of June and July, is the proper period to pay attention to the improvement of this description of farm stock. There is no very exact time at which it is the custom to have calves dropped. It depends a good deal on the purpose for which the cows or calves are required, and is also often determined by accidental circumstances. When the cows are required to give as much milk as possible during winter, or for the making of butter during that season, it is often the custom to have them calve in December or January. If the calves are intended to be sold as veal, early in the spring, they are dropped in February or early in March; but if to be kept as stock, and the cows for the making of spring and summer butter or cheese, the most usual and the best time is in the month of April or early in May, when the pastures are beginning to afford a supply of food.

The period of gestation of the cow varies very considerably, having been ascertained to have been in some instances less than 240 days, and in others more than 300 days. But any period less than 260 days, or more than 300, must be considered as irregular—though in the latter case the health of the calf is not affected. In the majority of cases, the period may be stated as extending from the 270th to the 300th day, or on the average about 284 or 285 days. [*Farmer's Dictionary.*] This being about nine calendar months and a week, it is easy in ordinary cases to regulate the time of calving of the cows, by that at which we allow them to be sent to the bull. In obtaining the services of a bull, it may be considered unnecessary to say that it is important to have an animal of as good a description as possible; but it might in reality be supposed, from the very inferior specimens that are frequently seen made use of in many parts of this country, that the fact was not known—or if known, that many farmers were determined not to pay any attention to the matter. We have seen this spring, and could point out in any year during the months of May and June, a hundred calves of a year's growth on the roadside in different parts of the country, any one of which would not weigh on the scales more than many a well-bred thrifty calf of five weeks' age, that is, say just a year younger—mere dwarfish little bundles, in fact, of bones, paunch and skin. Now, this unthrifty state of things is to be attributed, in the first place, to the want of a little attention in the selection of animals to breed from; and, in the next place, to the great neglect in the rearing of the young animals during the first summer and winter. The fact is, that there is a great want of spirit and proper exertion among many farmers in this respect—a grudging of a little present expense and trouble, even when they will acknowledge that it would repay them tenfold. Numbers of spirited breeders in different parts of the province have indeed imported very superior animals at great expense and trouble, and many others have benefited largely by their enterprise—large numbers of well-bred and superior grade animals, of the improved breeds, being