

cheese can generally be shipped in the evening to Quebec, from all points connected by steamboat or railway, and can be on their way to Great-Britain in about twelve hours from the time they leave the dairy, while it appears that dairy produce shipped from any part west of Toronto takes, on an average, from 10 to 15 days before it can be collected in sufficient quantities and shipped in refrigerator cars to the ocean steamers.

Several districts in this Province have long been noted for their special adaptation to dairy farming, and for the excellence of their butter and cheese. The best brands of butter, from the Eastern Townships and other English settlements, although coming as a rule from comparatively small dairies, are certainly equal to the finest produced any where; in fact, they often obtain the highest price of any butters shipped from America to Great-Britain. Many excellent lots of butter also come, now and then, from some of the French settlements. Before railways were built through the Kamouraska district, butter under that name was in high repute and sold for shipment, on the Quebec markets, at the highest rates. Unfortunately, the greater facilities of communication have not tended to improve the quality of the butter from that magnificent dairy district. On the contrary, the larger demand rendered local dealers less exacting, and they finished by paying the same price for inferior butter as for the best. Bye and bye, manual labour becoming scarcer less pains were generally taken in the making and handling, and very soon the whole of the butter from that district lost its good name and was in fact noted as very inferior, the prices falling accordingly. Unfortunately the same might be said with truth of too many other localities.

From 1870 to 1873, the American system of cheese factories became generally known through the Eastern townships and in the neighbouring French parishes. The first attempt at cheese making on this system proved so successful that about three hundred cheese factories were started in our province, whilst those erected in the United States and in Ontario were numbered by the thousand. For a few years, farmers got from these factories larger returns than those obtained from butter making, whilst the amount of trouble and risk was greatly diminished. Had the price of cheese held out a few years longer, there can be no doubt that cheese factories would have been erected by this time in every township and parish of this province.

Although excellent cheese is made in several factories in the Province of Quebec, it must be admitted that a great many of our cheese makers have not yet learned to produce the best article, and that great improvement could also be made in the boxing of cheese and in its preparation for market. It would be very desirable that Dairymen's Associations be organized here and they should meet with public support, in order to secure the best instruction in everything pertaining to this art.

It is next to impossible, from the want of proper statistics, to arrive at anything like a fair estimate of the butter and cheese made for exportation in this province. The quantity, however, is very large and is greatly on the increase. Facilities for exportation to Great-Britain will now be greater than ever, and must tend to a still larger production of both butter and cheese. Let us hope that efforts will be systematically made, all over the province, in order to improve the quality produced, and to secure for our dairy production a repute which will tend to increase the demand and to enhance the prices obtained for the same on the European markets.

Of late years the system of cooling milk in butter making, and known as deep setting, found many admirers here. A good many of our private township dairies, and all the creameries erected of late, follow this system with very satisfactory results. More pains are also being taken in the selection of good packages of uniform weight, 56 lbs. being preferred. The best

English salt is now being used generally by all good dairymen. At the Ontario Eastern and Western Dairymen's Conventions, held in February last, it was shown on good authority that our creamery butter brought during the last season, on the Montreal market, an average of 22½ cts. a lb.

The best dairy butter from the Eastern Townships brought 17

Whilst good butter from other parts brought 12

These figures show clearly the profit there would be were farmers to unite together in order to produce the best butter on the creamery system.

Reports of the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, for 1877 and 1878.

We have to thank the Hon. Mr. Le Duc for his very valuable reports for 1877, and for 1878, which certainly deserve a most careful reading from every educated man who pretends to take an interest in the welfare of Agriculture in North America. Besides the official reports of the Commissioner; the Superintendent of gardens and grounds; the Chemist; the Entomologist and the Statistician attached to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, the Report for 1877 contains highly interesting papers on the following subjects, viz.

The sugar cane industry in the United States; Maize and sorghum as sugar plants. The Rocky Mountain locust, Cattle improvement in the United States; The Chinese tea plant; The olive; Shipments of fresh meat to Europe; Diseases of domestic animals; Cranberry culture in New Jersey, and European agricultural statistics. It will be seen that many of these subjects are of equal interest to Canada and to the United States.

We shall, in our future numbers, review such of the papers contained in these Reports as are of more direct interest to the Canadian farmer.

Besides the necessarily heavy work entailed every year on the Department of Agriculture at Washington, in the collection of agricultural statistics, and the distribution, through the United States, of the various seeds, cuttings and plants which are recommended for trial, considerable attention seems to have been given during the last year (1878) to the organization of the agricultural exhibits for the Paris' Exposition. General Le Duc's Report to the Senate also contains the results of carefully made experiments in the cultivation and production of sugar from maize and sorghum; some interesting statistics on the tea, coffee and sugar trade of the United States from 1790 to 1878, also the results of various trials of new varieties of wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, potatoes, buckwheat, amber sorghum, sugar beets, tobacco, fruit and forest trees, and various other seeds. Although several important papers also accompany this special report, it will, when published in the ordinary annual form, contain the results of other labours which are promised us. We have now, however, an exhaustive paper on the origin and growth of sheep husbandry in the United States; a statement showing the condition and prospects of the cane sugar industry; a paper on the silk worm and several special reports on the condition of crops and of live stock in the United States.

From a cursory perusal only of this mass of valuable information just received, it strikes us that our neighbours have good reason to congratulate themselves on the appointment of the gentleman who now occupies the important post of Commissioner of Agriculture. Although this appointment only dates back to 1876, most useful work has already been done and a great deal more seems to have been carved out. It must therefore be gratifying to all patriotic and unprejudiced Americans to notice the really valuable work which is being brought forth annually by the Department of Agriculture at