

The Dairy.

FODDER CHEESE.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE :

DEAR SIR,—Knowing what the cheese industry has done for this fair Dominion, and of our Province of Quebec in an especial manner, I am induced to pen this article. At the present time, the cheese outlook is a very favorable one. The reports are nearly all of the same tenor; light stocks, and a fair consumptive demand; it might even be called a heavy consumptive demand, when high prices are taken into consideration. The great drought in the greater part of the cheese and butter producing section of Great Britain, gave Canadian cheese and butter a good chance last season. So the result was a very high range of prices for both of these articles, for the last 3 months of the cheese-making season of last year.

Butter has now obtained a good foothold in the British markets, thanks to the system of cold storage inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. The consumers of our butter imagined we could not make a superior quality for some cause or other, but they have now got converted from that idea, and now know that we can make good butter and can land it also in the British market in good condition. It will be plain sailing, the prejudice is nearly overcome, and what with our loyalty, and other things, anything from Canada is hailed with delight over on the other side. Our butter-makers must study the taste of consumer, make a rather mild butter, not too salt, of fine flavor and pale in color; take care of it while under their care; see that it is shipped in refrigerator cars, and that it is sent promptly and continuously to the other side. Then our butter-trade will continue to increase by leaps and bounds as it has done the past two seasons.

Several writers and the Montreal Cheese and Butter Association have advocated not to make any fodder cheese, or as little of it as possible. I noticed one cheese-board in Ontario, or rather some members of that board, criticising the said association: "What right had they to dictate to farmers what they should do?" The farmers sometimes forget that the Butter and Cheese Association of Montreal knows more of the wants of their customers than all the farmers in Canada put

together, and is therefore in a position to offer advice of the right kind, if they will only accept of it in the spirit in which it is offered, viz., for the good of the trade in general.

Mr. Editor, I suppose I may be pardoned if I should offer some advice to the farmers and proprietors of cheese factories. I should say as I have said before, make as little fodder cheese as possible. I am well aware of the fact that with cheese and butter at present prices, there would be more money in cheese, but I am not looking at present profit, but for the future good of the trade.

Fodder-cheese, even when well made, is a very poor article, and does not reflect on us as Canadians any credit. If those factories which are fitted up to make butter would do so until May 1st in Ontario, and say 15th or 20th of the same month in this province, you would see what future prices of cheese would be. And those factories which are not equipped for both, not to open until there is lots of milk in the section, what a difference there would be if there were united action throughout the whole length and breadth of our land!

Do farmers for a moment suppose that present prices will prevail for new cheese for any length of time? Then I should say be careful that you do not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, by making early fodder cheese, that will a drug on the market, and a menace to our good cheese made later on.

Calves for veal if well fed will give a good profit also. This is another way that the early milk can be utilized instead of making fodder cheese. Do not be afraid to fatten your calves in a first class manner, as you can always get a superior price for a first rate article. And those calves that you wish to raise to renew your future herd will be none the worse for the skim-milk, while a little mixture of the whole article will do no harm, if it is not done too extravagantly. The young pigs, too, can be treated liberally at this season of the year, for as soon as the cheese factory starts, the whey is just rather thin for very young pigs. So taken all in all, you will find it to your advantage to delay the cheese-making until first grass. By the time you have reached grass-cheese (or rather grass-made cheese), if my advice has been followed, you will get a good profitable price for cheese, and that for a considerable period, too. Last year, our exports of cheese and butter reached over \$20,000,000—in round numbers. Let it be