

dairymen. Other like competitions fitted to encourage improvements as much needed as those above mentioned might be opened.

*Pastures.*—It is frequently stated, in your meetings, that good pastures are indispensable to successful dairying. The importance of having superior pastures was demonstrated by Mr. James Fletcher, in a lecture given by him at Montreal, in 1894, and M. J. C. Chapais expressed the same opinion, in an instructive address before the Agricultural Missioners at Oka, in 1896, describing, at the same time, the preparation of the land and the best mixtures of grass-seeds needed to secure the permanence of such pastures. The Societies and Clubs ought to take greater pains to cause the sound theories of these lecturers to be put in practice. Even if there are some good pastures, there are indisputably many bad ones, and dairying is suffering in consequence. In England, the agricultural papers pay a great deal of attention to this point, and almost every week articles appear in them recommending the best methods of improving pastures.

The most prosperous agricultural countries are those that keep the most numerous herds of cattle. After Ireland, Denmark feeds the greatest number of head to the square mile.

Plenty of stock, plenty of dung: those are the conditions on which profitable farming depends. To secure these, we must increase our fodder-crops and improve our pastures and meadows.

The effects of increasing our herds are already perceptible in this province. The cultivation of the wheat-crop was nearly given up, on account of the trifling yields obtained; but latterly, it is reviving, and the yields are greater because our land is being more highly manured.

If we keep on in this way, our farms will, like those of Denmark, become covered with abundant crops of grain, while the dairy industry will grow more and more prosperous, and this result we shall surely realise, provided all our societies combine in its pursuit.

*Variety of products.*—In all their operations, particularly in their programmes, the societies must be guided by the demands of the market and by the needs of agriculture in the localities whose interests they are charged with the duty of promoting. A variety of products being desirable, the societies should in consequence vary their programmes and operations. Should clover be the crop neglected in a certain parish, it should

be encouraged; in another parish, perhaps, it may be pastures and meadows that need stimulation; here, the growth of roots and green fodder-crops; there, the improvement of the breed of hogs or of cattle, want encouragement. Everywhere, those methods and crops that tend to keep up the productiveness of the land should be encouraged.

In the days where our farmers grew nothing but grain-crops, they were not nearly so prosperous as they are to-day. By varying his products, by producing more butter and cheese, the Canadian farmer has succeeded in making his land pay better; and a great share of this progress may fairly be attributed to the Dairymen's Association.

It will not be long, perhaps, before it will be advisable to vary our dairy-products, if there is a prospect of a super-abundance of butter and Cheddar-cheese.

In the States, dairymen are beginning to make divers kinds of cheese, which find ready sale on the local market at good prices.

The necessity of varying farm-products is well described in the report of a show of the French Pomological Association, held at Alençon, this year. The writer lays stress on the necessity of having fruit and ciders of different qualities for the supply of the market both local and foreign. He aims at preventing England and Germany from occupying the place of France in the market for these goods.

Included in this show were several samples of cider prepared for exportation; and a lecture was given on the best way of making champagne cider.

A rule was observed at this show that might be usefully followed here.

It was determined that, attached to the fruit exhibited, there should be a statement of the qualities of the fruit shown, as well as of the tree that produced it.

The Association organised a commission to examine the fruit, in order to establish a list of the varieties whose merits are the best recognised. At Alençon, this commission presented the work of its investigation on a score of varieties.

One feels intuitively that a genuine public spirit reigns over this association, and that it neglects nothing that can conduce to the greater development of all the industries that are connected with fruit-growing.

Let it be our endeavour to instil the same publi