

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 10, 1894.

## DAIRYING IN MANITOBA.

The work done by the Dominion government in Manitoba and the Territories this year, in the interest of dairying, should prove of great value to the country. There is nothing which will give an agricultural country greater stability and continuous prosperity than a large dairying interest. But to be successful, dairying must be carried on upon proper lines, and in a skillful manner. In dairying more than in any other agricultural industry, quality is of first importance. There has never been any lack of market, at remunerative prices, for high class dairy goods. The manufacture of secondary and inferior qualities represents a loss of the difference between the price of the poor and choice goods, besides the greater difficulty of marketing the former. It is therefore a matter for satisfaction that the government has devoted so much attention to the teaching of proper methods of dairying in the west this year. These travelling dairy schools which have been going about the country this season, visiting nearly all the settlements, have afforded an excellent opportunity for the farmers to acquire much needed knowledge of correct methods of dairying.

J. A. Ruddick, who has been in charge of one of the travelling dairies this season, and who has therefore been in a position to make himself acquainted with the possibilities of dairying in Manitoba, stated in a recent letter to the press that this country is well suited for dairy farming. The climate he said is more favorable than in the east, and the milk will keep longer without fermentation. The food and water supply is also good he says. The most interesting portion of Mr. Ruddick's remarks is in connection with the commercial aspect of the dairy question here. In this connection he says:

The present system of trading butter at stores is not satisfactory either to the butter-maker or the merchants. During the past summer farmers have not been getting much over half the real market value for their butter, and yet I have no doubt owing to this way of handling it that the merchants have allowed their customers fully as much for it as they could afford. Butter deteriorates in value very much when handled in the above way. The practice of paying the same price for all butter regardless of quality discourages many from trying to do their best in producing a good article. Of course it is wrong and I heard many complaints against the merchants for doing business in this way, but after all I wonder if those who have the butter to sell are not as much or more to blame than any other class for the existence of this state of affairs. It is a well known fact that if the storekeeper offers Mrs. Jones only 10c. per pound for her butter while he pays Mrs. Smith 15c. per pound, that the former will be offended probably to the extent of trading elsewhere, consequently the merchant is obliged to protect his business by paying all alike, because the profits on a year's trade are very apt to be more than the loss on a few pounds of very poor butter would amount to. This sort of thing will always exist more or less as long as the selling of butter is mixed up with other trading, and it will be only where it is

bought by an independent man, so to speak, that a proper discrimination can be made. These things will all right themselves in time.

The above remarks agree with much this journal has said in times past when discussing the dairy question. It is a fact that the present mode of handling butter in this country does not offer reasonable encouragement to those who strive to make the best quality. In districts like Winnipeg, where the farmers can sell direct to the consumers, those who make the best butter can always get a higher price and can also find a ready sale for the article. At the country points, however, where the butter is bought for shipment, the present system of handling does not permit purchasers to make reasonable discrimination in the matter of quality.

Mr. Ruddick favors co-operative dairying, not only because cheese and butter of more uniform quality can be made in this way, but also because it will enable the producers to realize full market value for the goods. The chief obstacle in the way of this is the sparse settlement of the country, which increases the cost of collecting the milk. This difficulty, however, should disappear; and besides, as settlers are far apart, they have large farms and can keep large numbers of cows. In concluding his letter Mr. Ruddick says:

"I believe the people of Manitoba will in time be producing large quantities of good butter and cheese greatly to their financial advantage. The most enthusiastic advocate of dairying dare not claim that there is any prospect of great riches or a chance to make quick fortunes in the work, but he can honestly say that there is almost a certainty of fair remuneration even in the worst years and never a total failure. Take any part of Canada, United States or Great Britain to-day and it will be found that where dairying is most extensively carried on, there the most prosperous farmers are to be found. To the people of Manitoba it means converting coarse products into more concentrated ones and thereby saving a large item in freight charges, besides conserving the fertility of the soil by returning to it the greater part of those elements contained in the crops, which if constantly drawn from it and nothing returned soon leave it in an impoverished condition."

## WINNIPEG'S MILK SUPPLY.

Winnipeg has been almost criminally slow to take steps to regulate the milk supply of the city. At last, however, an effort is being made to place the city dairies under proper regulations, which should meet with the hearty support of all good citizens. The influence of the milk supply upon the health of a community is becoming more fully recognized generally. Disease and death has been frequently found to lurk in the white fluid, and epidemic outbreaks in other cities have been sometimes traced to the milk supply. This being the case, it is of the utmost importance that all dairies which supply milk to a town or city, should be under the strictest surveillance of the health authorities.

The new dairy regulations in Winnipeg came into force last week, under which all parties selling milk in the city are compelled to take out a license. Dr. Hinman, veterinarian, has been busy for some time inspecting the dairies and the cows, and licenses will be given those who comply with the regulations. Hereafter

the dairies as well as the cows will be inspected four times each year, and from this out citizens may therefore feel more easy in regard to their milk supply.

In the past dairying has been carried on in a very crude manner in Winnipeg. Some milk vendors who kept quite a number of cows, were found to possess no adequate accommodations for the business. Some of the stables were decidedly unsanitary. Others had no place to keep their milk, except in the stables where cows and other animals were kept. Others kept the milk in their residences, close to their stables. Milk was found in some residences where infectious diseases existed. Diseased cows, some suffering from tuberculous, were discovered. It has also been shown from the examinations made, that nearly all the milk sold in the city is deficient in fatty matter. This means that the milk has either been watered, or has been robbed of some of the cream. This of course will be put a stop to under the license system, as the authorities will have power to take samples of milk at any time for examination, and those who persist in selling poor milk, will be deprived of their licenses. It is further stated that some of the milk vendors have been in the habit of gathering kitchen refuse in the city, for feeding to their cows. This rubbish is not proper food for cows, and is very liable to produce milk containing disease germs.

Altogether the inspection has shown what many previously suspected, that there was urgent need for the close regulation of the city dairies. Now that authority has been obtained for the supervision of the milk business here, we may expect that the authorities will do their duty, and compel the dairymen to supply themselves with reasonable facilities for carrying on their business. Those who will not comply with the regulations, should be dealt with as provided, by the cancellation of their licenses.

The inspection made by Dr. Hinman, has been of a general nature, looking into the health of the cows, the sanitary condition of the stables and the accommodations provided for the business. Where anything is required, the proprietor is ordered to provide it forthwith. Later on it is understood a closer inspection of the cows will be made with a view to discovering any cases of tuberculosis which may exist. As this disease is very difficult to detect in its earlier stages, it is possible that some diseased cows may still be left in the city dairies. The only sure means of detecting this disease in many cases is by using the injections of tuberculin. Testing the animals in this way, however, is a very slow and tedious process, and it has not yet been found practical to undertake the work. It is hoped that shortly after the new system of regulating the dairies has been placed in good working order, a close inspection for tuberculosis will be made.

## STORE LEAKAGES.

Merchants who do not keep a close watch over their business, are sometimes unable to account for their small incomes. They imagine they ought to be making a fair profit all the time; but the end of the year shows little or no improvement. There are several ways in