

years these societies have effected great improvements in farming methods, one means of doing which is the fall fair.

There is no doubt that the average fair falls short in many respects, and fails to be of the practical value that it should; the system of prizes is not always based upon real merits, and competition has sometimes more of luck than science. But the tendency of late years seems to be to reduce these faults, and with the direct assistance of the Government, the fall fairs are being made increasingly practical. The new methods include such features as popular demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions of proper fruit-packing, dressing, and shipping of meat and poultry, dairy processes, and other information of a like kind. With such new ideas as these, joined to the established features of local exhibitions, there is a purpose to be served by the annual fall fairs that justifies their existence.

The larger industrial fairs are of value chiefly, perhaps, in educating our own people in the resources and achievements of the country. An exhibition such as that in Toronto is an eye-opener to those who believe that Canada has no industrial life. From year to year the progress that is being made in the manufacturing industries is most clearly illustrated at the half-dozen or so large exhibitions held in the chief centres of trade, and these industrial fairs furnish one of the most hopeful evidences of the approach of the day when Canada shall be industrially independent.

#### Canada's Dairy Industry

**A**N industry that thirty years ago was carried on chiefly by a few who marketed their product at the "corner store" has grown to a present export value of \$30,000,000 per year. No other industry in Canada has shown a more remarkable development than that of the dairy, and there is none for which the country is more eminently fitted. The increase in cheese exports has been greater than that of wheat, four-fifths of the total value of dairy products being cheese alone. By far the greater portion of these exports goes to the English market; indeed, so popular has the Canadian

article become in England that its own cheese industry, once world-famous, has very greatly declined.

There is room for expansion of Canada's dairy trade in the direction of butter exports, which last year amounted to 13,238 tons, while of cheese there were shipped 87,883 tons. Only five per cent. of Britain's butter supply is furnished by Canada. The reason for this is probably that the Canadian farmer finds cheese more profitable, but there would seem to be a most promising field open for the butter-maker as well. Britain now buys her butter from all parts of the world.

A thirty-million-dollar industry is a big factor in the nation's commercial life. The dairy is now one of Canada's greatest assets. It is, moreover, a well-distributed one, in which nearly every farmer may have a share, and the recent establishment of creameries and cheese factories in various parts of the country has done much to encourage local enterprise. In this, as in every other industry, it is absolutely essential that Canada's reputation for good quality be maintained, and very rightly there is a system of inspection now in force which aims at a standard of honest excellence.

#### The Shortage of School Teachers

**I**T plainly points to a defect somewhere in Ontario's educational system that in a large number of the rural sections there is at the present time a serious shortage of teachers. Considerable difficulty was found last year in providing schools with adequate teaching staffs, and the conditions are worse rather than better, this year. The Department has been forced to admit students to the Normal School who do not possess the required qualifications, and the employment of only partially equipped teachers is the only alternative if present conditions continue.

The only apparent reason for this dearth of teachers is the insufficient remuneration which is offered. The office of public school teacher is a poorly paid one, and although the work is of the first importance an ambitious young man or woman can earn considerably more in almost any of the busi-