

always continuously together, but often detached, and not unfrequently, if represented on the map, would have the appearance of islands.

The characteristics of a good dairy country are, high undulating surfaces, numerous springs and streams of never-failing water, a soil retentive of moisture, a sweet and nutritious herbage that springs up spontaneously and continues to grow with great tenacity, a rather low average temperature, frequent showers, rather than periodical drought, and sufficient covering of the ground in winter to protect grass roots, so that the herbage may be permanent or enduring.

Doubtless, within the limits of the United States, on the lower slopes of mountainous ranges, there are lands eminently adapted to dairying; but we have no large and continuous stretch of country like that to which we have referred, where the business would naturally develop itself into a speciality. In my opinion, upon this northern belt of dairy lands, there is no description of farming that promises better prospects of remuneration than the dairy. I refer now to farming in the broadest sense of the word, where thousands grow the product, and compete with each other in the great markets of the world. If one happens to be possessed of land in the immediate vicinity of towns and cities, upon which market gardening may be conducted with facility, that land may, without doubt, be put to more profit in growing vegetables than in dairying. Fruit lands eligibly situated, and intelligently managed, may also be a source of greater profit.

Limited specialities of this kind, in which only the few comparatively can engage, must not be embraced in the statement. Compared with other great interests of the country, such as the production of wheat or corn, and other cereals, the raising and fattening of stock for the shambles, sheep husbandry, hop growing, and the like, each and all are inferior in their remunerative prospects to the dairy.

In the first place the milk-producer enters the great markets of the world with less competition than almost any other branch of farming. He has a wider range and a more diversified product to dispose of. The milk-farmer may be a breeder to some extent of thorough-bred cattle. After the first outlay (and that may be on a small scale at the commencement) the expense of raising a thorough-bred cow will be no more than the raising of the meanest scrub of our common stock. Then if there is any profit in fattening stock for the shambles, animals which fail in milk for the dairy, and are to be turned into beef, can be employed for this purpose.

Both of these specialities are in the line, and connected with the dairy, as is also the fattening of swine on dairy slops. Again, the yield of his cows takes three forms of a commercial product, each of which enters into universal consumption, and is regarded as a necessity—milk, butter, and cheese: the last two are highly concentrated forms of food, and less bulky of transport than other articles of food of the same value.

200 pounds of butter, costing \$80, will occupy no more space in a railroad car than a barrel of flour costing but \$6. In other words,

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