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INTRODUCTION.

In collecting and preparing the material for the following pages, during the spare moments of a busy year, I have not attempted to do more than to arrange in something like chronological order some of the leading facts relating to the origin, growth and present development of the dairying industry in Canada.

In view of the importance of the industry to a large section of the farmers of Canada, and through them to the people at large, it would seem to be worth while to make a permanent record before it is too late, of the more important events connected with its early history, and particularly of those which relate to the factory system to which Canadian dairying owes so much.

I have taken some pains to verify dates and other facts. Contemporary writers and documentary evidence have been consulted as far as possible. In cases where there seemed to be some doubt, it will be found so stated. Some of the things mentioned may appear trivial, for it was hard to determine just where to draw the line between the important and unimportant. No doubt, there have been many items of interest omitted, and it may appear to some readers that a true proportion has not been observed in dealing with the subject. I can only plead to having done the best I could with the information available. As much time was spent in getting the material together as its importance would seem to justify. As it was, I fear I ran some risk of boring many good friends from whom I sought information, and whom I now find so numerous that suitable acknowledgment is out of the question.

One point which gave me some difficulty was that of making proper reference to various persons who have been prominent in connection with the industry, especially in later years, and on that account, the rule has been pretty generally observed of referring only to those who have been identified with the initiation of some of the more important movements. It does not follow, therefore, that those whose names have been mentioned herein are considered by the author as the only ones who are entitled to credit in the upbuilding of the dairy industry.

I hope that this acknowledgment will be accepted by all those kind correspondents who rendered such ready assistance in getting much of the material for this bulletin together.

J. A. RUDDICK.

OTTAWA, April 18, 1911.