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SIR,—With much interest and approval I perused an article on "Butter Making," by Miss Fannie Morley, in last issue of the *Advocate*. It is not my intention here to criticise the article or enlarge on the subject whatever; but rather to offer some suggestions on the means employed in the manufacture of butter, which I firmly believe would tend to accelerate the progress in this desirable industry. The principles advocated by Miss Morley towards a more extensive knowledge in the art of butter making, I thoroughly corroborate, and which principles, if rightly understood by all butter makers, would have the effect of greatly reducing the quantity of bad butter which is yearly thrown upon our market. But the question which I would propose is, Could there not be a more economical method employed towards bringing about these desirable results, than by confining the making of butter exclusively to each farmer's household?

A thorough knowledge of the art of butter making requires a great deal of time and care to accomplish. It is an occupation that is confined almost exclusively to the "gentler sex," and it is to their credit that this can be asserted. Many tedious and laborious days have been spent by the females in this occupation; a local poet fairly sings out,

"If ye would ca' the kirk
Ye maun be unco firm
Or it will gar ye girn."

In default of time and opportunities for acquiring a real and complete art of butter making, many, under the present system, remain ignorant of the essential principles of this art; hence the cry of the inferiority of our butter. What else can be expected under the circumstances? What use of merchants and agricultural writers lauding themselves to the skies and pouring torrents of obloquy upon our farmers' wives and daughters? How long is this state of affairs to exist? Is there no remedy? Have all other trades and industries to be constantly in the march of progression, while the butter trade lags behind?

This is a question of political economy. In the first place the cost of production must be diminished by economizing labor; this all will admit. But how is this to be effected? By co-operation. There may be, and is, a diversity of opinion existing on this subject; but I think it will be clearly evident to all who have given it consideration that unity in this, as in all things, is a source of strength. There are instances, I believe, in Ontario where butter factories exist; but they are mostly in the hands of individual proprietors, or speculators, who see money in the business, and are ever ready to take advantage of the farmers when opportunity offers. What I offer is joint stock association among the farmers of a community. They can in that manner have the benefit of the profits of the factory, and can employ competent and skilled workmen to superintend the making of the butter. Of course it would be superfluous in me to specify all the advantages that would be derived by an association of this kind; but if the clamor for better butter is to be satisfied, if the laborious work incurred under the present system is to be averted, then dairymen must endeavour to strike off from the old outworn rut, and march on in the line of progression. Then let farmers co-operate; let them form joint stock associations, and by a more minute division of labor a remedy will be effected, and one of the most vexed questions in Canadian agriculture will be once for all set at rest.

J. D., Dumfries, Ont.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has no equal in Ontario. You may safely believe this.
Wm. H. READ, Port Dalhousie, Ont.

PROSPECT OF FOREIGN DEMAND FOR CANADIAN FRUIT

SIR,—Early apples from America in large quantities will not make the extreme prices of former years; on the other hand a limited supply will always command good prices. For early shipments I recommend large green apples, or highly-colored apples; intermediate will not find good sale this time. Our growers are getting more in the habit of sending their goods to market direct from the trees, experience having taught them that unless they do so they get lower prices as soon as any quantity of American comes on the market; having last year's figures to go on, when America sent here 1,300,000 barrels, they will hurry their produce as soon as fit; I therefore calculate that their produce will be cleared by the end of November. Continental produce will be effected by whatever news comes from your side; if reports come over that your crops are heavy, they will hurry shipments, or vice-versa. Here I would remark that if apples are sold cheap to commence the season, it will have a beneficial effect on the remainder, as it will cause the whole of the consuming public to buy, and afterwards enquire after this fruit. That the public will consume cheap apples, and that the trade can be increased, is proved by the vast quantities that sold here last year, every barrel of which, that came properly packed, must have paid a profit to the shipper.

On all shippers I would impress the necessity of tight packing: if goods are packed tightly they arrive in good condition, but unless they are tight they settle during transit and their various journeys cause all slack-packed apples to rub one against the other, and so causes them to rot. To this cause may be traced all of the parcels that arrive in bad condition. Careful packing will reduce the risk to a minimum, providing always that the best routes are chosen for shipping, and to this end I would recommend only fast steamers, and never on any steamer that carries cattle; the heat from the cattle, or some other cause, is so bad that it is the exception for a cattle boat to bring apples in good condition. Unfortunately this port is not well represented on your continent for fast boats, and freights are generally 4s, whereas to Liverpool the freight is usually 3s. Last season large quantities came to this market, via Liverpool, through charge on which amounted to about 5s per barrel. By this route you have the benefit of a quick service, and competition between the different railways is so keen that the day after goods are landed they reach this market, each company striving its utmost to bring the apples in good condition and with as little oscillation as possible.

That this market is the best in the United Kingdom has, I believe, been proved, more especially to such as sent best goods. This fact, I believe, was never more shown than last year, when the bulk of shipments at the finish came here, and our buyers had not to send their orders to other markets, as this had a two-fold effect: first, it kept the buyers here, and second, it took away the orders from other markets, which would otherwise have gone.

In conclusion I would remark that the consumption of fruit increases every year by a very great extent, which necessitates larger supplies, and I look upon the American fruit trade as only in its infancy.

The following is a list of apples, showing their value as shippers this season:—

Baldwins—Free seller, bright color preferred.
Cranberry Pippins—Sells fairly well, bright color preferred.
Fall Pippins—Bad keeper, no use this season.
Fallwater—Free seller, and commands good prices in the spring.
Golden Pippins—Soft, dangerous apple, no use here this season.
Golden Russets—Free seller, and, when clear, makes good prices.
Gravenstein—Soft apple, dangerous.
Greenings—Free seller, well known.
Gilliflowers—Poor, should not be sent to England.
Holland Pippins—Good apple, but soft.
Jennetings—See remark against "Gilliflowers."
Jonathans—When of good color, command good prices.
Kings—Good seller, but should not be sent ripe.
Lady Apples—Sell well at high prices.
Lady Pippins—Fairly good, moderate prices.
Maiden's Blush—Good apple, properly colored commands high prices.
Montreal Fameuse—Highly colored, sells fairly; green, bad seller.
Nonpareils—Nova Scotia and Canadian always command fair prices.

Newtown Pippins—Large, selected fruit commands high prices; small, speckled fruit bad to sell even at low prices.

Nonsuch—Soft, dangerous.

Phoenix—When clear, sells fairly; very liable to turn black on one side, which spoils the appearance.

Pomeroy—Small bright sells fairly well; large sort liable to turn pithy.

Pomme Gris—Sells well, particularly when clear.

Pound Sweet—Dangerous, no use this season.

Queen Pippins—Fair seller.

Rambo—Medium only in price and quality.

Ribston Pippins—Good seller, but must not be sent ripe; loses its crispness, which is essential.

Romanite—When small and good color, commands fair prices.

Roxberry Russets—Useful apples, medium price.

Salisbury Pippin—Fair seller, when sound.

Seeks—Good apple, and when high colored sells well.

Spitzenburgh—Good apple, but quickly decays when ripe.

Spys—Must be large to sell well.

Swaars—

Talman Sweet—Medium apple, fair seller when large size.

Twenty Ounce—Good medium apple.

Vandeviers—Fair seller.

Wagners—Good color, fair prices.

Woodstock Pippins—Good color, good prices.

The name of the apple should always be written or printed on one end of the barrel, and in all cases the apples should be of same quality throughout the barrel. Some American shippers have a habit of putting a few good apples at the ends of the barrel and filling up the centres with those of an inferior quality. This is called facing, and is very injurious to the American trade. If a barrel chances to be opened that has been so packed, it will seriously injure the entire shipment.

W. N. W.

London, England.

BUILDING PENS FOR SHEEP, ETC.

SIR,—Care should be taken in erecting pens or sheds to make the entrance large enough. Sheep ought not to be crowded in going in or out. Many fine animals have been injured in that way, for sheep go in and out of their quarters when feeding time comes with a rush, and huddle close together. If the entrance is sufficiently large there need be no danger of crowding. All weakly lambs or sheep should be separated from those in good condition and allowed extra rations. Delicate sheep never stand much chance in a flock of fat, thrifty ones, as they are apt to be knocked around, and seldom get their share of food. I am glad to see that farmers are waking up to their interests and getting sheep of improved breeds. The old fashioned, coarse-wooled kinds ought to give place to such as the Cotswolds, Downs and Merinos. Not only is the yield of wool greater, but it is of superior quality and brings a much higher price. Their mutton qualities are also superior, both for quality and quantities. Sheep judiciously managed pay better, all things considered, than any other class of stock, while as a general thing they are less trouble than most other stock. The price of wool is rather low at present, but, like other things, the business will have its ups and downs.

JOHN H. SWALES,
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SIR,—By your request I send you an account of the crops in this section. During the months of July and August we had here, as elsewhere, a great deal of wet weather, which prevented many from gathering anything like a fair quality of hay. Although the quantity was increased, the quality by over ripeness and rust was materially decreased, so that on the whole we will not have an average crop, taking quality for standard. Early wheat, which has now been housed, has been an average crop, having escaped rust, but what is yet to ripen will not be half a crop, judging from what I have seen.

Early oats is an average, although very badly laid down; they were well on to ripeness when lodged and did not suffer much. Late oats are ripening very slow, particularly those on sod, and promiscuously through the fields are large patches very badly laid down, and a second growth starting up, which betokens not an average crop. Barley being an early grain, escaped unhurt, although lodged. Buckwheat is the only grain that appears to