

the cream." Well, I am perfectly willing to "pitch into" the rogues, but, it seems to me, the remedy does not lie in my hands but in the hands of the magistrate. Of course, if the managers are not competent to test the milk, or too cowardly to prosecute the offender, things must remain as they are. One thing I know: the milk inspector's activity in Montreal has had an immense effect, and I cannot see why the cheese- and butter-makers in the country should not act together and put a stop to these nefarious transactions: transactions that are a disgrace to the country. No wonder the makers are helpless, since, as one of the lecturers at Soré observed, some of them do not know how to read the indications of the thermometric scale!

M. Chapais visited some newly established creameries last year; listen to what the patrons told him: "Last spring, you said that we should probably get such or such a return from our milk, and what comes of it? We get much less than the patrons of the neighbouring creamery. That pays 60 cents for 100 lbs., and we only get 53 cents!" M. Chapais then asked the maker if he tested the milk. "Sometimes," replied the man. "And the result?" "Ah! very poor." Others said that no test was ever made. At all events, no prosecution was entered against the rogues.

I like the bold way in which the Assistant Dairy Commissioner speaks: "Without wanting to insult any body, I say that the man who waters his milk is a robber." I should think he was: nothing less. And he not only robs the proprietor of the factory but his brother farmers, too.

Well may M. Chapais say that "if this state of things goes on, the factories will be ruined. Shall we consent to lose the fruit of the last ten or twelve year's work. No! let us appeal to the conscience of our farmers, and if that remains deaf, let us appeal to the law. When the general interest is concerned, we ought not to be afraid of wounding the susceptibilities of certain persons, and we should strive with all our power against this habit, which is becoming a national pest." As Master Bailey (1) would say: "Blow their susceptibilities!" If every factory would prosecute one or two rascally patrons, the other rogues would soon cease from cheating; their "susceptibilities" cannot be very delicate, but the fines would wound them in their tenderest point, and it would not take long to work a cure. It used to be said that "no man can long meddle with horseflesh without becoming a cheat": shall the same be said of those who deal in the pure, innocent looking produce of our cows? *Proh pudor!*

The weather.—Spring may be said to have begun, in the Montreal district, about the 20th April. At Lachine, the sowing of the grain-crops on the Dawes' farms was completed by the 6th May, and some of the early potatoes were planted. (2) Snow fell on the 24th April, on which day there was ice on the sidewalks in Dorchester Street at noon! Splendid weather on the 27th, followed by snow and rain, and sharp frost on the 29th. May opened with hateful chilly weather, with frost, rain, snow, and hail on the 6th. Showers on the 9th, but warmer, and Sunday, 10th, 78° F. in the shade! Turned cold again on the 11th, warmer and fine up to the 10th, when it rained all day. On the 20th, 69° F. in the shade, and 71° F. on 21st, but on the 23rd, frost again, and cold nights always. Nothing grows, and I fear we are in for a late and bad harvest again. To day, May 27th, is fine enough, but very cool indeed. (3)

(1) See "Martin Chuzzlewit."

(2) And, I regret to say, frozen on May 18th, on which day M. Séraphin Guévremont's early plants, set out on the 15th, were all cut off, except the tomatoes.

(3) A thunder-storm or two, since then, but the land is all parched up and the hay-crop is, I fear, done for. June 18th.

Model-farms.—I have often given my opinion with respect to the absurdity, as it seems to me, of expecting model- or experiment-farms to be conducted with a view to trade-profits. I remember Mr. Browning, of Longueuil, used to bother me a good deal on this matter, and I fear a good many practical farmers still harp on the same string. If in any future plan of establishing an extensive model-farm, the government of the province dream of making a profitable investment of capital, the sooner it awakes from that dream the better.

A very sensible remark on this subject I met with the other day, in a French periodical entitled *Le Journal d'agriculture pratique*. The writer, the well known M. Lecouteur, in describing a visit to the celebrated agricultural school at Grignon, speaks thus of its present condition:

"Grignon is no longer, as it used to be, a domain devoted to extensive crops with a view to the profitable investment of capital. The estate has been confined to the old interior park, and specially dedicated to experimental researches. A breeding flock for the production of the best races and crosses—Leicester-merino—, and a herd of cattle, are kept. There is plenty of space, plenty of opportunities for the students to acquire all the scientific information that, after they leave the school, will aid them in completing their studies by a sojourn, more or less long, at a farm where the proprietor conducts his business, at his own risk and peril, solely with a view to the making of money. (1) Such is the view held at Grignon in its new arrangement. It does not aim at teaching, on a farm supported by the State, the art of making a profitable use of capital. But it does aim at occupying a middle position between the professional scientist and the practical farmer, thereby bringing the two into a more intimate connection, a connection which, in the end, will raise agriculture in public estimation, since science will have endowed it with the most energetic means of action."

Effects of the spring frosts.—Mr. Ewing tells me that the effects of the frosts of the month of May on the garden-crops of the neighbourhood of Montreal have been very serious. Many of the market-gardeners have had three successive plantings of tomatoes destroyed, and the potato-sprouts that were just through the ground were cut off. These were, of course, from sets that had been allowed to germinate before planting. No rain, to speak of, up to the 18th of June.

Oats vs. bran for milk.—Mr. Henry, director of the Wisconsin experiment-station, has been trying experiments on the relative value of bran and ground oats in the production of milk and butter, from which he draws the conclusion that:

"With a ration of 10 pounds a day per head, of ground oats or of bran, fed in connection with the same fundamental ration of corn meal, hay, and corn-silage or fodder-corn, there was a 10% greater yield of milk and butter-fat on oats than on bran."

Now, the usual price of oats is, in this province, taking one season with another, about a cent a pound = \$20.00 a ton, and bran can generally be bought for \$15.00. Therefore, according to the above experiments, oats are 33% dearer than bran, which is clearly the cheaper food, by 23%, than oats. Besides, the oats have, in almost every case, to be carried to the mill, and the miller's "multure" is always an uncertain quantity.

Corn-silage vs. dry fodder-corn for milk.—At the same station, duplicate experiments were made on this subject, each with four cows and of six weeks' duration. In each experi-

(1) Precisely what I have so often advised as the only way of learning how to farm.