

where the soil possesses apparently inexhaustible fertility, wheat can be produced at figures which would frighten the Ontario farmer to contemplate. In the same way the ranchman, who does not feed a pound of hay or grain to his cattle from one year's end to another, can produce beef at prices with which the Ontario or Quebec feeder cannot begin to compete.

All that remains for the farmers of the older provinces to do is to carefully guard against coming into competition with the farmer and stock-raiser of the North-West. This can be done more easily than one might at first imagine. Land is very cheap out between Red River and the Rocky Mountains, and for this reason farm laborers who go out there prefer to take up land and be their own masters rather than work for anything short of very high wages. In the older provinces therefore it behooves the farmer to adopt such methods as will bring his farm to the very maximum of productiveness, though the expenditure for labor may prove much higher than that to which he has been accustomed.

Instead of leaving a large portion of his land to pasture he might with profit adopt the soiling and ensilage systems, as it is well known these will enable him to carry a heavier stock on a given acreage than the ordinary feeding and pasturage. But soiling has other advantages which farmers, in all places where land is expensive, are learning to appreciate. The prevalence of weeds in pasture lots is well known, and is undoubtedly the cause of much of the difficulty in keeping land clean when it comes to be ploughed and cropped. Not only this, but the tramping of stock over fields is injurious to the soil. The manure which animals drop while in pasture does much less to maintain fertility than an equal amount made in the barnyard, and applied after sufficient fermentation to make its plant food available. Ripe crops fed in the ordinary way are full of matured weed seeds, which are stored in the manure during the cold weather and re-sown with it in the spring. What manure is made in summer is, or may easily be made, free from injurious weeds. Piling it up even for a week will destroy their vitality where weed seeds are known to exist. Of course the soiling crops proper will be cut green and be entirely free from weed seeds, and this is an advantage from soiling which in the long run makes it less laborious than feeding with myriads of weed seeds sure to go into the manure, and requiring much expense and labor to extirpate them.

The intelligent farmer need hardly be reminded that the soiling system produces much more of beef, butter, or cheese to the acre than pasturing, but the *New England Farmer* makes this very clear in the following paragraph:—

"The amount of feed that can be grown and the number of stock kept on a given area is much larger by soiling than by the pasture system. Wherever a horse, cow, or sheep sets its foot, the tender grass is crushed and its growth injured. Every one knows that stock

feeding on an acre will not get nearly the amount of feed from it that may be secured by mowing; and red clover, which is probably the most productive of the pasture forage plants, is not nearly so productive or valuable as fodder corn, sorghum, or other crops used for soiling. Clover, when used as a soiling plant, may be cut three or even more times in a season on rich land. But in pasturing it is doubtful whether an entire season's range of the field will give cattle an equivalent to one of these cuttings."

Soiling involves considerable labor, but the farm not only produces more the first year it is adopted, but afterward, by reason of the increased volume of manure made available, it becomes more and more productive year by year.

VARIETY IN DAIRY PRODUCTS.

It appears a little surprising that with all their cleverness, ingenuity, and enterprise Canadian dairymen should be content to go on year after year confining their attention to butter and one kind of cheese. Of course so far as butter is concerned there are but two kinds, "good" and "bad," and having once learned how to produce the former no dairyman would care to go back to the latter merely for the sake of varying the monotony. In the case of cheese, however, there are very many varieties for the customer or manufacturer to choose from. Ordinary standard cheese may be a good paying product even at present prices, but if this be true it does not prove that the production of fancy-priced varieties requiring more skill and attention would not be still more profitable. It is very certain that the highest priced cheese consumed on this continent is brought across the Atlantic, and that this practice should continue is not creditable to the skill and enterprise of Canadian and American dairymen. We have the cows, the grass, the milk, and in fact everything but the skill and the will to produce the best of the fancy varieties of cheese on this side of the Atlantic, and it is only because our dairymen and farmers are so favored by their surroundings that they are not compelled to make the most of everything within their reach that they are in this respect so far behind their trans-Atlantic rivals.

BRITISH BERKSHIRE RECORD.

Heber Humfrey, secretary of the British Berkshire Society, writes that the first volume of the British Berkshire Herd Book is nearly half printed.

The work will be as near uniform in appearance with the American Berkshire Record as can be, only different in color. Breeders on this side of the Atlantic await its issue with much interest.

THE CANADIAN BREEDER AND AGRICULTURAL REVIEW circulates through the entire Dominion, and has a large and increasing circulation in the United States and Great Britain.

Correspondence.

THE ROYAL SHOW AT PRESTON.

CANADIAN DISPLAY.

LIVERPOOL, 18th July, 1885.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

The following will doubtless be read with interest by Canadians generally:—

One of the most interesting exhibits within the enclosure is the handsome pavilion erected by the agents of the Canadian Government in this country. The exhibition is made under the direction of Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner in this country, by his officials in England; and yesterday, during his visit to the showyard, his Royal Highness paid a graceful compliment to the Dominion by visiting the pavilion occupied by the representatives of that colony. The Prince appeared very much pleased with the means which were being taken to place the resources of this important British colony before the public of this country. He especially admired some 52 different varieties of grain in the ear which were shown at the stand, and also the minerals, particularly noting the trade in phosphate of lime. This is a new industry in Canada, but last year some 70,000 tons were exported to the United Kingdom for the manufacture of artificial manures. He also admired the specimens of timber. His Royal Highness pleasantly complimented the colony in his conversation with Mr. John Dyke, the Canadian Government agent at this port, who had the honor of showing the Prince through the exhibition, where he spent ten or fifteen minutes, and evinced a deep interest in the progress of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which it is expected will be opened from the Atlantic to the Pacific during the next few days. He also took some interest in the Scotch crofters who have arrived in the colony, and asked some questions with regard to the emigrants from the east end of London. He was much struck with the manner in which the pamphlets setting forth the advantages of Canada as a colony were prepared in a large number of the European languages, and at his request several copies were supplied him. When leaving, he expressed himself as much pleased with his visit. While upon the subject of Canadian enterprise it is worthy of mention that a number of dealers from that colony have been present during the week at the show, and have purchased largely of pedigree stock. The principal of these is Mr. John Hope, the representative of the Bow Park Shorthorn Farm, Ontario. On this farm there is the largest herd of pedigree Shorthorns in the world, comprising nearly 300 head, and for which pedigree stock were extensively purchased at the last show. Mr. Snell, of Edmonton, Ontario, and Mr. Main, of Trafalgar, Ontario. The Canadians are by far the most extensive purchasers of pedigree stock who visit this country, in the Hereford district alone something like half a million sterling of Canadian and American capital having been distributed during the past two years among the breeders. The exertions