

a source of wealth to the Province at large. Therefore, while farmers and produce-dealers are, perhaps, more directly interested in the question, yet there are none who should not be ready to assist, even from a selfish motive, to the extent of their ability, in the matter of securing the establishment of creameries in this Province. Where dairying can be carried on successfully in the manufacture of cheese, as has already been practically demonstrated in Manitoba, it is hardly necessary to use argument to show that creameries would also prove equally remunerative. The same favorable condition found to exist here will apply with equal force to each. Starting, then, with the assumption that the natural conditions are most favorable to the establishment of creameries in Manitoba for the manufacture of butter, it will be in order to consider the subject more fully from a commercial standpoint. And here it may be remarked that at first glance the butter manufacturer would appear to have the advantage over the cheese maker, so far as the prospects of a larger dividend are concerned. First, there is the fact of the more extensive and universal consumption of butter, as compared with cheese; and second, the equally apparent fact of a greater scarcity of choice butter, and always active markets for the best qualities. From produce centres all over the country comes the cry: "What shall we do with the poor butter?" Examine the reports from any of the cities of the older Provinces, and you will find markets glutted with inferior qualities of butter, while in the same places choice grades are always scarce, and command a ready sale at remunerative prices. A short time ago Toronto produce dealers refused to receive any but the best grades of butter until they could reduce their heavy surplus stocks of inferior qualities. Of course, farmers and farmers' wives are to blame to some extent for this state of things, through careless and slovenly habits in the management of their dairy work, but to say that they are entirely to blame, would be to declare a most deliberate and most patent falsehood. Indeed, it is a question if the country trader be not as much at fault as the farmer's wife. Butter of the finest flavor, when marketed by the farmer, is usually stowed away in the cellar of the country store, amongst a miscellaneous assortment of articles of merchandise, from coal oil to turnips and

decaying vegetables. Here, in a very short time, the butter will taste more like the atmosphere of the cellar than like the original product, and is fit for little better than soap grease. Again, good, bad and indifferent qualities of butter are thrown by the country storekeeper into a vat together, and after a while shipped to the nearest market, where the whole lot is classed as "inferior."

There is another and a very momentous way of considering the matter of the establishment of creameries here. In a very short time Manitoba will be compelled to export butter, or else forego the manufacture of the same to a very great extent. In the latter case a valuable source of wealth to the Province will be lost. It is safe to say that butter is not handled any better here by the farmer's wife and the country storekeeper, than in the older Provinces, and to attempt to export it under these conditions with the expectation of financial return would certainly be a wild undertaking. How are we to remedy this, and in so doing add another source of wealth to the Province, and avoid the mistakes of the older Provinces? The answer is easy: Establish creameries, and instead of a miscellaneous assortment of various grades all jumbled together, and contaminated by the foul gases of the cellars of country stores, we will have butter properly manufactured, of a uniform quality, and packed in such a way as to command a sale in any market. The time is opportune for the consideration of this matter, and we hope that the rumors now afloat in regard to the establishment of creameries here may soon materialize. Once a start is made, there need be no fear as to the result, and one successful creamery would immediately lead to the establishment of many others. In every district where the population is sufficiently dense to allow of the gathering of the milk at a small expense, an effort should be made to establish some sort of a dairying industry, either cheese factory or creamery. The proposal to form a dairy association for the Province is a good one. Union is strength, and such a combination would be of much mutual benefit to its members in furthering the work at home as well as in finding an outside market for the surplus product.

PROSPECTIVE WHEAT.

All signs are said to fail in dry seasons, and the present must be a dry season in wheat circles. The situation is certainly a peculiar one, and alike puzzling to both bulls and bears, both of these leading factors in the manipulation of the wheat market being at a loss what course to take for the future. Of course, the bears will profess to see nothing but depression and disaster in store for the purchaser of wheat, and bulls will continue to declare that wheat will soon take a turn and go bounding up to \$1 and over at interior points, but when this loud talk of the opposing factions is analyzed down, it will be readily discerned that a kind of all-at-sea feeling pervades the leading wheat centres. Meanwhile the manipulating process is kept up by the army of speculators, who have made futures succeed legitimate business, and who are endeavoring to pluck fortunes from the buss-saw which they have created. Statistics, often misleading and contradictory, and generally more or less of an unintelligible nature, are made to do duty to bolster up or depress the markets, according to the desire of the compilers of them. But whatever the conclusions may be as to the visible supply, the estimated stocks in the country, the probable export demand from Britain and the continent, and the requirements for home consumption, the fact remains, that wheat has been sold in Liverpool during the past week at the lowest price on record, and that prices for wheat at centres on this continent are considerably above export value. Either British markets must advance, or American markets come down, if the export movement from the Atlantic seaboard is to be carried on extensively. Whilst markets are held up here, English wheat is selling at from 3 to 3½ shillings per quarter lower than the same time last year, and California wheat is selling at prices much lower than Atlantic seaboard wheat could be exported for. The prospect is therefore not particularly cheering to holders, and it would indicate another decline for the current year in the export of American wheat, which has gone on steadily decreasing year by year, from 61,000,000 bushels in 1880 to a total export of but 16,000,000 in 1885. Reports of the condition of the winter wheat crop will from this time forward exercise considerable influence on the markets, but nothing is yet known which could be used as an important argument.