

months product, and at about four-fifths the cost.

H. WESTON PARRY.

April 2nd. 1900.

EARLY FODDER CHEESE.

This month the majority of the factories in the older dairy districts will begin making cheese. High prices and a scarcity of supplies are the incentives to an earlier opening of the cheese factories than usual. While such conditions prevail it is almost useless to repeat the advice of other years, and urge that as little early fodder cheese as possible be made. Nevertheless we think such advice as sound this season as in any previous one, and believe that of our factories would co-operate, and arrange not to make any cheese till May 1st and to close on Oct. 31st each year, it would be better for both producer and manufacturer. Early fodder cheese is always of inferior quality to that made later on when the cows are on the grass, and considering the small amount of money it brings into the country, even though prices are high, is hardly worth bothering with. It usually has an injurious effect upon the marketing of the later product, and if its manufacture were discontinued, and the cheese season limited to six months, there would be less danger of the market being overstocked in any year, and prices could be better regulated.

However, as we have already pointed out, it is useless to urge any united action upon our factories in this regard when there is a good prospect of 11c. or over for April cheese. Patrons are clamoring for the factories to open and many manufactures will be compelled to begin making cheese several weeks earlier this season than last. Even buyers are anxious for the factories to open, as they see in present high prices, and the scarcity of stock on hand an opportunity for doing a good stroke of business. This is in striking contrast to the actions of these individuals other seasons, when they almost beseeched factorymen not to make any cheese till the cows were on the grass. While they may be very exceptional conditions this seasons, still we would like to see a little constancy shown by our dairymen in this regard. What we contend for is that, taking one season with another, and considering that we have reached our limit in the production of cheese for the British market, it would be much better for

the industry in the long run if the make of cheese, both at the beginning and the close of the season, were curtailed to such an extent that we would have no early fodder stuff or late fall cheese to export.

Then there is the question of profit. We fear the high price of cheese just now is proving a snare to many dairymen who are not looking to the future. Even at present prices for fodder cheese, it is a question whether it will pay farmers better than butter at this season of the year. Everyone who keeps cows should make provision for keeping up his herd, and he cannot do this better than by raising a few good calves each year from his best cows. If the value of the skim milk for calf-raising purposes is considered, we think it will pay our farmers to make butter till the end of the month at least, rather than fodder cheese at 11c. per lb. Where factories have been making winter butter, we think it would be good business policy to continue doing so for several weeks yet.

But whether the factories make cheese or butter every effort should be made to turn out an article of the highest quality. It is only in this way that our reputation for fine dairy products can be maintained and our trade with the Old Land made secure. When prices are high there may be a tendency on the part of the patron to neglect the milk a little, thinking that if the quality of the product is not of the highest it will bring a good price in any case. Such reasoning will only lead to trouble. Every effort should be made by both patron and maker to turn out the finest product, no matter what the price is. Our competitors know what prices are as well as we, and will not leave anything undone in order to capture the market from us.

Farming.

CHEDDAR CHEESE.

(Continued)

Conditions affecting the milk

Being anxious to discover what affect the drought was having upon the composition of the milk yielded at Vallis and Axbridge, where the Cheese School was held in 1891 and 1892, I wrote to Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tilley asking for samples. These they very kindly forwarded. Unfortunately, the time taken in the transit of these samples was so long, and the heat so great,