

760. The lectures delivered by the Dairy Commissioner and his assistants have given information on the whole practice of dairying, from the cultivation of the soil, the growing of fodder-crops, and the management of cattle, to the marketing of the finished products. Special instructions and demonstrations have been given to cheese makers and butter makers in nearly all parts of the Dominion.

761. Three agricultural conferences in the Maritime Provinces, which were honoured and aided by the presence and addresses from His Excellency the Governor General, caused an increased interest to be taken by the agricultural population in the methods of dairying which are capable of yielding them the best returns. The reports of these unprecedentedly large and enthusiastic gatherings also directed attention throughout the country and many parts of Great Britain and of the United States to the rich agricultural and scenic resources of these beautiful sea-girt and sea-balmed provinces.

762. As the climate of Canada imposes a period of at least six months during which cattle must be fed in stables, more attention is being given every year by dairymen to the growth of Indian corn for fodder. Fed either as weather-dried stover or as ensilage, it is a juicy, wholesome, cheap feed for milking cows; and the possibility of growing heavy crops of it per acre nearly everywhere in Canada puts the farmers, in regard to the cost of production, on a footing equal to or better than their competitors in other countries where cows can be fed on pastures for a longer part of the year. In some places horse beans (*Faba vulgaris var equina*) have been grown with satisfactory results as a fodder crop. On the Central Experimental farm as much as twelve tons per acre of green fodder was obtained of this valuable plant.

763. The comparatively new departure in dairying, in the fitting up of cheese factories for manufacturing butter from October until May, has made good progress. Two winter dairying stations were established in Ontario under the charge of the Dairy Commissioner in 1891. During the winter of 1893-94, seven of these butter-making stations were conducted by the Dairying Service of the department, and ten were operated during the winter of 1894-5, including the dairy schools at St. Hyacinthe, Que., and Kingston, Ont. A large number of cheese factories were fitted up by the proprietors for the manufacture of butter during the winter. This new industry may now be considered as fairly well established in the province of Ontario and well introduced into the other provinces. The direct revenue from the sales of butter is not the only advantage which results to the farming interests from an extension of winter dairying. By means of it the number and quality of the cows which can be reared and kept upon farms are increased and improved; and by the use of skim milk and buttermilk large numbers of swine can be reared and fattened.

764. A few paragraphs will indicate the principal work which is being carried on in the different provinces:

In the Province of Ontario, winter butter-making stations were conducted at Wellman's Corners, Chesterville and Renfrew. A dairy school was