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 Canada a Dairying Country.  
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 In Canada's resources, developed and undeveloped, the field, the forest, the fishery, the mine, manufactures and commerce, all occupy no mean place. It is, however, no depreciation of the other resources to say that both in actual results and in future promise, the first named stands highest in importance. Our exports are an illustration of this fact. In 1887 our agricultural exports amounted to more than half the total exports. The industry which, by virtue of exports, is second in importance is that of the forest, and the exports of the latter were less than half those of the field. In round millions of dollars, our total exports, in 1887, were as follows:—

The field.....	\$41,000,000
The forest.....	20,000,000
Fisheries.....	7,000,000
Mines.....	4,000,000
Manufactures.....	3,000,000
Furs.....	2,000,000
Miscellaneous.....	1,000,000
Total.....	\$78,000,000

In this classification I have made a departure from that of the trade and navigation tables. In the "field" (agriculture) I have included "animals and their products," except "furs," which I have classified separately.

These figures, striking as they are, do not fully express the relative importance of agriculture. Among the considerations which emphasize that expression are the following:—  
 1. The forest products exported are more nearly in a raw state, like deals, planks, etc., and do not represent the employment afforded that field products do, the latter including such products as cattle, cheese, butter, grain, etc. (2.) Forest products belong only to the new phase of the country, and must wane with its development, while the field is the present backbone and the future promise of the country; and our highest prosperity in the future will be contingent upon its best and continuous expansion and improvement, which both are possible.

Now, an analysis of the exports of our most important and valuable agricultural resources will show there is one special branch of the industry which overtops the other branches, even as agriculture itself stands higher than our other resources. We exported in 1887 in round million dollars:—

Cheese and butter.....	\$ 8,000,000
Horned cattle.....	6,000,000
Barley.....	5,000,000
Wheat.....	4,000,000
Pease.....	3,000,000
Flour.....	2,000,000
Horses.....	2,000,000
Eggs.....	(nearly) 2,000,000
Sundries.....	10,000,000
Total.....	\$41,000,000

The dairy exports here stand highest of all. Indeed, they exceed our combined exports of sheep, fruit, bacon, hay, cereals, potatoes and wool! They were nearly 20 per cent. of all the agricultural exports, and over 10 per cent. of our total exports! These facts, taken, so far as exports have any meaning, that the dairy is a factor in our national economy, which is second to no other. It is such a factor in a sense not indicated by figures. For milk production rather than being unduly exhaustive to the soil is favorable to a system of cultivation which will help to renew the fertility of soil already impoverished by grain cropping. It is the Canadian experience that the intelligent production of milk and the skillful manufacture of its products, brings prosperity to the agriculturist.

The manifest advantages of dairying, and the large place it has in our industrial economy, bespeak a condition of things favorable to the future prosperity and progress of the country.

Unhappily, a further analysis of our dairy exports will greatly modify any self-congratulations. While in a general splendid expansion and rapid growth of our exports, our dairy products, as a whole, have kept pace with the most important of our other exports, one of these dairy products has been steadily falling behind in a marked degree. The years 1872 to 1887, which increased our total exports from 61 to 73 million dollars, or 23 per cent., increased our cheese and butter exports from \$5,500,000 to \$9,000,000, or 46 per cent.; while our butter exports, instead of showing their share of increase, have actually fallen off from three and a half millions to one million dollars, or no less than 73 per cent. It, of course, follows that the exports of cheese must have had an almost phenomenal expansion, in order to have given the combined exports so good a showing as they have made. And the actual increase of our cheese exports have, indeed, been something striking. From less than two million dollars in 1872, they have grown to over seven million dollars in 1887, an expansion of about 286 per cent.

The actual reputation abroad of Canadian cheese, compared with what it was before the trade began to assume noticeable proportions, is a flattering confirmation of the conclusions which naturally follow from a study of the above figures. At one time Canadian cheese was exported under an American brand, to give it a better hold upon the English market; to-day it is to be feared that shrewd Americans know too well that American cheese will sell better in England if put upon the market as Canadian. The reputation of Canadian cheese is now second to none, and the success of the Dominion in cheese production has already awakened considerable enquiry as to our methods among our competitors. Both in Denmark, the present butter country par excellence, and in Holland, the premier country for milk production and dairy exports, I saw indications of a disposition to study the reasons of Canada's success. Incidentally I might remark that for four years the southwestern counties of Scotland have been steadily improving the quality of their cheese under the personal instruction of Canadian cheese-makers, who are introducing the Canadian system. The first season the canny Scots were content with the importation of one instructor; but now they are not satisfied with less than two of our best men, whom they secure in the most practical, business-like way, by liberal remuneration for what they find to be exceedingly valuable service.

On the other hand, the actual reputation abroad of Canadian butter to-day, compared to what it was at one time, is of a less flattering character. Indeed, it is a question which has fallen off the most, our exports of butter (which we have seen has gone down 73 per cent.), or our reputation for making it?

So much for the past of our dairy industry. What is its possible and probable future? To myself, in spite of the discouraging aspects of one branch of our enquiry, the outlook is hopeful.

First—The country is remarkably well adapted for dairying. The success of the cheese industry is abundant proof of adaptation for the production of milk, and of one at least of the milk products. Our failure in butter exportation is not necessarily proof that the country is not adapted for butter production. The quality of butter which we export is small in proportion to what we consume at home. The Canadian people are light consumers of cheese, but heavy consumers of butter. Our butter consumption is to a very considerable extent of an exacting character, and it absorbs a larger proportion, not nearly all, of the very best portion of our whole make. Local prices for the best of our butter are usually sufficiently high to force the exporter to handle quantities of cheaper and inferior butter. One butter maker within a mile of my writing has sold no butter for years at less than 20 cents per pound. He always has "his price," and a few years ago his price was 25 cents per pound. This butter has usually been sold directly to some of the many consumers always on the lookout for good butter at any reasonable price. Doubtless not a single tub of it ever found its way into the exports, for the reason that it was always spoken for, and usually at figures which forbid its export. The person referred to has just sent one tub to a Montreal family, whose head writes that it is "very fine butter." One tub has gone to Kingston, Ont.; one goes to Ottawa, and the balance is spoken for by a Montreal retailer. There is nothing exceptional in this instance, it is merely illustrative of a condition of things which bears upon the question of the grade of our whole butter production.

Again, the faulty condition of butter in a foreign market is not always a proof that the butter was devoid of quality when first made. It may not have been packed to provide for the trying conditions of its subsequent handling. It may have been unfairly tested in its transportation or by speculative "holding."

As a matter of fact, in every province of the Dominion, and very likely in every country, more or less butter has been and is being made, which would be considered fine in any market. It is unlikely that in Ireland itself better butter can be made than in our own Prince Edward Island—equally green and beautiful. "Gilt-edged" butter may be made almost anywhere in maritime Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with their rich marshes and grassy slopes, kissed by Atlantic seabreezes. Quebec has its Kaaters Townships, the very name of which is synonymous with the best butter of the country. It has, too, its Kamouraska district, which though it has shipped enough bad butter to spoil the best reputation, did it in spite of cattle, grasses and atmosphere which have produced some, and which have produced more, of the finest milk and butter in the world. Ontario being more of a wheat-growing country, has had less of the advantage of having made butter-making in some degree a specialty, but it is not to be doubted that in every one of its rich counties excellent butter has been made, though some of it has been spoiled by bad packing and poor handling. As for one

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