

are great. For instance, blight, wind, bad weather at harvesting time, hired labour, etc., increase the wheatgrowers' costs and risks of loss.

Then there is the tung oil industry. Many companies are at present being floated to establish tung oil trees for production of tung oil. One has amassed a capital of £100,000. The world demand for tung oil is certainly increasing because it has been found suitable for production of varnishes, using low grade gums. However, out of the experiences of these companies, during the next five years the best conditions for growth, i.e., soil, climatic, etc., will be ascertained so that the industry may ultimately become economic either by large plantation or as a side line.

Dairying.

NEXT we come to the dairy industry.

I suppose some three years ago, many would have thought the end of the world had come if they had been told that butter-fat would be down to 11d. per lb., but as time goes on, it will probably be found that this is quite a payable price, when financial adjustments have been made, such as will reduce costs of production. There is no doubt that production can rapidly increase.

All the year round dairying has great possibilities in our genial climate. Our greatest competitor is likely to be Australia. Fortunately, the quality of both our cheese and butter is in process of such improvement to suit the market that we shall be able to penetrate a great part of the market in the North of England and Scotland in which we have formerly only had a footing. There is little doubt that it is to our advantage that costs can be lower here than almost anywhere else and while Britain's dairy production will probably increase, yet there is in British markets ample room for many years to come for our dairy products, provided the present rate of improvement is maintained. There are also, according to many, good market possibilities in the East.

Leather and its Derivatives.

LET us take the leather industry and its derivatives. It is not generally realised that fully 75 per cent. of the leather used in New Zealand is produced locally, when account is taken of certain patent leathers, goat skins, etc., which are not produced locally. Some 30 per cent. of the cost of production consists of tanning materials which have to be imported. In spite of failures in the past, there does not seem sufficient reason why we should not grow sufficient wattle bark to replace this imported tanning material. If this were done, a new industry would be established, the cost of production of leather would be brought down accordingly, and there is not the slightest reason why we should not become exporters of certain kinds of leather both to the East and elsewhere. We have at hand the best of raw materials and can operate on them without the disadvantage of the deterioration occasioned by storage and transport with which the overseas tanners are obliged to contend. This should be a naturally indigenous industry. For some years New Zealand leather was not considered equal in quality to that imported. The improvements made in the last six years have completely removed this prejudice.

Closely related to the prosperity of the tanning industry is that of the boot

industry. This industry is following the example of the tanning industry in that its product during the last few years shows great improvement, and in many lines, is superior to that secured from overseas. This improvement is likely to be maintained and increased and is earnestly to be hoped for, because both the tanning and the boot industries will prosper together.

Meat.

WE next come to the meat industry and its derivatives, and unfortunately the by-products of this industry have slumped to a great extent during the present world-wide period of under-consumption. The by-products of this industry comprise pelts, wool, meat meals, tallow, etc. Pelts have slumped mainly because America is not buying. The quality of our product is fast improving, and the future is hopeful. Tallow has lost its value largely because of its variability in composition, and is being rapidly replaced in the manufacture of margarine by standardised products of vegetable origin. Meat meals await more profitable utilisation in the extension of the pig and poultry industries, and it is these latter industries which possess the greatest powers of quick expansion.

There are definite indications that European production of pig products has reached its peak, partly because of the limited amount of suitable feed available at a suitable price. Now is undoubtedly the time to go ahead and develop this pig industry.

One might go on to many other examples, fish, kauri, etc., but I have indicated sufficient to show that by careful planning and thoughtful progressive experimentation there are many directions in which advances are overdue. It must be remembered that one country is able to maintain a higher standard of life than another, only if, and because, human labour in that country is more productive, so that our future comfort and prosperity depends on our developing a true industrial sense. Production is dependent on the quality of labour itself, which, in turn, if properly organised, is capable both of utilising effectively the fruits of its own efforts toward further development of those natural advantages with which New Zealand has been so richly endowed. It is true that we must promote exchange of goods with other nations in addition to production for local requirements, but in this exchange we can specialise and increase production of those articles for which we have natural advantages, for the gains of specialisation and exchange depend not on absolute, but on the relative advantages and disadvantages.

The main thing is that we should take broad and long views and develop a basically technical and industrial outlook as a basis of sound development.

Community Singing

(Continued from page 1.)

and so young again. This is the first time I have heard your sing." The handwriting displays that its writer is well on in years. It is unsteady and shaky, but is legible withal.

Every seat at the Town Hall was filled on last Wednesday, July 27, when the Women's Institute delegates from all over New Zealand attended

and lent their voices to swell the strains of the favourite community sing-songs. The institute song, 2000 copies of which were specially distributed throughout the hall, so that all could sing, was a wonderful success.

Introducing the delegation, the secretary, Mr. Palliser, remarked: "Give these ladies a real reception. We hope the Mayor's Fund will be appreciably increased by their presence and that we have a bumper collection." The delegation arrived to the chorus of "Tipperary" and afterward presented their Women's Institute song which is set to the tune of the "Londonderry Air." The audience joined in. At its conclusion there were calls for the author, and Mr. Pritchard then introduced Miss Bibby, who was seated on the stage.

Miss Spencer, representing the Women's Institute, then spoke, giving greetings to all listeners-in throughout New Zealand, Australia, and perhaps the world. Mr. Palliser remarked that Miss Spencer represented the Women's Institute which in turn represented 20,000 people scattered throughout New Zealand. The organisation was doing wonderful work. In reply, Miss Spencer thanked everybody for the magnificent reception they had received in Wellington, and hoped that the movement would do much to strengthen the bonds of Empire.

The presence of the Women's Institute delegates, who were from all parts of New Zealand, must have done much to establish the goodwill of the organisation throughout this country. Evidence of this was given when, later in the proceedings, a telegram arrived from the family of the Tikokino representative, saying that in his mother's absence they were all having a wonderful time and asking "Owen" to demand five shillings from her.

The delegates left at about 1.20, and as they were leaving the hall Mr. Pritchard led the crowd in singing "Good-bye" and "Pack Up Your Troubles."

Small goods sent for sale are sometimes auctioned, but usually taken round by the Red Cross girls who are present and offered for private sale. The donor usually marks a price and, failing this, one is assessed usually by Mrs. Albert Russell. Usually these articles realise a fair price, but sometimes they go rather too cheaply owing to their having to be disposed of quickly. However, the arrangement with Messrs. Townsend and Paul will get over this difficulty.

As a sample of the variety of things that have to be sold, sometimes at auction, include the following: Nightdress cases, bed socks, hams, rose cuttings and knitted garments of all descriptions.

As an evidence of the latest craze for knitting it is quite a common sight to see at these community sings many of the fairer sex of the audience busily engaged in knitting during the sing.

Up to date the sum of £179/19/10 has been realised. Although the number of contributions this year has been less than previously, the aggregate sum has been the same. It has been found that most of the donors are giving larger sums than formerly so, if you want to help the Mayor's Fund, send in a donation to the secretary of the Wellington Community Singing, care of 2YA, Wellington. It will be acknowledged over the air. If you have any livestock or produce, remember to send them to the Mayor's Fund, care of Townsend and Paul, auctioneers, Wellington.

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