

tion period must not extend over 365 days, and each cow must drop a calf within, say, fifteen months from the time her test commenced.

Cows are classed as "two-year-olds," "three-year-olds," "four-year-olds," and "mature cows." Unless an animal produces up to a certain minimum of milk and butter-fat stated as the standard for her class in the semi-official test, she is not admitted to the record of merit. These standards vary with different breeds, but are usually within the following limits:—

	Maximum.		Minimum.	
	Pounds Milk.	Pounds Fat.	Pounds Milk.	Pounds Fat.
Two-year-olds	7,500	255	5,500	198
Three-year-olds	8,500	289	6,500	234
Four-year-olds	9,500	323	7,500	270
Mature cows	10,500	357	8,500	306

It is suggested that the time is opportune in New Zealand when semi-official testing might be commenced with profit to the dairying communities of this country and to the breeders of purebred dairy stock. Dairymen about to purchase purebred bulls will pay more for those descended from ancestry of known merit. The extra price will more than repay the cost of taking the weight of milk daily. A semi-official record of a cow for one year may be legitimately quoted by the breeders when selling any progeny of this cow; and the one season's testing may influence very materially the price of some seven or eight sons and daughters, not to mention the influence on animals whose relationship is farther removed.

To the dairymen of our Dominion who are endeavouring to improve their herds, such records would be invaluable. At present many dairy-farmers desire to get purebred sires from known good milking strains, but while many purebred sires are offering, little is known of their capacity to get good milk-producing progeny. For supplying this knowledge, semi-official records of the bull's dam and grandams are necessary, and their absence constitutes the "missing link" in New Zealand breeding of high-producing dairy stock. The testing of the yield-production of the individual cows which constitute our ordinary crossbred herds is extending, and is creating a demand for purebred sires; but to an equal extent this herd-testing is creating a demand for the milk and butter-fat records of the sires of such dam and grandams. It is only by the use of sires whose quality is assured by such records that the most intelligent improvement can be made in our dairy herds. The time is not far distant when our most progressive dairymen will, when purchasing a head for their dairy herd, demand not only a pedigree but records such as has been described above.

Dry weather experienced in July is expected to have an appreciable effect on the season's output of cheese, but the quantity of cream exported to the United States during the present season is very much less than it was in 1910.—*Canadian Census and Statistics Monthly*.