

records available, which are for 50,683 cows, show that the average cow under association test, and in milk 100 days and over, produced during the past season 233·82 lb. butterfat. We recognize that the majority of the herd-testing association members are the more progressive dairy-farmers, but we believe that if every dairy-farmer would test his cows, and study his records and act on them, it is reasonable to expect that the whole of our dairy cows could be brought to the average production of those tested. The difference in yield is roundly 66 lb. butterfat, and there are 1,248,643 dairy cows in the Dominion. Taking the value of butterfat at 1s. 6d. per pound, this represents, on an average production of 168·42 lb. butterfat, £15,772,234, whereas on 233·82 lb. it equals £21,896,828, a difference of no less than £6,124,594.

The opening-up of new land for dairying absorbs a large proportion of our poorer cows, but it may now be expected that each year, with more intensive dairying, there will be more scope for the selection of the better dairy cow, and when testing becomes more nearly general the cull-cow problem should largely settle itself. The association testing-system will therefore be a much more powerful instrument than formerly for the improvement of our dairy herds.

The present opportunity is taken to thank those dairy companies which were good enough to supply us with annual summaries of results for associations under their control. The Dairy Division is endeavouring to collect the fullest possible data regarding the production of our dairy cows, and any statistics which those conducting this work are able to supply will be always appreciated.

WALLACEVILLE VETERINARY LABORATORY.

THE annual report of the Department of Agriculture for 1922-23 summarizes the work of the Wallaceville Laboratory during that period as follows:—

In the course of the year 1,632 specimens were received for examination. These included milk-samples, pathological exhibits, blood for serological tests, water for bacteriological analysis, &c; 1,051 samples of milk from cases of suspected contagious mastitis were dealt with, and 231 samples of blood were examined by the agglutination method for the detection of contagious abortion. In addition, 106 composite samples of milk were received for test inoculations for the presence of tubercle bacilli; only one sample proved to be tubercular. Owing to the necessity for curtailing expenditure the prosecution of research work has been restricted. The curative treatment of contagious mammitis received attention; whenever available, subjects in the locality affected with this disease were secured for experimental treatment. Parasitic gastritis occurring among sheep and imported pedigree goats at the laboratory provided an opportunity to test the method advocated by the South African Veterinary Service of dosing with a mixture of arsenite of soda and sulphate of copper. This treatment in our hands proved most effective. A number of feeding experiments to test the toxicity of certain materials were carried out. Among these may be mentioned the effects of basic-slag absorption by sheep, the effects of feeding salt to swine, the feeding of clover raised upon soil from "bush-sick" areas; also tests with samples of calf-meal, honey, and mangold-liquor. The breeding of ferrets for disposal to settlers was continued, and a small herd of pedigree goats was maintained on the laboratory farm for disposal in the same manner. 78,200 doses of blackleg vaccine were supplied. Abortion vaccine in the shape of living cultures of the specific organism was supplied on request; 1,612 c.c. of tuberculin were sent out, and sixty-three doses of mallein were supplied.