

There are so many things to be said about the Dairy, that one is at a loss as to what facts it would be most profitable to group together in an hour's talk.

Earnest practical men, I have assumed, are better satisfied with that which is useful and applicable to their business, though related in plain language, than with speculative theories elaborated into rounded periods and eloquent diction. If I have made a false assumption I cannot expect to hold your attention, for I have counted entirely upon your interest in the questions to be presented.

I come to you from the oldest Dairy District in America. I knew the man, in his old age, who first began cheese dairying in New York. He came on foot from New England to Herkimer, eighty years ago. He was rich in health, with eight silver shillings in his pocket, an axe upon his shoulder, and two stout arms to swing it. Nearly the whole county was then a dense forest. His great arms felled the timber on many acres. He built his log house, and established a herd upon the soil. Then he took to wife a Cheshire girl, who made the first cheese dairy in the State of New York. This man's name was *Arnold*. He accumulated large wealth, and went to his rest honored and respected. From such beginnings sprang the mighty giant that is now stalking over the continent.

American Dairying now represents a capital of more than six hundred millions of dollars. The cheese product of this year has sold for more than twenty-five millions, and the butter product for at least a hundred millions.

In 1865 the butter product of New York alone was estimated at sixty millions of dollars; that year there were thirty millions of gallons of milk sold in the State, which at four cents per quart, would amount to nearly five millions of dollars, (\$5,000,000.) From these figures it will be seen that Dairy farming is a most important branch of American agriculture, and is destined, from year to year, to hold a still more elevated place in furthering the commercial interests of the country.

The idea of Associated Dairying is claimed to have originated in Europe. The system, it is true, has been practised to some extent in Switzerland, and in France, but it differs materially from that of this country. The European system grew out of a necessity. It was the offspring of poverty, rather than of wealth.

The peasants of a neighborhood each having one or two cows, united them in one large herd. They employed a herdsman in common, and sent him with the herd to the mountainous pastures of the Alps.

Here the herdsman and his assistants take charge of the cattle for a certain number of months, turning the milk into cheese, which at the end of the season is divided among the owners of the cows, in proportion to the number furnished by each. Cheese cannot be manufactured to advantage from one or two cows, but under this system the poorest peasant makes the product of his one cow compete successfully in the market with that made from the large herds of the wealthy, since it is similar in shape and quality, though the quantity is small. In other words, he has a merchantable article which he could not obtain singly and alone. Now, the European system accomplished no grand results. It did not spread or become generally