

Horne. That we come to the meeting voluntarily and at our own expense. This to be a preliminary meeting to set about the necessary organization. And I believe a good man to call that meeting and give his aid would be Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. C., who I believe is interested in this problem. Let us hear from him. I would suggest that the meeting be held at Toronto at as early a date as possible.

ONTARIO FARMER.

[Note.—In last week's issue appeared a report of the annual meeting of the United Farmers of Ontario. Our correspondent should get in touch with this organization.—Editor.]

To the Land—To the Land!

With continued complaints of unemployment varying from hundreds in the smaller centres to thousands in the large cities and farmers more than ever needing workers, do-nothing policies are not very likely to commend themselves in times that call urgently for effective measures. In "The Farmer's Advocate" a county plan was suggested that would have facilitated the getting of "places" and men willing to work together without long-distance red tape centralized too far from the people. Farmers are making up their minds to work out their own salvation. The problem of city unemployment and undermanned farms is troubling adjoining States as well as Canada. The New York State Department of Agriculture has been operating a Farm Labor Bureau for ten years, in which time it claims to have found farm work for 45,000 people, and is still busy. Many manufacturing plants and other industries have been idle this season, and to a large extent the employees have returned to the farms. The New York Times states that "this outlook for the agriculturist for 1915 is very encouraging, and the Farm Labor Bureau is trying to induce the farmers of the State to increase crop production to its fullest extent, and to encourage them to engage their farm help as early in the season as possible, thereby hoping to assist in relieving the unemployment situation. In order to operate a farm one must have sufficient capital to buy necessary stock, tools and seeds, and have left a balance sufficient to maintain himself until the crop is grown or returns can be secured from the dairy, poultry, berries, fruit and other sources. The so-called 'abandoned farm' exists only so far as this State is concerned in the minds of correspondents. There are, however, many farms upon which there are unoccupied buildings, but the land is invariably worked by some one in the vicinity and the rougher sections used for pasture."

Another organization voluntary in character and with larger objects in view has just come into existence in New York City under the name of the "National Forward to the Land League" which is neither a commercial colonization scheme nor a real estate project, but is described as a "bureau of land and home welfare information" for the benefit of would-be farmers.

A Law to Save the Trees.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The illustration in your issue of Feb. 11, depicting the desolation caused by the destruction of a 20-acre wood-lot in Middlesex County, and your timely and sensible remarks thereon accentuate a thought that has been in my mind for some time; which is that every owner of land outside corporate limits should be compelled by law to keep a certain percentage of it in timber, of ordinary farm land at least 5%, and kept for timber only, not even pastured, no tree under a certain diameter to be cut unless dead from unavoidable causes. The main reason for this law would be climatic; to assure sufficient rainfall. "The tree of the field is the life of man," to quote from the Bible.

The past history of the world abundantly proves the statement to be scientifically true. Wherever the trees have been entirely removed from a fertile country or large district, the rainfall has either ceased altogether or has become so spasmodic, floods and droughts alternating, that agriculture has been ruined, the country turned into a desert, and the inhabitants into barbarians. Take as examples, Palestine, Northern Africa and the Valley of the Tigris and Euphrates. From being highly civilized and supporting large populations they have become desert, the home of a few roving Arabs. Notice what a dense population Palestine had before the Romans invaded the country and cut down all the trees, some to make crosses on which they crucified thousands of the Jews, and the rest to make platforms for the great slings which they used for bombarding the cities with boulders. There are large areas in Northern Ontario that for a long time to come, if ever, will be good for nothing but growing timber, and these areas should be guarded by the Government, not only from destruction by fire, but from too close and careless cutting. But the beneficial effect on the rainfall of these timber areas would not suffice

for the whole of Ontario; the cultivatable part needs patches and belts of trees scattered over it, and no matter how valuable the land might be for cropping, the public interest demands that a certain proportion be kept in bush. There are few places anyway where farm land is so valuable that it does not pay to keep a few acres in timber if only for windbreaks and to add beauty to the landscape. But live stock should be strictly excluded. Two crops, trees and pasture, cannot be grown on the same land at the same time; and those who, through ignorance or greed, try to do it should be restrained by law, because the growing trees slowly but inevitably suffer till the patch is ruined. The question is too large for all details to be dealt with in one letter. I merely touch on it, hoping to hear opinions and facts from others who have more definite information on this important subject than I have at present.

Halton Co., Ont.

J. E. WICKSON.

THE DAIRY.

P. E. Island Dairymen Had a Good Year.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Dairymen's Association was held in the Agricultural Hall, Charlottetown, on February 22. There was a large representation of dairymen present from all parts of the province. President J. A. Dewar in his annual address reviewed the business of the past year, stating that it had been the most profitable to dairymen since the inception of co-operative dairying here over twenty years ago, and was very optimistic as to its future.

A large number of the dairymen took part in the discussion of the President's address, and all the speakers agreed that co-operative dairying has been a great success, and that during the twenty years and more since it was established, had added greatly to the wealth of the province. It had enabled farmers to deal for cash, and had resulted in a much improved condition of the soil. It came out in the discussion that quite a few of the smaller cheese factories had given up business, but that in many cases their patrons were now supplying cream to centrally situated butter factories. This course was found to be more profitable.

Harvey Mitchell, Dominion Dairy Representative, in a very fine address, full of instruction, spoke strongly in favor of all dairymen keeping records of the production of each cow in their herds, giving instances of where this practice had been followed for a few years, of the milk per cow being raised from an average of 4,000 lbs. per cow to 7,000 lbs. per cow per year.

In this discussion such specialists as Walter Lee, Andrew McRae, W. J. Gibson, and B. R. Brown, gave valuable information about the breeding, selection, feeding and care of the dairy cow, and more especially of the treatment of the dairy calf, and its development into a successful producer.

Inspector F. T. Morrow's report on the manufacturing end of the business was encouraging. The worst complaints he noted were the neglect of many patrons to cool their milk to a temperature that would ensure its delivery at the factory in good condition. Neglecting to do this caused a great loss in quality as well as quantity, especially on Mondays.

At the evening meeting W. M. Lea gave a paper in which he dealt particularly with the breeding and development of the dairy cow from the time the calf was born until it grew up to be a producer. Professor Reid gave a very instructive address on the same subject, and Theodore Ross, Secretary of Agriculture, spoke at considerable length on "Patriotism and Production."

The old Board of Directors were re-elected, with J. A. Dewar M.L.A., President; C. E. McKenzie, Secretary, and Fraser T. Morrow, Inspector.

The value of the output of cheese and butter for the past year was \$473,746, an increase over 1913 of almost \$2,000. Dairy farmers are preparing for another year's business with a very hopeful outlook for a profitable season in 1915.

P. E. I.

WALTER SIMPSON.

When grain is dear and stock is cheap it is a good time to stock up, for it has always been and no doubt always will be that such conditions are followed by the reverse, cheap grain and dear stock.

It is a good time to buy breeding stock of all kinds. Spring sales are numerous and prices not too high. The man who buys on a slow market, and holds, usually comes out ahead of the game.

The Wisconsin Cheese Farmers Co-operative Venture.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your readers may remember an article which appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" last summer about the farmers in Sheboygan Co., Wisconsin, becoming dissatisfied with the way buying of their cheese was conducted, and how a fighting Senator of the State, who is a cheese farmer, took the matter up and organized the farmers in such a way that they now control the production of cheese milk, manufacturing of cheese and the marketing of their cheese. They will be interested in the sequel to that story which was related to the writer this past winter by the manager of the concern (who by the way is a Canadian). I give the results partly as told me by the manager, and partly as gleaned from American papers recently to hand.

Readers will remember that what caused the Senator's "dander to rise" was the fact that the cheese buyers had formed a combine to pay certain prices for cheese and no higher, regardless of the condition of the market. This contention was admitted by the present Manager of the Farmers Cheese Federation. In his own words—"The price of cheese was fixed by the buyers because I was one of them and helped fix the price." The farmers of Sheboygan Co. acted wisely in securing the services as Manager, of one who knew the "ropes" and "tricks of the trade." In this connection, we may be allowed to observe that farmers may never hope to solve their marketing problems until they secure the services of the best men in the trade at the present time. Marketing farm products is a special business by itself, and requires special ability and training. It is not learned in a day or a year. The men who are experts in marketing are able to command large salaries. The farmers of Canada must be prepared to pay good salaries to men who know the business of marketing. It would pay them. They are losing thousands of dollars annually because of a faulty system of marketing. It would pay every farmer to contribute from \$10 to \$25 a year to improve the system of marketing his produce. It is time for strong and effective measures. Farmers may take a lesson from the colored man, who, during an earthquake in one of the Southern States cities and when the bricks were flying about him and buildings tumbled into the streets, dropped on his knees and prayed, "Oh Lord, can't yer help a darkey in dis time of trouble? Come yerself Lord! Don't send one o' yer boys, cause they haint no use in a time like dis here!"

Coming back to the manager's story. "I told the farmers who came to me about taking charge of the proposed Federation of Cheese Factories in Sheboygan Co. that if they meant business and would make it worth while, I would take hold of the concern, and I felt confident I could make it go, but I desired a free hand in the matter." After several conferences it was decided to go ahead, and the "Sheboygan County Cheese Producers' Federation" was formed, in which it was proposed to assemble all the cheese at one point, Plymouth, and ship from there to customers direct. After the Producers' Company had been formed, the Manager says: "I told the farmers, now you've got the horse, you need a stable to put him in." In other words, the farmers needed a warehouse for storing cheese, nothing daunted, a separate company of farmers was organized, known as The Federated Farmer's Warehouse Co., in which the cheese from the "Producers'" factories was stored, and the extra room was rented to outside parties, which rent paid interest on money invested in the warehouse and also paid operating expenses.

The Manager related the numerous obstacles placed in the way by the old-line buyers and his former associates, which it would take too much space to discuss, but all these were overcome, and in spite of one of the worst years in the history of the American cheese trade, the company was able to pay all expenses, including over \$3,000 for freight, at a cost of one-quarter cent per pound of cheese. The Federation handled over six million pounds of cheese, with a turn-over of \$887,502.

No doubt readers will be surprised to learn that cheese can be handled on so small a margin as one-quarter cent per pound. When the Manager told me that this was the charge, I asked particularly if this were correct. He said when they started they had not much of an idea as to what the cost would be, so took a venture on a quarter of a cent per pound of cheese and came out all right, although one of the American Produce Dealers' papers figures the cost at .3 per cent per pound of cheese. Even this is a very small cost, and indicates to farmers how very small the expense for handling cheese really is, with good management.

The American trade paper referred to says: "It must be admitted even by enemies of this co-operative movement that the Federation could hardly have chosen a more trying year for its maiden venture in cheese marketing. That the Federation still endures, after the demoralized