

her to have all the credit for it. But I wish to present some important facts which I think must be of interest to Canadians, and which seem to point to a time when the export trade in cheese will be mostly, if not wholly, Canadian. Assuming that such a condition of things should come to pass, it seems to me very clear that the prices on your goods must advance so as to be highly remunerative.

Now, in 1860, we produced in the States 103 millions of pounds; and in 1861, we exported 40 millions of pounds. We export now about 15 to 20 millions of pounds more than in 1861, and our production has more than doubled. The 55 millions that we now export, does not seem so large when compared with the 180 millions of pounds, and more which enters into home consumption. But how happens it that our home consumption has increased so rapidly? Well, we had but 30 millions of people in 1860, and we now have 40 millions.

During the last few years there has been a vast development of railroad facilities and intercommunication; and cheese now, from these facilities, commences to go among the people. It is true our cheese is more palatable now than formerly, and safer to be handled—that has also had its influence—but the greatest help has been from the other source.

It is the IRON HORSE that may be heard, snorting and galloping in hot haste at all hours of the day and night, dragging its heavy loads into distant cities, through widely separated towns and hamlets. It is this that has saved our cheese-makers from utter ruin. Had it not been for this, the fears of over-production would have been long since verified.

Last fall I made an extended tour through the West and South-West, and saw N. Y. factory cheese crossing the Mississippi, upon the docks at St. Louis, upon steamboats going up and down the river; and what was better, I saw men paying 30 cents per lb. for it, saying it was cheap enough.

If you will compare the railroad maps of 1870 with those of 1860, you will see the iron rails spreading out over the country like innumerable arteries, carrying commercial vitality along their course, where all was dead before; and they have made an outlet for our product of vastly more consequence to us in the States than the Atlantic Ocean.

Bye-and-bye, when the wide domain along the Pacific Roads become peopled, when our great mining districts shall have been interpenetrated by these iron arteries and brought near to us, when there will be less and less cheese for us to export, and sooner perhaps than we are aware, our dairies will be taxed to their utmost to supply home consumption.

We have not properly considered these things; and it is important that you (dairymen) on this side the line be made acquainted with all the facts bearing on the trade, that you may not be in too great haste to sell your product without reaping from it a decent profit.

I insist now, as I did years ago, that fine qualities of cheese should bring 18 cents, gold, at least. If English Cheddar to-day is