

ors, but it was claimed that no other branch of agriculture had been so uniformly prosperous in the last decade as had dairying. The future was thought not discouraging. More attention to home markets was urged in connection with greater efforts to adapt the cheese exported to the wishes of the consumers. For the English trade it was stated that the cheese most desirable were those pressed in hoops 13½ or 14 inches in diameter, the cheese being 8 to 10 inches deep, of solid texture, and of as good quality as could be secured. Much of this cheese might be white or uncoloured. For a considerable part of the American trade cheese 15 or 16 inches and 4 to 6 inches deep, of comparatively soft, open "make" were preferred. The manufacture of skim-milk cheese was generally condemned as injuring the general reputation of all cheese made in the West, as tending to reduce the consumption from its inferior quality, and, while for a time perhaps more profitable, ultimately disastrous to the makers. J. H. Wanzer, of Illinois, who has made 1,500,000 lb. of skim-cheese in the last six years, claimed that his experiments showed that it is more profitable to feed the skim milk to calves or pigs than to make it into cheese.

Whether the dairy farmer should give much attention to other branches was discussed in a paper, the argument of which was that it was best to give almost exclusive attention to the dairy, producing the food needed for the cows, rearing enough calves to keep up the herd, and making grass the main crop of the farm.

The general expression was decidedly in favor of dairymen rearing their cows instead of buying them. One very successful dairyman, who has produced over 600 lb. of cheese per cow per year for four successive years, claimed that, starting with a lot of calves to be raised by himself, and an equal number of such cows as one could ordinarily buy, the product from the calves would equal that from the cows at the end of 10 years—those raised by him giving as much milk in eight years as the purchased cows in 10.

Summer droughts are the most serious obstacle to dairying in this region. Indian corn, sown or drilled and cultivated, was generally pronounced the cheapest and most trustworthy provision against these. The quantity of food thus secured is very great, and it is also valuable for use in winter if not needed in summer. Winter dairying, or the plan of having the cows calve in the fall, is growing more common in this region. For butter making this plan has some marked advantages.

In a discussion on legal protection against adulteration of milk, it was stated by a factory proprietor that the average quality of the milk received by him was

not so good as it was five years since. This was attributed, in good part, to the habit of selecting cows with reference to the quantity of milk given without regard to the quality. Where the milk is delivered to a factory, the farmer's profit is in accord with the amount delivered, and he has little motive to very carefully consider its quality. Cleanliness is insisted on, as is freedom from skimming and watering. These practices can generally be detected.

Statements of yield were not given, except incidentally. One member reports a product of over 300 lb. of butter per cow last year for his herd of about 100. Another, with a smaller herd, made a similar statement, but he keeps his cows farrow, disposing of them when the supply of milk begins to fail, supplying their places with new-milch cows. About 600 lb. of cheese was the largest report made for last year.

Valuable papers were presented on butter and cheese-making, but no summary can here be given. This is true also of many discussions during the meeting.

It may be of interest to state that the lands owned by the dairy-farmers represented by this Association are worth, on an average, 35 dols. or 40 dols. per acre, the cows 30 dols. each. The factory buildings are generally cheaply constructed, costing from 1000 dols. to 5000 dols. each. The average price for the cheese made last year was 11½ cents, not counting that made from milk partly or wholly skimmed, which sold at from 7 to 10½ cents; the creamery or factory butter sold at from 30 to 38 cents. The farmers who sold their milk to the factory men received from 90 cents to 1 dol. per 100 lb. Those who had it manufactured on the co-operative plan, which class was the larger, netted about the same. Where milk is bought in winter, 1 dol. 25 cents is sometimes paid per 100 lb.

There is no reason to doubt that dairying will continue to prosper in a large part of the "North-west," and that the exports of cheese from this region to England will, in a few years, become an important factor in the cheese supply of Britain.—G. E. MORROW, in *Agricultural Gazette*, (London).

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