

two Ingersoll buyers alone. These few figures will give some idea of the extent to which the business has been developed in a very few years.

The general experience of the members of the convention went to favor the system, now very generally practiced, of making cheese only once a day, namely, in the morning, keeping the night's milk over and agitating it during the night, so as to keep the cream from rising. Mr. Yates, of Belleville, pronounced cheese thus made better than if made twice a day, besides being less expensive and troublesome. Mr. Lossie, of Ingersoll, and several others, were of a similar opinion. Mr. Ballantine, of Stratford, took an opposite view. Curd mills were thought beneficial to some curds, and to improve the appearance of the cheese. The subject of wind-mills to pump water for dairies was discussed favorably. The method of "skimming" was strongly opposed.

In the evening the Hall was crowded with ladies and gentlemen to hear the Annual address, which was delivered by X. A. Willard, Esq., M. A., Dairy Editor of the *Rural New Yorker*. Mr. Willard is a practical dairyman of large experience, strong scientific proclivities, and his address contained a vast deal of important, practical information. The quantity of cheese produced in the United States in 1860 was, in round numbers, 470,000,000 of pounds; now it is 507,000,000 pounds, although the Americans export very little more than they did ten years ago. This is because of a large home consumption demand, and at better prices than can be realized in foreign markets. Mr. Willard strongly favored the system of speying, believing that speyed cows yield more and richer milk.

On Thursday the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, James Noxon, Esq., Ingersoll; *1st Vice President*, W. S. Yates, Esq., Hastings; *2nd Vice-President*, Thomas Ballantine, Esq., Perth; *Secretary and Treasurer*, R. A. Janes, Esq., Ingersoll.

An effort was made to have the next Annual Convention held at Belleville, but it did not succeed, and Ingersoll was again selected.

The raising of corn for fodder, sown either in drills or broadcast, was highly praised, the assertion being made that in this manner twenty tons of a sweet and nutritious provender can be raised. The general opinion was that the Western "horse-tooth" variety is the most profitable to raise in this way.

Grade Ayrshire and Durham were the favorite stocks for dairy purposes.

The financial report showed the total receipts of the Association for the year to be \$306.49, the expenditure \$268.86—balance on hand, \$37.63.

THE BEST WAY TO MAKE THE BEST BUTTER—\$50 PRIZE.

The proprietors of the Blanchard church, through their agents, R. H. Allen & Co., place in the hands of the publishers of the *American Agriculturist* the sum of *Fifty Dollars* (\$50), to be awarded for the best practical essay on making butter. The conditions are:

The essay should be brief, not exceeding fifteen pages of foolscap paper, and thoroughly practical in its whole character. It is intended to be used as a Manual for Butter-making, not only to instruct the novice, but to be useful as a source of valuable hints to experienced butter-makers. It should include the management of the milk from the time it is drawn from the cow, the treatment of milk and cream in the dairy, churning, working, salting, packing, and marketing butter. Each essay should be accompanied by the name of its author, in a sealed envelope, and must be received at the office of the *American Agriculturist*, (245 Broadway, New York) on or before March 10th, proximo. The essays will be submitted to a committee approved by the Editors, to be hereafter announced, and the prize essay, if deemed of sufficient merit, will be published in the *American Agriculturist*.

HOLDING PRODUCE FOR BETTER PRICES.

The *Journal of Agriculture* (St. Louis) complains that farmers are holding their wheat, and of course failing to pay their honest debts, very much to the annoyance of those who need what is owing them, in order to keep soul and body together. It says:

"If a farmer is independent, and has to meet no pecuniary obligations, then he may indulge in a speculation, may refuse to sell, and may keep his grain until the market suits him. Careful observations and records show that a farmer who sells his wheat as soon as threshed does better, taking one year with another, than he who holds off in the hope of higher prices. And when pecuniary obligations have been entered, it becomes a duty for the farmer to dispose of his produce."

Not only does the wheat grower do better to sell at once when an article is ready for the market, but the growers of all other grains or marketable products whatever. Nothing is gained in the long run by holding, whether the crop brings little or much.

The Jaym.

THOMSON'S PATENT ROAD STEAMER.

British Agricultural journals are jubilant over the hope that the great obstacle to successful cultivation by steam, has been at length overcome by the invention of an engine able to traverse a fallow like a team of horses. Heretofore it has been found necessary to have a stationary engine and to use stretches of wire rope to pull the plough, or other implements used to tear up the soil. But by the new contrivance named at the head of this article