

in number. When each had made a careful examination of all the samples, he indicated his judgment by marking the preferred numbers, best, 2nd best, 3rd best, and so on, as far as the grading extended. This gave each an opportunity to compare all the samples, and prevented him from being partial to his own, for he could not distinguish it from the rest. When the examination was completed a teller counted the votes, and the prizes were awarded accordingly. This done, the successful competitors were publicly questioned in regard to their respective modes of producing milk and making butter or cheese, as the case might be, so that the whole convention could understand how the best butter and cheese competing were produced.

This novel mode of passing upon exhibits of butter and cheese was quite exciting to the competitors, and proved to be very satisfactory and correct, and furnished a profitable and interesting entertainment for the whole assemblage. Especially did the convention manifest a jolly interest when it became known that the most conceited and pretentious butter-maker in the crowd had rated his own butter as the poorest in the lot, without the least suspicion that it was his own, and had accompanied his decision with some very decided remarks impugning the good sense of the dairyman who did not know better than to offer such stuff where good butter only had any right to be. Evidently he had for the first time in his life seen his butter as others saw it. It was a capital way for mellowing down conceit, and others as well as he went home wiser and more modest, if not better men.

The fact that little good results from competition in dairy goods at agricultural fairs, should not prevent dairymen from attending such fairs. There are always other things interesting to dairymen against which similar objections do not lie, from which enough can be gained to pay for attendance. They furnish a social holiday needed for rest and recreation by the isolated occupants of dairy farms. Improvements in dairy furnishings generally find their way to such places, and also the latest devices in agricultural implements, concerning which the dairyman as well as the general farmer should keep himself thoroughly posted. More important still, fairs generally, especially the larger ones, attract collections of improved dairy stock, which it pays dairymen to study and be familiar with. Let the fairs go on and be supported and encouraged, but the dairy department, unless in some way managed better than is now customary, might as well be dropped out along with horse racing and gambling.

The art of butter making will never reach perfection until we stop putting salt in the butter," says the "American Dairyman." It is a depraved taste that requires a salt taste in butter. The most critical judges in the old country never think of allowing salt to come near the butter, and after getting accustomed to it there is all the difference between the two that there is between salt and fresh fish, flesh or other dried or prepared food. The true epicure could eat a pound of unsalted butter at a sitting. It will be money in the dairyman's pocket when salt is abandoned in the dairy.

Mr. Lynch Defends Himself.

Mr. W. H. Lynch has written us with reference to our remarks on his "Manual of Scientific Butter-Making for the Ontario Farmer," demanding British fair play. We never refuse such demands, and we only ask Canadian fair-play from those who insist upon monopolizing our columns with voluminous matter irrelevant to the points at issue. We are never guilty of prolixity in our attacks.

We mainly attacked the system of squandering public money in broadcasting agricultural literature amongst the farmers, especially that of doubtful utility. Mr. Lynch has come forward to exonerate himself, leaving the Government to shoulder the responsibility. When we expose objectionable measures, we feel that we have done our duty, the individuals who suffer being of subordinate consequence.

The defence made by Mr. Lynch can be faithfully summed up as follows: That the Government, under Commissioner Wood, did commission him to prepare the manual at an interview unsolicited on his (Lynch's) part, "weeks before any petition was thought of;" that the book contained as much original matter as he "was engaged to prepare, or allowed time to prepare," the appendix (about 80 per cent of the work.—Ed.) being supplied gratuitously; that he did not bring any "pressure" upon the Government which "did not grant the encouragement petitioned for, but gave way to other influences, and committed itself to the policy of creameries;" that Mr. Barré did not prove the manual to be as misrepresented in the *ADVOCATE*, but, finding a dearth of matter for legitimate criticism, he caused him, in some instances, to say the exact opposite of what he (Lynch) did say; that the *ADVOCATE* had cheapened its columns by publishing some of his previous writings, and had more than once endorsed some of his principles; that he gave the Government to understand that he was not an office-seeker.

Mr. Lynch asserts that he is "able to prove all these statements by documentary and other evidence." We don't demand his evidence; the Government is culpable whether his statements are true or false. It would be absurd to suppose that all the principles of butter-making espoused by Mr. Lynch are unsound; we may have published some of his writings, and shall take pleasure in doing so again, if he can offer us something better than our regular contributors. We publish the soundest and most practical principles we can procure, never asking whether they come from friend or foe. Both Mr. Lynch and Mr. Barré have committed themselves to government expenditures for dairy purposes; in this we disagree with both until these expenditures are asked by the farmers, and produce more beneficial results than they have done; and it would be impossible for us to agree with both of these authorities on the principles of butter-making. We know that the Government did commit itself to educating (?) the farmers, both by the distribution of butter literature and in the establishment of creameries; for Mr. Lynch's manual was distributed, and the Government did establish a creamery at Guelph. We know, moreover, that Mr. Lynch's "scientific" manual is extremely unscientific, as his "original" matter has to do with operations, not with

causes, and many of his statements, especially those with reference to temperature, are exceedingly indefinite, and are hence not scientific, and can be of no practical value.

In the appendix of the manual is found a statement, clipped from a Toronto daily, to the effect that Mr. Lynch came to Toronto from the Eastern Townships (Quebec) for the purpose of interesting "influential people" in the question of butter improvement in Ontario, and that he exhibited samples of churns and other appliances in one of the corn exchange rooms, the efficiency of which had been proved by competent judges. There appears also a petition "signed by 54 leading men"—such as commission merchants, editors, lawyers, storekeepers, clergymen, literary ladies and gentlemen, etc., addressed to the Premier of Ontario, asking for Government aid. If such a petition had come from the farmers we would have raised no objection. What moved the citizens of Toronto to take such a deep and sudden interest in the dairy education of the farmers? What gave rise to the necessity for a petition after the Government had commissioned Mr. Lynch to write his manual? These matters are past finding out by independent journals, which are always on the alert to make all crookedness straight—none but confidential political friends need apply—and for the present we must leave our readers to draw their own inference. If the Government did right in answering the prayer of influential citizens of Toronto, as prayed for in the petition, then Mr. Lynch lost a grand opportunity in evincing true patriotism by not constituting himself the acknowledged leader in so desirable an object as the dairy education of our farmers. We should here add that the petition makes direct allusion to Mr. Lynch and his "new scientific butter-making utensils."

Nobody can raise any objection against his exhibiting his utensils in the corn exchange rooms—or on the markets, or in the streets—and his utensils may be as valuable as his manual of scientific butter-making which advertises them; but this we do affirm that the Government is no authority on agricultural matters, and is therefore liable to be humbugged by all agents and peddlers who choose to adopt the expediency of putting their wares on the market at the public expense, instead of honestly competing with their rivals who are able and willing to expand their markets on the merits of their goods.

The Dominion Government has been humbugged in the same way, and we should like to know if it has "commissioned" Mr. Lynch to prepare another batch of his "scientific" pamphlets, or if certain other influential people have prayed for the Government to squander more of the people's money to educate our farmers in the science of butter making.

SIR,—I hasten to comply with your unprecedented offer in August issue, and it affords me much satisfaction in extending the circulation of your valuable journal, the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. I find it interesting as well as profitable, and take pleasure in recommending it to my neighbors. I would not like to be without it.

REUBEN GILE, Smith's Falls, Ont.