

M. P., the President of the Western Dairy-men's Association; also Mr. D. M. McPherson, of Lancaster. Both of these gentlemen are sent by the Ontario Government to represent the dairy interests of Ontario. Mr. Ballantyne is a well known cheese buyer and cheese maker in the West. Mr. McPherson is the most extensive manufacturer of cheese in this Dominion; he is a native of Canada, aged 37. At the age of 21 he commenced cheese making with only eight cows; he read about the business, attended dairymen's conventions, observed and noted failures and successes very minutely; he now owns 66 cheese factories; he made over five million pounds of cheese last year, using the milk from about twenty thousand cows. The cheese realized over four hundred thousand dollars, which sum was principally paid to his eighteen hundred patrons. The patrons are the farmers who supply the milk; they supply the milk of about twelve cows each on an average, some sending milk from a larger number and some from a less number. Mr. McPherson's factories are all in the counties of Glengarry and Huntingdon. He has everything regarding the manipulating of the milk, the manufacture of cheese and marketing of it, all systemized in the best of order. He has his territory laid out and controlled by a general manager, who has it again laid out under three instructors. These men have to visit each factory at least once a week, and examine everything about the manufacture and management of each factory. One cheese maker is employed at each factory, who must do his duty properly or immediately be discharged. A strict scale of rules are laid down, so that everything must be managed with the strictest regard to rectitude, the thermometer and the clock. Returns are all daily tabulated and sent weekly for Mr. McPherson's inspection; thus he can exactly tell what quality of cheese he has. He says he has his plans down to such a basis as to be able, by giving notice, to have just such a quality of cheese as any dealer may require. The cows average to the owners, or patrons, as they are termed, from \$20 to \$40 per season. A large number of the farmers had their farms mortgaged before they adopted this dairying system, and despite the greatest care and economy, could not see their way to redeem them. The cheese has paid off their encumbrances, and the farmers that have adopted cheese making are now doing well, making money and improving their estates every year. There is a marked improvement in the amount of cheese made per cow, and an improvement in the quality of the cheese.

Every year there are more farmers in other localities asking him to establish more factories, but Mr. McPherson considers he has quite as many as he can now attend to. He says he has much to learn yet, and at the same time he says that in Canada dairying is carried on in a better, more intelligent, scientific and practical manner than it is in any part of the world. Let the Danes, the English, Scotch or Irish pick up the gauntlet if they dare. We believe our practical dairymen can hold their own on this point, and on an average are as intelligent as the best of them. Perhaps two great causes of Mr. McPherson's success have been his confining himself to his business—that of a cheese manufacturer—and punctuality; for instance, the cheese of the first three months of every

season's make are sent to market just as soon as they are fit to ship, that is, three weeks after being made, without any regard to the fluctuation of the markets. Every week the shipments are made and sales effected, thus leaving the speculative part to others, in which, if farmers once begin, they are pretty sure to rue sooner or later. Mr. McPherson now makes about one-twelfth part of the whole of the cheese made in this Dominion. If any manufacturer in any part of the world makes half as much, we should like to hear of it.

Farmers' Clubs.

Middlesex Agricultural Council.

[This Council meets on the third Saturday of every month at 2 o'clock p.m., in the office of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, 360 Richmond street. All communications should be addressed the Secretary, Mr. Henry Anderson, Wilton Grove, Middlesex Co., Ont].

The regular monthly meeting of this Council met in the office of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE on the 17th ult., President Leitch in the chair.

Mayor Hodgson desired to have a correction made in his reported remarks on horses at the previous meeting. He was made to say that "the mare, if not working, should be kept mostly in the stable for a month before service;" whereas the expression should be "before foaling"—instead of "before service."

After routine, the President read the following paper on

"THE COW VERSUS THE STEER."

Amongst the various industries the Canadian farmer has to follow, the rearing of animals and the manufacturing of their products must be one of his leading pursuits, amongst which dairying and steer raising for beef take a leading part in the economy of the farm.

As necessity compels the greater part of mankind to labor for their bread and butter, it would be well for those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brows to occasionally stop and reflect, in order to see if the course they are pursuing is the best to secure that end in the management of their farms.

As we frequently hear the dairyman and the steer grower each contending that his branch of the business is the more profitable, it would be well to compare these industries and see what the steer and the cow, under favorable conditions, are able to produce for their owners.

Now, we know that the occupier of 100 acres of land, with 70 or 80 acres cleared, and in a good state of cultivation, is able to keep ten cows, summer and winter, without diminishing the other crops of the farm in the least. Let us now devote these ten cows to the raising of calves for beef, and let them be fed for the first six months on 20 lbs. of new milk daily, which ought to produce a gain of 2 lbs. of growth per day, and this growth should be continued until the steer or heifer at 24 months old should weigh something like 1,460 lbs., which, at 5 cents per lb., would be for ten head, \$730. This would be the average value of cattle for the last five years; but the farmer raising steers would the second year have 20 head to graze in place of ten for the dairyman. Grazing ten steers six months at \$1 per month, would be \$60, to be deducted from the value of the steers in favor of the dairyman, which would leave the steers worth \$670 profit for two years growth. I am well aware that some parties are in the habit of purchasing steers at three years old and finishing them off, and making sometimes a handsome profit on them, but that is not the cost of the beef.

We will now take the ten cows and see what they will produce in two years for their owners. A cow milking 20 lbs. of milk a day for six months would yield 3,640 lbs.; for four

months more 12 lbs. per day, 1,452 lbs.; total milk for one year, 5,092 lbs. Double this and you will find 10,184 lbs. to be the cow's product for two years. Cheese factories have paid their patrons an average of 80 cents per 100 lbs. for the past five years, which would leave the value of the milk \$81.47; add value of whey, \$4.60; interest on money, \$5.60; two deacons' skins, \$1.30, making a total in two years the sum of \$93 to the patron, after paying the manufacturer the sum of \$22.50. Add this latter sum to the patron's money, and you will find the total product to be \$115 per cow. Multiply this by ten, the total earnings of your cows will be \$1,155, \$930 being the patron's share, which would leave the patron \$160 in favor of cows more than steers for his two years operations, besides benefiting the country to the amount of \$225 more for manufacturing the same. Besides, the winter milk could be used for butter making, which would enhance the value of the milk \$56 more than is given above. Calculating on the basis of summer milk, which would make the products of ten cows for two years amount to \$986. Subtracting \$670 from \$986, would leave \$226 in favor of the cows.

I have not credited the cows that raised the steers with what milk they would give in winter, which would not be more than would pay for wintering them. Besides, the farmer raising steers in this way would have in his stables 30 head to feed the second winter against the dairyman's ten cows, which more than swallows any profit he might derive from their milk.

The foregoing calculations were only made from the ordinary run of cow's milk that is sent to the cheese factories, and could easily be exceeded; but it shows to the intelligent farmer where his profit lies. I often hear the remark that we should diversify our industries, and that we should not depend on one product too much. True, but where is the economy or patriotism in feeding your hay or grain to a steer and realizing from it 6 cents per lb., while the same amount of feed would make a pound of butter worth in the market 20 cents per lb., while the milk would pay for the extra labor?

MR. LITTLE—So you would turn farming into specialties, would you?

MR. LEITCH—What I mean is that no farmer should be tinkering at everything, making a special study of nothing. It doesn't pay to keep a few half starved cows and make butter worth 8—10 cents a pound, whereas by knowing how, you can get 18—20 cents for your butter. There are a few smart men, like Mr. Simmons, who make money in steers, for they keep a large number of thoroughbreds, and buy up all the cheap store steers they can clap their eyes on besides. A farmer may make a specialty of as many branches as his capital and brains will permit.

FRANK SHORE—I have great faith in specialties. There is more profit in making a specialty of breeding and feeding a few good animals than making a specialty of half starving a large herd. If by making a specialty of stock raising for several years, the land is brought into a fertile condition, then more attention might be paid to grain growing. I believe the steer men are making the most money.

MR. LITTLE—I don't believe in specialties. I can turn off several steers each year at a profit, and keep several cows besides.

JOHN WHEATON—Farmers should raise their own cows; they can be raised more cheaply than bought.

RICHARD WHETTER—I raise whatever I get; if my cows give me bull calves, I raise them as steers, and when they give me heifer calves I raise them into cows. I can raise good enough steers on skim-milk, bran and oilcake. I re-