

Chicago Dairymen's Convention.

A few quotations from the *Prairie Farmer* about the Dairymen's Convention may be read with interest and profit. We therefore make a few extracts:—

The discussion of the fourth question, "The most improved method of the manufacture and curing of cheese best adapted to the climate and markets of the Northwest, including size, shape and color," was opened by S. Favill, of Lake Mills, Wis. He said it was an easy matter to make good cheese out of good milk. One great cause of failure was trying to make cheese after somebody else's plan. Those who had a good plan for making cheese should be content with that. More cheeses were spoiled in curing than in making. The hot days in summer were the bane of the dairymen, and means for keeping curing-rooms down to 80 degrees all the time would be worth thousands of dollars. If temperature is up to 90 to 95, cheese could not be saved. The great want is the means of controlling the temperature. The shape of cheese was an important matter. He favored the plan of square cheese, on account of the convenience and economy of cutting.

Mr. Waite, of Sycamore, thought that Chicago dealers would object to square cheese. Thought cheeses about 14 to 16 inches in diameter and weighing 35 to 40 pounds in summer, and in winter from 50 to 60 pounds, were best adapted to the markets of the Northwest.

A. Holdridge, of Otsego county, New York, the inventor of square cheeses, exhibited his frames for pressing, and samples of cheese, and claimed that its size and form were such that it would cure quick, thus arresting the decomposition. It was very convenient for retailing, and did not deteriorate after it was cut. It requires only a cube of 36x18 inches to press 1,500 pounds of cheese in 24 sections.

The 5th question—"Is it proper to manufacture butter and cheese on Sunday?"—was next in order. An effort was made to postpone the discussion of this question, as it would amount to nothing but the expression of individual members on a subject over which the association had no control; it was not successful, however.

Mr. Favill remarked that the observance of the Sabbath was a physical necessity; and the law of God was opposed to its desecration. The violation of these laws was always followed by a penalty. There is no necessity for making cheese on the Sabbath. He answered the argument that there was less work in taking milk to a factory than in caring for it at home.—His factory had 40 patrons, living on an average two miles away; took one and a half hours to harness up and come to the factory. Allowing half the patrons to come, it would require 30 hours' work, and take three men 8 hours to make the cheese. This would amount to 54 hours. On the other hand, 15 minutes would be sufficient to put the milk in the cellar. This, for 40 patrons, would only require 10 hours' work. Besides, the work could be quietly done. He had been pained to see that Sunday cheese making had operated very unfavorably on the morals of communities.

The discussion of the sixth question, "Cows for the Dairy—The Best Breeds and how replenished," was opened by Thos. Smith, of Dement. He said there were two families of Durhams in the country. One kind had been bred for their beef, and had been brought to so great perfection that it required two cows to raise one calf. He did not think that was a good kind for dairymen to invest in. The other kind, however, produced excellent milkers, and he thought them the best cows for the dairy; whether kept pure or crossed on native stock, they should be well cared for both when calves and cows.

Mr. Seward found that the Ohio importation of the Durham was the best for the dairy. He had found the roans to make the best milkers; the Clay importation were not good for milk. He recommended the crossing of Durham with the native

stock. The Ayreshire stock crossed with the Durham brought the best kind of milk cows. He believed a good dairy cow could be spoiled by keeping her poor when she was young. It was necessary to propagate the best stock. He would have them come in when they were two years old. Good cows never come from half-starved calves.

R.W. Stewart thought there was such a thing as crowding calves too fast. He had 25 or 30 heifers come in every spring that were brought up on whey. They did not look very promising at first, but turned out well.

A. J. Dike recommended crossing an Ayreshire on a Durham to get a bull; for dams he would rely on native stock; in this way he would build up a herd.

The seventh question, "Soilage—Is it advisable in the North-west, and how to be managed for Profit," was discussed by D. Dunham, of Wayne. He regarded the question as one of the highest importance, and one which would attract more and more attention as land increased in value. In order to carry stock through the winter, we must attain the greatest economy in the use of food, and must fill out with green food in the fall, and delay, as long as possible, the commencement of feeding food cut for winter use.

Mr. Morrow, of the Western Farmer, stated that a butter-maker in Wisconsin was compelled to feed his cows on something besides pasturage. The gentlemen referred to had fed twenty-two cows forty days on corn grown on half an acre, planted four feet apart. He thought corn fodder in close drills less valuable than that grown farther apart. He recommended the introduction of Lucerne, which was used in England with gratifying results.

W. S. Weighman, of Illinois, also spoke favorably of Lucerne, which a residence in England had made him familiar with.

M. S. Barrett, of Wisconsin, did not feel willing to give up our green corn for any doubtful foreign plants with which we might experiment. He believed corn the best adapted to soilage, and more profitable. His experience was that one cow would yield \$150 worth of cheese to the acre of corn. This was more than five or six acres of pasturage would furnish.

Mr. Bliss, of Vermont, said that at the East there was a large demand for what was known as light salted butter, containing half an ounce of salt to the pound of butter. One essential to butter-making was to allow cream to become slightly acid before churning. Butter made in this way brought more than any other.

Gardner B. Weeks, of New York, Secretary of the American Dairymen's Association, was called upon. He stated that he had not come to make a speech, but to get a little western enthusiasm, and to take it back with him. He had followed dairying since there were only ten or twelve factories in New York State. The business of cheese-making was just as permanent as wheat-raising. By manufacturing a better quality of cheese, we would be inducing greater consumption. The statistics of last year showed this. The market for spring cheese would be without any of last year's stock. He thought that the manufacture of small cheeses and more varieties would stimulate the sale. In Paris there were sixty kinds of cheese in the market. He considered the reading of scientific papers in dairy conventions one of the very best features. We must not discard the scientific, but encourage it.

The next question taken up was, "Winter food for cattle—the kinds most profitable."

Judge Wilcox said he found nothing better than good clover and Timothy hay and corn stalks. The latter should be carefully cured, and if cut and fed in the barn they would be better still. He fed it once a day in the yard, and the cattle gave a better flow of milk. The withdrawal of the stalks was followed by a decrease of the milk. He also fed mixed feed to keep the cows in good condition, but they should not be pampered. Calves should not be crowded, to become fat and overgrown.—

Some good milkers could not be kept in a good condition. It was a difficult matter to get pasturage enough and hay enough, and more hay could be raised by proper culture. Timothy and clover hay, mixed with stalks, corn meal and bran, was a good general feed.

C. Gilbert, of McHenry, said he thought farmers worked too much land, and did not work it well enough. He sows corn with drill two feet apart, plows once or twice with a double plow, and produces fodder equivalent to three or four tons of hay. August 1st he commences feeding corn; feeds it for a while green, and then cures the balance for winter use; also feeds oats, which are cut green; alternates with corn fodder, oats and hay; it makes noble food, upon which they do finely. He cuts his corn with a reaper, and sets it up in shocks to dry.

Francis Jones also testified to the beneficial results from the use of corn stalks cut early. He thought corn fodder must be largely relied on for keeping cows over the winter.

John R. McLane said the subject demanded the earnest attention of dairymen, but received the least of any branch. Good hay was indispensable, and, as helpers, good corn meal and oat meal mixed together. Hay should be cut when the head and the seed had formed.

Clinton Agricultural Society.

North Huron is the only Agricultural Society that has adopted the plan of having an annual agricultural dinner, and has wisely chosen the winter season for it as there is leisure to attend at that season of the year. Speakers are invited to deliver addresses on various subjects in connection with agriculture. J. C. Snell Esq., of Edminton, was called on to deliver an address on stock and stock raising. We here perused his speech as it appeared in the *Clinton New Era*. He confines himself principally to the Durham stock, and we quote the following:

In a new settlement where clearing land is the order of the day, little attention is given to stock raising. Grain growing is then the farmer's forte, and it is the readiest means of securing a return for his labour and of paying for his land, and meeting the expenses of clearing. Then he has a virgin soil to work upon, a soil rich with decayed vegetable matter, and which is almost certain to give him good crops. A soil of which it has been said that it is only necessary to "tickle it with a harrow and it will laugh with a harvest." But it is reasonable to suppose, and experience has proved it, that continuous cropping will tend to exhaust the best soil, and take from it the elements that go to make up a good field of grain, and that it will eventually lead to serious disappointment and disaster if a system of continuous cropping is persisted in without giving back to the soil in the shape of manures and fertilizers the elements that have been extracted from it. It is here then that the importance of stock raising is apparent,—not mind you, not when the soil has become exhausted, would I recommend you to give attention to stock raising, but before you arrive at that crisis, while your land is yet in good heart, cherish and protect it as one of your best friends. It is a mistake that the majority of the farmers in our older settlements have fallen into, that of continuous cropping without making an adequate return to the soil, and the consequence is, that they are poorer to-day than they were 10 or 15 years ago. They were too timid and short-sighted, they lacked the energy and enterprise to leave the old beaten paths, and to launch out in the newer and better ways of an enlightened Agriculture, and they work and dig and delve for a scanty return, and the consequences is, that deeply mortgaged farms are the rule and not the exception.

I find that a good many of our people

are putting off the time of commencing to improve their stock, with the idea that after a few years thorough-bred stock will be cheaper and more easily obtained. Now, I think this is a mistaken notion; I don't expect to see them cheaper in my lifetime. They are no cheaper now than they were fifty years ago; indeed, they never were so high as at the present time. How is it, in England, the home of our pure-bred stock? Are not prices higher there than ever in the history of the country? The demand for stock is continually increasing, and will continue to increase. The more they are known the more they will be appreciated, and the more in demand. There are comparatively few in this country; in our own old county of Peel not more than half a dozen farmers own a pure-bred short-horn, and not more than three farmers have half a dozen. The vast extent of country embraced in the Western States and Territories is being fast brought under cultivation, and must be supplied with good stock, for they know the value of it; and then our illimitable north-west territory will gradually be opened up and brought under cultivation, and will in time demand our surplus stock. We have a vast country to fill up with good stock, a work that a century will fail to accomplish.

IN-GROWING TOE NAILS.—This most painful of the diseases of the nails is caused by the improper manner of cutting the nail (generally of the great toe), and then wearing a narrow, badly-made shoe. The nail beginning to grow too long, and rather wide at the corners, is trimmed around the corner, which gives temporary relief. But then it begins to grow wider in the side where it was cut off; and, as the shoe presses the flesh against the corner, the nail cuts more and more into the raw flesh, which becomes excessively tender and irritable. If this state continues long, the toe becomes more and more painful and ulcerated, and fungus (proud flesh) sprouts out from the sorest points. Walking greatly increases the suffering, till positive rest becomes indispensable.

Treatment.—We omit all modes of cutting out the nail by the root, and all other cutting or torturing operations. Begin the effort at cure by a simple application to the tender part of a small quantity of perchloride of iron. It is found in drugstores in a fluid form, though sometimes in powder. There is immediately a moderate sensation of pain, constriction or burning. In a few minutes the tender surface is felt to be dried up, tanned or mummified, and it ceases to be painful. The patient, who before could not put his foot to the floor, now finds that he can walk upon it without pain. By permitting the hardened, wood-like flesh to remain for two or three weeks, it can be easily removed by soaking the foot in warm water. A new and healthy structure is found firm and solid below. If thereafter the nails be no more cut around the corners or sides, but always curved in across the front end, they will in future grow only forwards; and by wearing a shoe of reasonably good size and shape, all further trouble will be avoided.—*Medical Journal.*

[Another effectual cure for the above painful case is to scrape the top of the nail so affected as thin as possible without incurring danger. Let this be done frequently, and the nail will contract in width, and become drawn up from the corners of the toe, after which the cure is complete.—*Ed.*]

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—The April number of the *Farmer's Advocate*, just published, contains slashing criticisms upon the Government policy, or rather want of policy, in agricultural matters. The Technical school and proposed Agricultural College are condemned as unnecessary. Altogether, the editor has spread himself in this issue with more than his usual spice and vigor.—*Advertiser.*

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