

green and dried are more fat-producing than those cut later?

Mr. Arnold—I have made a great many observations on this subject, all of which go to show that the green grass produces more butter, more milk, more flesh and more fat than the later cut. One experiment will illustrate: I took five cows and fed them for some time on grass cut as it began to head up. I weighed the milk, and I weighed all the products of butter and cheese—for I was making both at the time—for a week or ten days. Then I stopped, and for a week or so fed hay that was cut when the seed was filling. I fed them for a week in this way without taking any notes of quantity of milk produced further than to observe that it was dropping down. Then I commenced measuring and weighing the product, and found that it had fallen off a great deal. Then I tried, by degrees feeding meal a little at first, and watching the result. I found it took five pounds of meal per day to make the late cut grass equal to the early cut in producing milk, butter and cheese. Now, I cut my hay early and avoid the use of late fodder whenever I can.

RED CLOVER.

Rev. W. F. Clarke, at the request of the Chairman, addressed the Convention in regard to red clover. He said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—I am always ready to respond to a call to speak in behalf of red clover. I am an enthusiast on that subject, and I become more enthusiastic the longer I live and the more experience I have of the wonderful energies of that plant. I consider it the most remarkable plant the Lord God created when he made the heavens and the earth, and that I think I can prove to you in very short order. In the first place I believe it is the only plant raised as a crop of which we know anything which leaves the land better than it finds it. And that it always does. In the second place, it is the only plant I think of which

we have any positive knowledge that benefits the land by the process of maturing its seed. That is to say, while most crops exhaust the land while maturing their seed, the clover enriches the land by maturing its seed. This has been demonstrated over and over again. Now, then, why don't our farmers, and especially our dairymen, grow clover more? Chiefly for the reason that they have a prejudice against it, and prejudice is one of the worst things that ever got hold of the human mind. Though not, properly speaking, a grass, red clover is equal in value to any of them, both as a green and dry feed. Its chief recommendation to the farmers and dairymen of Ontario is the work it is capable of doing in enriching exhausted soils. For this purpose it stands unrivalled and alone. It is, next to manure, the grandest of all fertilizers. It is better than any subsoil plough ever devised. While the subsoiler will go down a few inches, the clover will go down several feet. Its long tap and fibrous roots go down to the depths of the subsoil in search of plant food, and for the express purpose of pumping it up to the surface, depositing it there fit for use by subsequent crops. If it had no other use than this it is most valuable for bringing into reach the rich resources of the subsoil. The leaves also attract and absorb ammonia from the atmosphere, and store it at the surface. The decay of a two-year-old clover growth in leaves and roots, is equivalent to an ordinary manuring. It is a matter of general complaint all over the country that our soils are becoming exhausted, and that the manure supply is too scant to keep up the fertility of the land. Red clover exactly fills this want. Taking its proper place in a rotation of crops, and alternating with manure it will maintain the fertility of the soil, and even keep it improving. Meantime it is itself of great value as a crop. Properly cured it makes the best of hay. But not one farmer in five hundred knows how to cure clover hay. The first requisite is to cut it early—that is while yet in blossom. It is here that