

ON THE WING.

Our Dairy Interests.

When passing through the building that contained the dairy exhibits at Ottawa, we met Mr. Ira Morgan, who is probably the most influential gentleman with the farmers and directors of agricultural affairs in this locality; in fact, his voice will have great weight in the general management of agricultural affairs in the Dominion. In conversation with us he said his policy was to "Conserve such things as were right and reform such things as were wrong." Would it not be well if all could adopt that motto and faithfully act upon it? We hold Mr. Morgan's abilities in great esteem, and hope he may use the great talents given him for the best interests of the farmers, as from the present prospects there appears a probability of great changes and large expenditures by our governments under the name of agricultural expenditures. Mr. Morgan has it in his power to do more good or harm to the agricultural interests of this Dominion than any other farmer in it. This is our opinion, for the steps now taken will bear their print in future years. This gentleman has been a member of the Board of Agriculture for many years; his voice carries weight there. He knows what is right and what is wrong. He may not be able to carry his points, but we must only hope that the Board will adopt Mr. Morgan's motto. If each of the members or the majority would only express their views and let their voices be heard before any radical changes are made, we feel satisfied that the present deplorable position of the Board may be so changed that it may again become an honorable and beneficial institution, and regain the lost confidence and respect it once had. We have always been in favor of the maintenance of the Provincial Board, and have exposed many of its defects in hopes that they might be remedied; but up to the present we regret to say they have yearly increased. Sooner or later a change must come. It would be far better for the Board to take upon themselves to check the evils that they know to exist, than to increase the growing public dissatisfaction.

THE CHEESE EXHIBIT.

Mr. D. Derbyshire, of Brockville, is in charge of this department. He is one of the gentlemen of whom Canada may be proud, being a native of our country. He is a conspicuous person, standing physically above any member of the Board of Agriculture, and perhaps any of our legislators, towering above all in the building, and well proportioned. He was born in the county of Leeds, in 1845, and commenced cheese making in 1873. In 1877 he managed seven factories; has been several times elected Reeve of his native municipality by acclamation, and is now the President of the Eastern Dairymen's Association. In 1883 he paid out over \$600,000 for butter and cheese; this year it is expected to exceed that sum. He has gained the confidence of the public, and will be heard of hereafter. Boys, do not be afraid of doing your duty at the milk-pail. This position is better than being the manager of a score of broken banking or mercantile institutions.

In company with Mr. Derbyshire and the Hon. A. M. Ross, the Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario, we inspected the exterior of the rows of cheese. There were various qualities. We asked to be allowed to taste the best cheese in the building. The tester was inserted into a cheese that had the first prize ticket on it, and we all tasted it. We asked if it was made by Mrs. Parsons. "No," was the reply. "but this was"—placing the tester in a cheese that had a second prize ticket on it. We all examined and tasted it. Mr. Derbyshire said that was the best cheese, and that was our unanimous opinion by great odds. We broke a small piece off from each of these, the first and second prize Stilton cheese, wrapped them separately in a piece of paper and placed them in our vest pocket. We took these pieces with us to London, and took them to the Western Dairymen's market held on Saturday the same week. We enquired for the most expert judges, and Mr. Caswell's name was suggested, he being probably the most extensive operator in the west. We took one of the papers from our pocket and asked him to taste the cheese. He said: "I will not; that cheese will taste of you; it has been flavored by the odor from below your arm pits. If I were to carry a piece of cheese like that it would draw its flavor from my feet. Cheese should never be carried on the person, unless corked tight in a glass bottle." We explained to Mr. C. about the cheese. He smelt it and looked at it, and said: "That is a Runter; it is not a Stilton. Mrs. Parsons can protest and get the first prize." Several dairymen were present. Mrs. Parsons has repeatedly complained of the injustice done her; all cheese-men know that none have succeeded in making the real Stiltons equal to those made by her. Why should she—a lady—not be heard and heeded? Leading American and Canadian dairymen have tried to imitate and even instruct her, and failed to succeed in their plans. This has been a continual complaint of years standing. The very sight of the cheese, without testing, should in this case have been sufficient to tell a Stilton. When the highest skill in the production of cheese is and has been so repeatedly disregarded by what ought to be our best authority—the decisions of Provincial judges—it must reflect on all connected, and steps should be taken to find out the reasons, and the remedy applied. There has been many mysterious decisions on important matters. Excuses, apologies and evasion will not always avail. We deem it our duty to make this public in the interest of the ladies. Justice must be done to all or dissatisfaction will increase.

BUTTER.

When passing along the display of butter in the forenoon, a lady came in to see the awards. She was standing near the first prize ticket. We inquired if that was her's, but she said, "No; this is ma's butter; she has been awarded the first prize and gold medal for the best lot of 50 lbs., and I have been awarded the first prize and silver medal on my basket of 10 lbs., also the second prize for my 50-lb. keg." This should be no small honor—gold and silver medal, two first prizes and one second for a mother and daughter to carry off at a Provincial and Dominion Exhibition. Mrs. Ballantyne

is this lady's name; her mother's, Mrs. Graham. They are both from Smith's Falls. We said, "You must be experienced exhibitors." "No, we never exhibited at the Provincial before. I exhibited at our township exhibition and took first prize last year. We thought we would try what we could do at this exhibition, as it would not cost us much to come here." In answer to inquiries we ascertained that they keep the common Canadian cows; they keep everything clean about the dairy and set their milk in shallow pans; let the cream ripen before churning; churn with the dash churn; salt by guess. They appear to have the same as thousands of our women have—an intuitive knowledge of the requirements for making good butter, as Mrs. Parsons knows how to make good cheese, which seems to surpass all the knowledge that is imparted by the mass of free literature that has been circulated at the public expense; in fact much of the government literature has been found to be misleading and of an injurious nature. We asked Mrs. Ballantyne her opinion about churns. She said she took her butter from the churn when in the globular state; she did not wish it to gather into large lumps. She intended to procure one of those end-over-end barrel churns, shown in engraving on next page, near the dash churn; it is made by Wortman & Ward, of London, Ont. She preferred this to the dash churn because if it is worked a little too long it will not gather the butter into lumps as soon as the dash churn will. This will appear a strange reason to many, particularly to those who wish the churning done in a few minutes; but to those who really know how to make good butter, it is of importance to know that too much haste in churning will deteriorate the quality. There have been many churns sold that are only detrimental to the quality of the butter produced. A government employe has been known to use his abilities to induce farmers to purchase implements or utensils that have not the merit that other wares have. Of course incorporated bodies must be shielded, but the loss falls on the farmer, who wastes his time and money in using implements of third quality or useless; also in paying for literature that he never asked for, and which may have been placed before him for purposes foreign to his interest. If we are led to believe that any measure really emanates from the farmers and is for them, we would immediately give it our hearty support; but when expenditures are made for other purposes under the name of agricultural advancement as a cloak, no farmer is doing his duty unless he uses his influence to correct it.

This journal is and always has been a supporter of agricultural education and agricultural exhibitions, the Provincial in particular. It has not abandoned that course, but it has met with the disapproval of some for exposing too plainly some of the defects which need improving. Farmers should have more information from the officers and members of the Board. Our agricultural affairs should not be conducted in caucuses or in whispers, but as stated in the editorial columns of a leading political paper, "things should be conducted openly and above board." Are they, have they been, can they be? that is the question.

We met Mr. G. Whitfield, of Rougemont,