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OFFICIAL PART.

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FOODS FOR THE DAIRY.

Mr. Powell was followed by Alvan Devendorf of Herkimer county, on "Foods for the Dairy." Judicious feeding, he said, starts all improvements, and these improvements, thus begun, are perpetuated by breeding. But feeding is the basis, and there is little doubt that the success of some of the great breeders was owing as much to their knowledge of the combinations of food as to anything else. To produce what we want in any certain line, it is necessary to begin with the calf, by developing with proper foods, tendencies or characteristics that already exist. With grown cattle, good meadow hay forms a well-balanced ration for dry stock, but for stock in milk it has the same objectionable feature as straw, but not to the same extent, that it is too bulky, and too much labor is required for digestion and assimilation. Many dairymen make the mistake of feeding corn meal with straw, but this only increases the carbonaceous matter. There is but little vigor in corn, but plenty of fire and fat, and for butter it is one of the best of foods. But 15 lbs. of straw and 5 lbs. of clover hay is a better ration than 18 lbs. straw and 2 qts.

corn meal. Clover is rich in albuminoids, and is one of the finest foods to balance up the coarse fodders like cornstalks, straw, or very poor hay. Knowing the feeding value of the different foods, there is no difficulty in using up everything grown on the farm, to good advantage. Insolvent dairies are like insolvent persons—they pay only a percentage of what is due, and the sooner they are got rid of the better. No amount of food will develop a naturally poor milker into a paying animal for the dairy. Good cows are born, not made.

The common ration among dairymen is about all the hay a cow will eat, with a certain amount of grain, usually consisting of corn, oats and wheat bran. This ration may contain a sufficient amount of the nutrients necessary for a full flow of milk, but the great objection to it is that it is too expensive, and limits the number of cows to a given number of acres.

Mr Devendorf went into the chemical analysis of foods in an extended way. The point he wished to illustrate was that a certain amount of food is required for maintenance, while beyond this the food goes to beef or milk. What foods then are most economical and profitable for use in winter dairying? Barns filled with dry fodder, large cribs of corn, and granaries filled with oats, are not the only requisities for success in winter dairying. They are too expensive and limited in amount. We must have a cheaper food, and one that, in condition, is more like the green grasses that carpet our hillsides and valleys in the summer. The system of ensilage, to a very great extent, makes the summer foods continuous through the year. Corn ensilage is a laxative, and a stimulant to the appetite, and in point of economy it exceeds all other foods. It is not a complete food, on account of its deficiency in protein, but I regard it as the best and cheapest foundation to be had, for a milk or beef ration. The corn crop is the