

braically speaking, to our simplest expression; at the time when France was abandoning us, we were endowed with now chiefs. Let the clergy again afford us the cooperation of their intelligence and of their devotion, and the restoration of our agriculture will be assured.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

Agriculture is still the source of our national wealth. That our towns may flourish, our rural districts must be prosperous.

To arrive at this result, I desire to benefit by the experience of those who have followed the best practical methods, who have been successful, and who are living, ostensible proofs that one can gain one's bread on a farm and not come to ruin; that on a farm one can prosper and remain in this our country, Canada. (Cheers.)

One of the largest dealers in the country, Mr. Ayer, of Montreal, a man who has made his fortune in the dairy industry, told us the other day, before the committee on agriculture, that the soil of the province of Quebec was better suited to dairying than the soil of Ontario.

To this statement I am sure you will all listen with pleasure.

Our field of operation in the province of Quebec is superior to that of Ontario! Why, it is a perfect revelation!

I have often heard it said that it freezes in every month of the year in this province. May be, Voltaire was the author of this saying, but I believe many of our people have repeated it after him. They tell us our climate is too severe; our long, long winters devour our profits. Well, here is a man who has realised a considerable fortune in dealing in the butter and cheese of our province, a man who has been obliged to visit all our districts, who is well acquainted with them all, and who tells us: For dairying you have the finest country in the world!

SYNDICATES OF CREAMERIES AND CHEESE FACTORIES.

I ask, in the third place, that the Dairy-men's Association be aided in *syndicating* all the creameries and cheese factories that exist in the province.

Here, Mr. Speaker, is a way in which a member may be of the greatest service. There are, say, ten, fifteen, twenty creameries or cheese factories in his county. These are independent; that is, they form no part of any syndicate. The thing to be done is to reunite them into a syndicate, and the member is the one who can work most successfully for that purpose.

Let him go and hunt up the proprietors of these creameries and cheeseries, and try to convince them of the folly they are guilty of in remaining unconnected with the syndicate.

But it will be said, what good can the syndicate do us? The syndicate is the school of cheese- and butter-making; it is even more than that, I might almost say it is the university for that business. It is the best means of teaching how to manufacture the goods, and to give them the shape and quality needed to assure them the highest prices in the market.

This morning I was breakfasting with an Englishman, and the conversation happening to turn upon the subject we are now discussing:

"Why," said he, "don't you make butter here like some we make in England? And why don't you, especially you who derive your descent from the Bretons and Normans, make such butter as is made in Brittany? *Brittany butter*, that's the stuff! When once one has tasted it, one knows its value. *Brittany butter* is good, and its always the same, always good; so it always fetches the best price. There, the

same quality of butter is invariably made. There is very good butter made in England, but it is not constantly good. One day you buy good butter at market, and the next week you can't get anything equal to it; while *Brittany* and *Norman butter* is always of the same quality, always excellent."

This is the result we aim at in forming syndicates for our creameries and cheeseries: the manufacture of goods of superior quality; good butter, always good; good cheese, and always good.

The system of the syndicate is to reunite from fifteen to twenty-five associations, or makers, under the superintendence of one inspector, whose salary is paid half by the Government and half by the syndicate. This year there are fifteen of them. During the whole summer, the inspector visits the creameries and cheeseries in his charge, correcting faults, making suggestions for the amelioration of the method of working—he himself being a maker—acting in such a way that the goods be made in the most perfect manner. These inspectors are themselves under the control of an inspector-general, and during the winter will attend a school where they will receive full instruction in their duties. I shall have something to say presently about this school. Everywhere, in all syndicated factories, the products will be good, and, consequently will find the best prices.

I take the syndicate to be one of the most important of the things that concern the farmer and the proprietors of creameries and cheeseries.

Here, for instance, is a creamery or a cheesery which turns out a first-rate article; by its side—I am talking of places where the factories are not syndicated—by its side, I say, is a factory that turns out only inferior goods; a dealer visits these factories—Mr. Ayer or Mr. MacPherson,—or he sends his agent to make purchases; the butter or cheese is sent to England. The consequence is, that the mixture of good and bad in the same cargo diminishes the chances of obtaining for the good article the price that was expected for it. And, as the price dealers pay here is in direct ratio with that they receive in England, the careful, intelligent man who has made a good article is compelled to submit to a diminution of his profits because his next neighbour has manufactured inferior goods.

Therefore, it is clear we must improve the defective process of the neighbour and thus raise the general standard of excellence.

That is the aim of the syndicates, the object that the Dairy-men's Association proposed to itself when establishing them throughout the province. I congratulate that association with all my heart on its having advanced so far along the road of progress.

I desire to retain it as my best adviser.

The question with which it is now concerned is: How shall we attach to the syndicates all those creameries and cheeseries not yet syndicated?

Here, the members can assist us. They have influence, and they are even accustomed, in some degree, to the rôle of canvassers. If in their counties there are some factories which are not syndicated, let them tell the proprietors that they are far from extracting all the possible profits from their trade; that they have more to learn before they arrive at perfection; that their school is the syndicate, and their instructor the inspector. They will not have long to wait for their reward.

I will ask the member for Bagot to relate his experience in this matter. The day before yesterday, I heard the president of one of the syndicates, Mr. Brodeur of St. Hugues, give us most interesting information on the way in which the syndicates were appreciated by the people of his neighborhood.

Let the farmers open their eyes and convince themselves of