

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Manitoba Dairymen's Association.

The fifth annual meeting of this association was held at Portage la Prairie on Wednesday, Jan. 15th. President Wagener, in opening the meeting, spoke at considerable length on some of the questions affecting dairying in Manitoba. He referred to home dairying as practicable and profitable, and recommended it where isolation of the farmer prevented him from patronizing a factory or creamery. He claimed it was possible to produce a better article at a home dairy than a co-operative one on account of the difficulty of inducing general attention to cleanliness in producing and handling the milk or cream. He also urged an appeal to the Government for financial aid to enable the association to employ milk inspectors, and in case the Government would not render the desired assistance to appeal to the municipalities. He further claimed that there was not a civilized country in the world that did not in some way aid in developing her dairy interests. He would recommend small dairies to churn frequently and keep the butter in a granular state in brine until enough was saved to fill a package, and then pack all together, thus preventing streakiness in the packages that would occur if an attempt was made to pack two or more churnings together by any other method. He especially dwelt on the necessity of uniformity of quality of product to obtain the best results. The address throughout was practical and logical.

Mr. M. Champion, of Reaburn, followed with a paper on "Who should be Interested in Dairying in Manitoba." This, he claimed, included every man, woman and child in the Province, giving as a reason that the country was well adapted to dairying, and that dairying and wheat growing should go hand in hand. He claimed that while Manitoba has at present a great surplus of butter, that with a better quality the supply would not be equal to the demand. He also thought it incumbent on the Government to employ inspectors or grant the association aid for that purpose.

Kenneth McKenzie, M. P. P., was called on, and said he had not much experience in dairying, as he preferred raising stock; he thought a man should follow the line of farming best suited to his locality. He found wheat to be the most profitable on his farm on the Portage Plains. He referred with pride to the fact that two young Canadians are now employed in Scotland as dairy instructors, but reminded the men who were asking for Government assistance that they were employed by the Dairymen's Association.

Mr. Jas. Glennie agreed with the previous speaker that wheat at present paid on the Portage Plains, but contended that in twenty years time the dairymen would have made the most money. He saw no reason why they might not raise as much wheat as at present and with very little if any extra help produce a goodly amount of dairy goods, and that in less favored parts of the province dairying paid much the best.

Mr. Brown sustained this view of the situation, and claimed that even on the favored Portage Plains mixed farming was the most profitable.

Mr. Jones thought in view of the great area of hay and pasture land in Manitoba the dairy interests should be encouraged. He cited several instances of cheese factories having proved profitable. He suggested a system of hiring cows

to the factories where the locality would admit of herding in the vicinity of a factory.

The Secretary-Treasurer submitted a report showing the association to be in a fairly satisfactory financial condition.

The meeting then adjourned until seven o'clock, when the election of the following officers was proceeded with:—President, Senator Boulton, Shellmouth; 1st Vice-President, James Glennie, Portage la Prairie; 2nd Vice-President, M. Champion, Reaburn; Directors, Hon. Mr. Clifford, Austin; Mr. Creighton, McGregor; E. A. Struthers, Barnardo Farm; W. Pearson, St. Francis Xavier; Mr. H. J. Rockett, Manitou; Mr. W. S. Grant, Winnipeg; Mr. Riley, Cypress River; Prof. Barré; Mr. Wenman, Souris; Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Waugh; Auditor, W. Wagner.

The meeting decided to ask for a number of amendments to the Dairy Act at the next session of the Legislature.

Professor Barré was then called on and read a paper on "Dairy Education." He stated that the butter production of Manitoba was about two million pounds, not ten per cent. of which was first-class. We lose ten per cent. on ninety per cent. of this, which aggregates \$120,000 per annum. He thought proper dairy education would remedy this. He referred to the fact that dairymen's associations grew out of the cheese factory system. He further referred to the great increase in this industry and to the fact that Canadian cheese last season brought three-quarters of a cent more per pound than American cheese, which on the amount sold meant \$475,000 more than would have been realized for the American article. He recommended an exhibition of dairy products with a full account of process of manufacture and methods of feeding, etc. He claimed that success depended largely on economy of production of milk. We should aim at 10,000 lbs. of milk per cow in a season of six months. This meant careful selection and breeding, good feeding, including perhaps partial soiling, stabling and a careful attention to all the details of milk production. He stated that the most successful dairy countries in the world adopted the co-operative system, which he highly recommended, as it not only improved the quality but secured uniformity of product, which is of great importance. In Denmark alone three hundred creameries have been started this season. He cited an instance of a Danish farmer who usually made his own butter from a hundred cows, but owing to circumstances was unable to continue doing so, and sent his milk to a co-operative creamery and found that the net proceeds were equal to the gross proceeds of his own dairy, thus effecting a saving of the entire expense of manufacturing. He referred to the great necessity of producing nothing but the best articles, and thought there was a great work to be done in educating patrons to send only a good article to the factory. He also referred in complimentary terms to the good accomplished by the dairy inspectors in Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. Grant referred briefly to the great amount of butter now held in stock in Manitoba, and carloads of creamery butter being shipped from the east to British Columbia and the west. He thought the merchants would profit by the experience of this year and buy according to grade in the future and thus help to remedy the evil. He especially advised co-operation and organization. He thought this province would in the future be largely engaged in dairying.

In answer to a question, Prof. Barré stated that he had this season realized from his patrons, both in his cheese factories and creameries, sixty-eight cents per hundred for the milk, thus showing the creamery the most profitable to the extent of the value of the skim milk over that of the whey; that skim milk was worth twenty cents per hundred for feed, and whey worth ten. The meeting adjourned at about 10.40 p.m.

Stock.

Horse Breeding in Canada.

There is no more fascinating pursuit than that of breeding domesticated animals, and the art has been practised from the earliest ages. The oldest writers on agriculture have given directions for breeding and improvement, and among the whole of the English-speaking people there is found an innate love of stock and stock breeding. Amongst the many branches of this industry horse breeding is one of the most important, and in no line has greater change and improvement been brought forth. For this branch of farm industry our soil and climate are thoroughly suited, and wherever our horses have gone they have given a good account of themselves. That the feed and treatment they receive at the hands of our breeders produce horses of good wearing type, is proved by finding the same buyers frequenting our markets year after year to fill their orders.

England and Scotland are yearly exporting, to all parts of the world, horses for breeding purposes, and at the same time are largely importing the cheaper work horses that cannot be bred in sufficient numbers to supply the demand, and are, by so doing, reaping a large profit by the transaction.

The cities of this continent require an immense yearly supply to fill the ranks of those disqualified by the wear and tear of traffic. Canada has done her share toward supplying what are needed in the different lines of work horses, and the sale of these has been a large source of revenue. But our aim should be higher; there is no reason why the majority of our farms should not be able to support one or more of the very best mares of our representative breeds, whether they be of draught, coach, saddle, or any other class, as long as some particular end is kept in view. Our greatest need of reform in horse breeding is to discontinue the use of the low grade all-purpose stallion. The patronage of this class each season, not only produces weeds and culls that no buyer wants at any price, but lessens the profits of the best bred stallions. Therefore, there are many sections of the country that a good, high priced horse cannot get sufficient patronage to retain his services; for, as a rule, the smaller the fee the greater the amount of business done. We have for example only to look at the position France has attained through the government taking control of the breeding there, by the introduction of the best blood, and also by instituting a measure, by which all stallions used in stud are required to pass an examination, and, when approved, they receive state assistance, and are exempted from taxation; the result has been a wonderful improvement in the quality of their horses, and a corresponding lucrative demand.

If Canada is ever to become a successful breeding ground, some such measure is required, for the best horses cannot be introduced without large expenditure, and those that are enterprising enough to bring in good specimens require all the encouragement that the different districts can give.

The number of horses in European Russia is 21,000,000, including six government studs, besides a large number of private ones. The Russian government devotes annually \$80,000 to the purchase of stallions, and, so widespread has been the interest of late years in improving this stock, that races, trotting matches, and shows have been largely increased all over the country.