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A Live Dairymen's Convention at London.

The fortieth annual convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association was held in the Forest City last week, January 16th, 17th and 18th. In his opening address, President Thos. Ballantyne, Jr., congratulated the convention that the past year has seen further growth in the prestige of Canadian cheese. The makers are more proficient than ever before. The weak point still is the condition of much of the raw material, and makers were urged, by every means in their power to insist on the best possible quality of milk and cream.

The price of cheese has been consistently strong, owing to the beef scare, a short make of cheese in England, and dry summer on both sides of the Atlantic.

The export butter trade has not made such a good showing. Shipments from Montreal were 212,000 packages less than in 1905, the shrinkage in value being \$2,600,000. This falling off was accounted for largely by increased consumption at home. A great need of the co-operative butter business is more efficient cold-storage at creameries. The London Times was quoted in substantiation of this point. During the summer a butter-scoring contest has been carried on, and the creamery instructors have done some experimental work under creamery conditions.

The appointment by the Government last spring of two sanitary inspectors for the Province, was commended as a move in the right direction.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial statement, presented by Secretary G. H. Barr, showed a balance carried over from previous years of \$718.07; total receipts of \$5,853.84, and total disbursements of \$4,733.41, leaving a balance of \$1,120.43 to the good.

MILKING MACHINE FROM A BACTERIOLOGICAL STANDPOINT.

S. Fred Edwards, Bacteriologist of the Ontario Agricultural College, addressed the Convention on the "Use of the Milking Machine from a Bacteriological Standpoint." His predecessor, Prof. Harrison, had investigated two different makes of milking machines, the Thistle and the Murchland. The results of these investigations have been already published; his own related entirely to the Burrell-Lawrence-Kennedy machine, which had been in use in the College dairy during the past year.

The highest number of bacteria found at any time in machine-drawn milk was 1,208,000 per cubic centimeter. The lowest number found in milk drawn by the machine, when cared for according to manufacturers' instructions, was 203,000 per c.c. The average was 500,328 per c.c.

With milk drawn by hand, the highest count showed 68,900 bacteria per c.c. The lowest was 3,200, and the average number of bacteria in the milk drawn by hand was 23,583 per c.c., or only about one-ninth as many as in milk drawn by the machine when cleansed according to manufacturers' instructions.

Regulations regarding the milk supply of various cities permit a bacterial content varying from 10,000 to 50,000 bacteria per c.c. Judged by this standard, the machine-drawn milk contained far more bacteria than should be tolerated.

In an effort to get a better test, the manufacturers' directions were improved upon by boiling the rubber parts and cover once a week. On the days after this was done, the average of the counts showed 37,962 bacteria per c.c. Two samples were below 16,000. But samples taken when six days had elapsed after boiling showed nearly 150,000 per c.c.

For the next test, an expert from the manufacturers prepared the machines with great care. The count then showed bacteria to the number of only 1,407 in one sample, and 1,776 in another. The care taken in this case, however, would be quite impracticable for a dairy farmer.

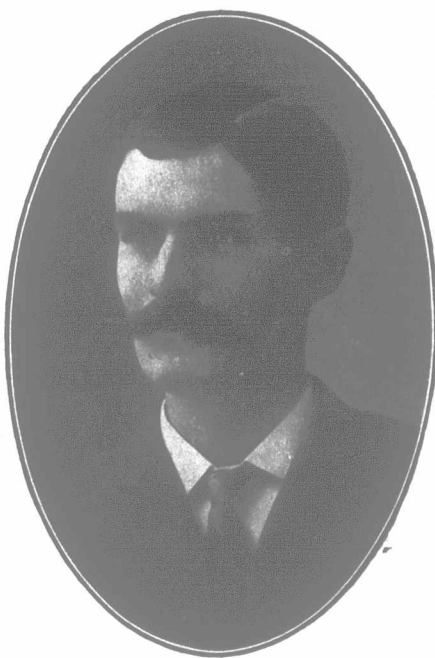
Prof. Edwards' conclusion was that, with extra precautions to keep the machines clean, machine-drawn milk might be secured that would compare fairly well with hand-drawn milk, and in this his experience corresponded with that of the Ohio Experiment Station. But the ordinary cleansing of the machines, such as recommended by the manufacturers, resulted in milk with a much higher bacterial content than that of milk drawn by hand.

A DAIRY HERD COMPETITION.

The directors of the Western Association decided during the summer to offer two medals for a dairy herd competition.

The regulation governing this competition was that no herd of less than eight cows would be allowed to enter, and the prizes awarded to the patron receiving the largest amount of money per cow from any cheese factory or creamery in Western Ontario, from April 1st to October 31st, 1906. Figures to be taken from the factory or creamery books, and certified as correct by the secretary and maker.

Fourteen patrons of cheese factories and one patron



John McQuater, Ow n Sound, Ont.

President of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Asso'n.

of a creamery entered the competition. Two of these failed to send in statements. The following is a tabulated statement of the herds:

NAME.	BREED OF COWS.	No. of Cows.	Average Lbs. per Cow.	Average Money per Cow.
M. L. Haley,	Springford—Holstein.....	11	6512	\$62.50
M. H. Haley,	Springford—Holstein grades	12	6688½	61.14 1-3
Jacob Swance,	Norwich—Holstein grades...	12	6660	60.90
W. E. Thomson,	Woodstock—Holstein grades	12	6691	60.48
W. E. Mason,	Tyrell—Holstein grades.....	20	6730.4	58.92
Martin Swance,	Springford—4 grade Short-horns, 9 grade Holsteins	13	6356	58.60
Wm. Bell,	Avonton—Holstein grades....	9	5886 5-9	56.93
Chas. Baird,	Motherwell—Holstein and Holstein grades	16	6177	56.79
Reuben Gleason,	Medina—Holstein grades.....	24	5617	54.25
R. M. Cowing,	Listowel—6 grade Holsteins, 10 grade Shorthorns ...	16	5328	51.08
W. H. Mead,	Lakeside—Holstein grades...	8	4640 5-8	45.90 1-2
Chas. McCann,	Glendale—Shorthorn grades.	9	4227 2-9	40.61
Robt. Bowie,	Beachville—Not given.....	8	5933	56.07 1-2

It was not the patron who received the most milk per cow that won the prize, and this is due to the fact that the charges for making are greater in some factories than in others.

If another competition was entered into, said Chief Instructor Barr, in presenting his report, he believed the prize should be for the most pounds of milk per cow, instead of for the most money, as the price for making and drawing the milk varies so much in different factories and creameries.

He believed the Dairymen's Association would be doing a wise thing to offer a handsome prize for a dairy herd competition in 1907.

Since the prizes were awarded a statement has been received from Mr. Wm. Cornish, Putnam, as follows: 10 cows; average pound per cow, 6552 lbs.; total money, \$631.59; average per cow, \$63.15. Had this statement been received in time, Mr. Cornish would have received the prize.

HOW THE PRIZE HERD WAS HANDLED.

After the results of the herd competition were announced, the winner, M. L. Haley, of Springford, addressed the convention. A few years ago he began using a pure-bred dairy sire, and by liberal feeding, testing his cows occasionally, and weeding out the poor ones, he has built up a splendid herd of 11 cows (including a couple of two-year-old heifers), which in nine months of the past year (the competition covered only seven) made an average yield of 7743 pounds of milk, the cash returns being \$76.08 per cow. He lays much stress on the importance of feeding the cows liberally when dry on succulent feed, so as to build them up for a heavy season's performance. He also feeds his heifers liberally, developing them into milkers. He emphasizes regularity in time of feeding and milking. All the feed is produced on his 90-acre farm; till six weeks ago he had never bought a pound of feed. In

the summer, as soon as the pasture began to dry up, he fed silage and meal. He has also used peas and oats; likewise Hungarian grass, which is excellent. His brother, M. H. Haley, who stood second in the contest, uses alfalfa as a soiling crop, and this the speaker considered probably the very best thing for the purpose.

In reply to a question, Mr. S. E. Facey, Mr. Haley's cheesemaker, said that when they ceased making butter in the spring, Mr. Haley's milk gave a per cent. of fat equal to about the average of the factory. This elicited a little sally which may be new to some of our readers, and can do no harm as a joke:

Two breeders were discussing richness of milk. The Jersey man gave a test for Holstein milk. He said that when you dropped a quarter in a pailful of it, if you could see the coin in the bottom it was from a Holstein cow, which induced the rejoinder, that if the milk didn't cover the quarter it was the mess of a Jersey.

Some of Mr. Haley's heifers gave 45 pounds of milk per day by the scales. This, as the owner truly observed, is quite a bit more than 45 pounds estimated.

THE MAKER'S PROBLEMS.

After the report of the dairy-herd competition, there was an attempt to change the programme, by interjecting a new discussion. Concurrently with the convention, a meeting of manufacturers (cheesemakers and creamery men) was being held in another hall. A similar meeting had been held in Ottawa the week before. Both had, apparently, assembled at the beck of a man who, in hopes of making some professional capital, took it upon himself to provide opportunity for the makers to agitate questions of interest to themselves that had not been arranged for on the convention programmes. The ideas were, perhaps, all right enough in themselves, but the attempt to go outside the associations to accomplish what should have been done directly through them, eventuated in the abortion which such ill-conceived effort deserved. By consent of the officers of the Western Association, a hearing was courteously granted to the deputation from the makers' meeting. They sought the support of the convention to pass a resolution asking for legislation providing for compulsory arbitration in cases where it was proposed to locate a new factory in a place where it would compete with an old one. Another suggestion they wished to make was that it be made compulsory by law for makers in cheese or butter factories to hold certificates to the effect that they had had at least three years' experience at practical factory work, or else hold a diploma from a recognized dairy school.

Figures were submitted, obtained from the makers' meeting held in Ottawa the week before, to show the unprofitableness of many factories in Eastern Ontario, and statements were made implying somewhat similar, though less general, conditions in the western portion of the Province. Discussion was called for, but at this juncture an objection was raised, that "farmers' day" should not be thus diverted to the purpose of the makers, and exception was also taken to the attempt to rush the resolution through without time for deliberation. On motion, therefore, the consideration of this topic was deferred until Thursday forenoon. Meanwhile, at the Wednesday evening session, Hon. Nelson Monteith had something to say on this and certain other agitations arising from the same quarter, in the course of which he intimated that the attempt to get a lot of regulatory legislation enacted would receive scant favor in the Cabinet.

On Thursday morning at 9 a.m. a few of the makers again met by themselves, and discussed the situation anew. From what our reporter could gather it was felt that it would be inopportune to secure an expression of opinion from the convention at this stage. One speaker pointed out that they would have to "change their line of attack," by continuing the agitation for better terms, not in the association, but among the dissatisfied makers outside. He thought, however, it might be possible to get the resolutions through in some modified appearance. This was afterwards accomplished, by working them (in emasculated form) into the report of the resolution committee, where they passed as academic motions, along with some formal votes of thanks.

During the makers' meeting it was openly hinted that some separate organization of cheesemakers was necessary, but action in this direction was deferred for a time. It was recognized that the Dairymen's Association would have more influence with Parliament than would a newly-formed Cheesemakers' Association.

COWS AND COW PROBLEMS.

Mr. C. F. Whitley, the well-known organizer of the cow-testing associations, gave some figures showing contrasts in the best and poorest cows of certain herds he has been testing. In reply to an objection, that keeping milk records takes too much time, he stated that a man who is moderately handy with scales and pencil can get all the records he wants in four minutes per month for each cow.

Someone wondered how a herdsman would distinguish his cows. Prof. Dean, of Guelph, said they use ear tags on all their cows, and every cow goes by her number. No man, he continued, can afford to keep 10, 15 or 20 cows without knowing what they're doing. The estimated average production of milk in Ontario and Quebec is only 3,000 pounds per cow per year. This could be greatly increased if every farmer would use a pure-bred sire of a dairy breed, feed his cows