

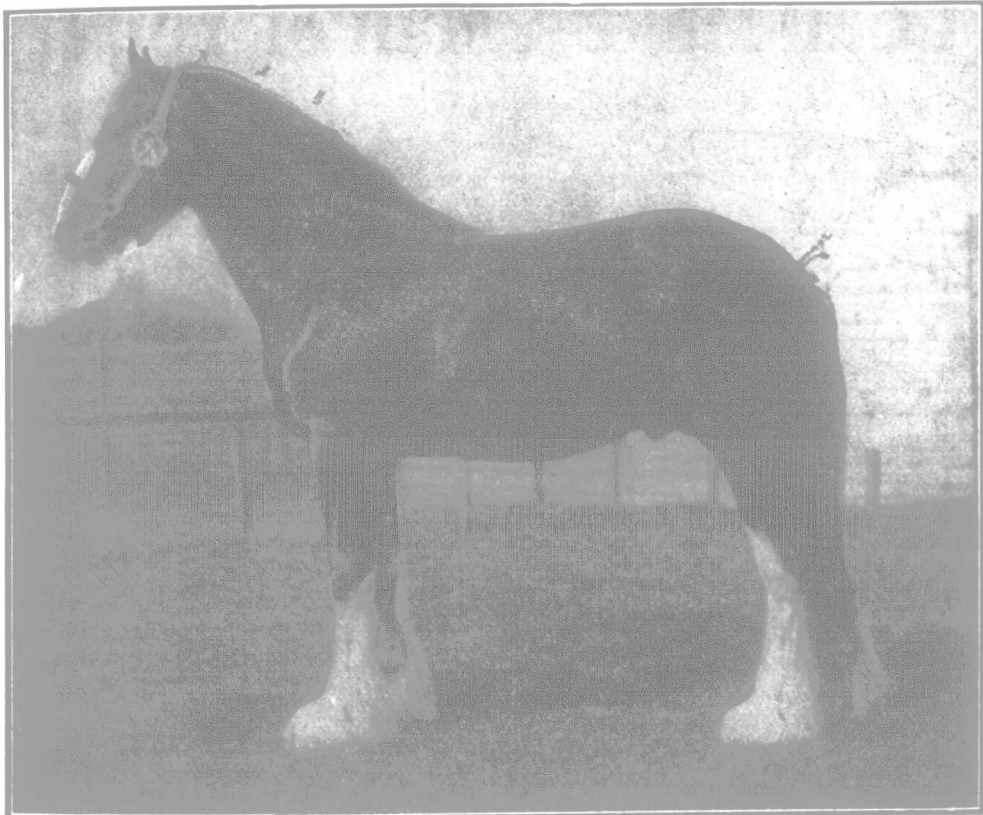
stand that cows had to be properly fed or attended to, the distances were enormous and communications were non-existent or primitive, while the people in general, with the exception of the few who could afford to order supplies by the then communications from Moscow, had but faint ideas as to the difference between cheese and butter, and how they were to be eaten. The first separator—the first in Siberia—was purchased in 1887 from Sweden. Common peasant cows, small and yielding little milk were utilized at first, and the breed gradually improved by the introduction of Simmental cattle. The farm now has 180 head of its own rearing.

"In 1893, Mr. Wolkoff, a Russian, opened near Kourgan the first dairy producing butter for export beyond the Urals. 400 pounds (14,400 lbs.) were exported in 1894. Ten years only have passed, and now butter-making is the staple industry of the country as regards international trade, and the chief resource of its peasant population. Over 2,000 dairies are now scattered over Western Siberia, their export in 1903 being 2,185,000 pounds or 78,904,720 lbs. One has but to visit Siberia, or to scan its press, to see how very large-

of milk to produce 1 pound of the manufactured article, the average price paid for milk being 18 to 19 copecks (about 10 cents) per pound.

"Omsk, with a population variously estimated at from 50,000 to 60,000, the capital of the Governor-Generalship of the Steppes and of the Akmolinsk territory, is a large village-like town, of rising influence from its position on the railway and on the Irtysh. It has 15 offices engaged in the export of butter, half of which are Danish, the rest Russian or German, with one British establishment. Kourgan, a district town of the government of Tobolsk, with some 12,000 inhabitants, is a large straggling village in appearance, and has sprung into prominence since the construction of the railway as the most important center of the Siberian butter trade. It has 17 export offices, including Danish, German, Russian, and one British. 545,842 pounds (19,711,445 lbs.) or 25 per cent. of the entire Siberian export, was despatched from this center in 1902, and 510,078 pounds in 1903.

"The first dairy for the manufacture of butter for export abroad was opened in 1893. By 1902 the number of Siberian dairies amounted to over 2,000. They are termed in



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ly the butter industry bulks in the general economic position. The fame of Siberia is, in fact, being rapidly transferred from the hitherto traditional gold and wealth of grain to the more prosaic appurtenance of the foreign breakfast table. Butter, thanks solely to the Siberian supply, now occupies the sixth place in value in the Russian export trade, and promises to exceed all other items except grain. The insatiable British market gives Siberia its largest field of consumption, Denmark, in this respect, acting more as a forwarding agent than a home consumer. Russia, i. e., Siberia, now comes second or next to Denmark, in value and quantity, as the source of supply of the British demand for butter. In 1899 the import from Russia was so inconsiderable as to be merely included in the Board of Trade returns under "other countries." In 1900, as the Russian press points out with pride, it forced its way to an individual heading, the import from Russia amounting according to the Board of Trade returns, to 378,452 cwts. in 1901, to 490,091 cwts. in 1902, and to 484,328 cwts. in 1903.

"The extent of the advantages of this new industry to the peasantry of Siberia may be realized when it is remembered that prior to 1893, 'top-bone,' i. e., boiled and melted butter, alone was manufactured in Siberia. This sold at an average of 6 rubles (about \$3.00) per pound (about 36 pounds) requiring 32 pounds

Russian 'zavodi,' or 'works.' They have, indeed, little in common with the ordinary conception of the word dairy, or of its accompaniments and surroundings, as understood in Western Europe. Hurried up and hastily equipped in the first flush of the movement, both suitable and unsuitable tenements were adapted to the purpose, with a total lack of technical knowledge and experience on the part of the villagers, and it is only lately that the stress of competition, backed by the endeavors of the authorities and the special instructors, has begun to work some improvement in the general conditions of production. The dairies in general are either the property of individual owners or of two or three combined, who buy milk from the peasants around, or else they belong either to artels or to entire village societies, both of which supply the milk from their own cows. The artel dairy is defined as "one created by several peasants who distribute the proceeds provided."

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