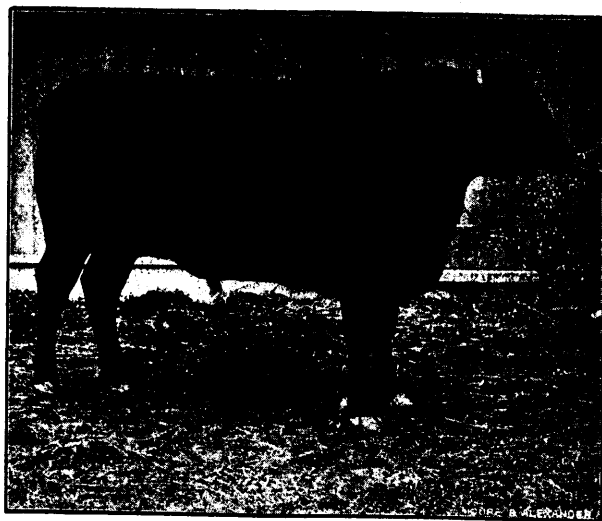


satisfactory the process might be tried in some Canadian factories where bad flavors are the rule during the hot dry season. The pasteurizing would tend to destroy the bulk of the germs causing these bad flavors and enable a better flavored cheese to be obtained. The use of the calcium chloride seems to have had the effect of producing more curd and at the same time caused more water to be retained in the green curd. A process that would help to increase the amount of curd is worth looking into and we will watch for further particulars as they are published.

The British Butter Trade

Considerable alarm is being shown by the British retailer at the very high prices which have prevailed this season for butter. In this country the retailer, on the price of any of his goods going up, would simply advance the selling price, and think no more about it. But the situation in the Old Land seems to be different, and the keen competition which prevails in the retail grocer's trade makes it a necessity for the retailer to sell his goods on as small a margin of profit as possible. Though there has been a decided advance in the price of butter since the middle of May, it is only within the past month or six weeks that the selling price to the consumer has been advanced very materially, and then it was only because the retailer had to do so in order to save himself from serious loss.

The English retailer has been loth to advance his price for pure butter above 10d. to 1s. per lb., and many of them, during the summer, thinking that a change would soon come, continued to sell at these figures at some loss to themselves. But of late, as the season has advanced, and as there is no likelihood of any great increase in the supply this year, they have been compelled to put up the selling price to their regular customers for their specially-selected butters from 1s. 2d. and 1s. 4d. up to 1s. 4d. and 1s. 6d. per lb. The consuming classes may not like this further advance, and it would not be surprising if there were a material falling off in the consumption of butter before long.



Polled Angus Steer, two-year-old, winner of first place in the Fat Cattle Class at the Industrial Fair, 1899. Owned by Walter Hall, Washington, Ont.

The demand, however, in Great Britain this year for good butter has been almost unprecedented. Though prices have been high the general trade in this article seems to expand in defiance of all obstacles and drawbacks. The total importations into the United Kingdom for the first seven months of this year amounted to 1,987,426 cwts. as against 1,892,970 cwts. in the same period last year, and 1,933,934 cwts. in 1897. The declared (official) value of these imports was £9,931,419, £9,456,317, and £9,588,179 respectively—which according to the latest calculation is

£17,000,000 per annum, and which in Canadian currency would amount to nearly \$85,000,000 as the value of the butter annually imported by Great Britain. It is estimated that the quantity produced by British dairymen is equal to that imported, so that we have something like \$170,000,000 as being the total value of the butter consumed annually by the people of the United Kingdom. It is generally believed that the greatly increased demand this year and the advanced price come from the shortage in the British make. While this is to a considerable extent true, it does not account for the whole of the expansion of trade in butter. Some of this expansion must be laid to an increased and a growing demand for good butter on the part of the English consumer.

The Farmers' National Congress

By C. C. James, M.A., Deputy-Minister of Agriculture, Toronto

I have been asked by the editor to write a short article on the meeting of the Farmers' National Congress, held at Boston, Oct. 3rd to 10th. Previous to going, I rather demurred; since "seeing" I feel constrained to comply, though my remarks must necessarily be brief and inadequate. One reason for my complying is that I believe Canadian farmers know as little about this great organization as I did myself, and it is well for them to know something of what is undoubtedly the greatest and most influential farmers' organization in America. And, yet, the Boston meeting was the nineteenth in its history. To introduce the Congress to Canadian farmers it is only necessary to say that for the past two years its president has been Hon. W. D. Hoard, of Wisconsin, with whom the farmers of Ontario are so well and so favorably acquainted. The ex-governor makes a model presiding officer and has been re-elected for a third term. It was an innovation and a "sign of the times" when Prof. Robertson was asked to address the Congress on the work of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and the writer of this article was asked to speak on the teaching of the elements of agriculture in the public schools. The two Canadians did their best to uphold the honor of this country and met with a cordial reception. Perhaps I can give some idea of the Congress by answering two questions.

Who compose the Congress? Every state is entitled to send one delegate for every congressional district and one delegate at large. Every agricultural college and experimental station and every national and state agricultural society or organization may send a delegate. Five hundred delegates in all handed in their credentials at Boston. As there is no federal or state grant to draw upon, those who come to these conventions must be men of means and influence and must be actuated by an ardent desire to advance the interests of agriculture.

In such a gathering, of course, we would expect to find not a few colonels and generals and doctors side by side with undecorated but sturdy enterprising holders of the plow. Every phase of agriculture appeared to be represented and this great industry brought together a gathering that could not be excelled by any other trade or calling in earnestness, enthusiasm or intelligence. It was as brainy, orderly and respectable a convention as I have ever attended. It ran like clock-work. Discussion was rapid and pointed and an immense mass of material was digested. Beginning in the south with a few members, it has grown year by year, attracting to itself the best men in agriculture in the whole United States.

What is its work? Let us first glance at the subjects presented and discussed at Boston; the work of agricultural colleges and experiment stations; rise and fall of farm values; fluctuation in prices; export of the products of the farm; transportation rates; taxation; fertilizers; good roads; pure food legislation; weather forecasts;