

BIG CHEESE.

Canada certainly holds the record for big cheese. Mr. Hiram Ranney, of Oxford county, already mentioned as one of the pioneer cheesemakers of Ontario, was probably the first to attempt anything out of the ordinary in this line. He made several large cheese in his farm dairy about 1860, and succeeded in turning out one which weighed 1,200 pounds.

In 1865, Mr. Andes Smith of Norwich, Oxford county, made one at his factory which weighed 4,000 pounds, and an issue of the *Toronto Globe* in September, 1865, contained this reference to it.

The chief feature of the New York State agricultural show last week was the monster cheese from Canada.

They fancy that they know something about cheese in the State of New York, and cheese was made a great feature of the show, a special building being devoted to the immense number of samples forwarded to compete for prizes. The New Yorkers did their best and thought they had done a good deal, but Canada, as might have been expected, carried away the palm.

Mr. Smith, of Norwich, exhibited a cheese of just a little over four thousand pounds in weight, which laid the New Yorkers as flat as pancakes. They were crushed by it, and no wonder. At first, our Yankee cousins were not inclined to succumb, and were clear that the cheese was not as good as it was great. They did not succeed in picking that hole in the Canadian grey coat of Mr. Smith, however. The cheese was carefully examined by the judges and pronounced full up to the mark.

The Herkimer county farmers felt that Canada had beaten them and vowed with many strange assertions that next year they would show what their county would do in the way of a big cheese.

The visitors to the show exhibited no mortification over the matter. They seemed to be well pleased with the Canadian display and perhaps guessed that if the Canadians made such large cheeses they would have to be annexed whether they liked it or not.

The great cheese which has won such honour is to be exhibited at London, Ont., and we recommended all our readers to go there to see the sights of the beautiful little city, and not forget to look at the milky mammoth.

Afterwards, it will be shipped to England, and there, also, it will spread the name and fame of Canadian dairies.

Seriously speaking, the promptitude with which our Canadian farmers have taken up the idea of establishing cheese factories on a large scale is exceedingly gratifying, and an earnest of good for the future prosperity of the country.

Not only is cheesemaking exceedingly profitable, but the fact shows life and enterprise among our farming community which will bear fruit in other matters, as well as cheese.

Mr. Ranney, not to be outdone, joined with his son-in-law, Mr. James Harris, proprietor of the Ingersoll factory, where in 1866, they turned out a cheese which weighed 7,000 pounds.

The following extract from the *Ingersoll Chronicle* of September 7, 1866, refers to it:

An unusual excitement was created amongst our citizens last evening by the removal of the mammoth cheese, mounted on a car made specially for the purpose, drawn by twelve powerful grey horses, and preceded by the Ingersoll Brass band, passing through our streets on its way to the railway station to be shipped to the New York State Fair, which is to be held next week at Saratoga.

A large number of our townspeople collected at the station to signify their appreciation of the spirit and enterprise displayed by the proprietors of the