

formation I can gather, I estimate that fully forty cheese factories will also engage in the manufacture of butter during the winter month. It is therefore plain that the same individuals and the same sections of country are equally interested in these two dairy products. Under this state of things, all that relates both to butter and cheese must necessarily be considered by each association, and therefore each must in the future supplement the other to some extent and cover practically the same ground.

The discussion of subjects relating to the choice of cattle, the care, management, and food necessary to secure the best results, must always be the same in both cases. Each of these associations sends out instructors with the view of bringing the quality of the products towards greater excellence and uniformity. As the work of cheese and butter associations cover the same territory, instructors from each association must necessarily go over the same ground, where one instructor, competent in both cheese and butter making, could do the work equally well, and thus effect a saving in time and travelling expenses.

Taking in the situation as it appears at present, it seems to me eminently proper that there should be a concentration of forces, with the view of greater strength and efficiency.

The first object gained would be to lessen the cost of management, and thus give an increased amount towards additional instruction and inspection, so necessary to greater uniformity of products. From a careful estimate I have made, I am of opinion that out of the present grant fully two thousand dollars might be diverted from expenses of management towards this necessary work.

The second important object gained would be the substitution of one representative body for the three at present in existence, with which would rest the oversight and direction of all matters of common interest.

At the present stage of our dairy industry it seems highly important that the Departments of Agriculture for the province and Dominion should have one representative authority which might be easily reached for consultation and co-operation in carrying forward such measures as will shortly be necessary in the extension of our markets for these products. By establishing proper cold storage facilities in transportation we shall be provided with the aid necessary to reach these markets, but in working out the details of the scheme there must inevitably be many things demanding consideration and consultation as between the producers and those acting for the Government in the matter. It will be almost impossible for the representatives of the Government to deal with three bodies, having, it may be, different opinions, and working, in some senses, towards cross purposes.

In the hope that my suggestion may meet with approval, I venture to suggest that the three dairy associations be amalgamated into one, and that this amalgamated association be divided into two parts, having an eastern and western board.

Or, if it is thought best, the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Associations might continue to exist, but in that case, in order to carry out my thought as previously expressed, each of these bodies should appoint an executive committee consisting, say, of four members, two of whom might be specially interested in butter and two in

cheese. These two committees should form a Central Board, whose business it should be to carry forward such work as might be of common interest to both the Eastern and Western divisions of the association.

The representatives of the Dominion Government, in making any arrangements for carrying out the cold storage plans, would necessarily consult with this body.

This would lead also to another departure—that of employing the same secretary for both branches of the association, or for the different bodies, as the case might be; such secretary being required to give his whole time to the development of this industry. The whole scheme tends towards greater consolidation, greater unity, and greater uniformity, both in the work and in the results that would accrue.

Should your association desire to co-operate in the matter of carrying out the scheme as outlined above, it might be deemed advisable to appoint a special committee to confer with a similar committee from each of the other associations.

I am writing thus early because it may be necessary to make some alterations in the statutory provisions regarding the associations.

Yours very truly,

JOHN DRYDEN,
Minister of Agriculture.

EDITORIAL REMARKS.

It will help to a better understanding of the need why the foregoing plan of amalgamation should be carried out to refer to a few facts respecting the history of the associations concerned. As will be seen by turning to our account of these associations, which was given in *FARMING* for September last, it was in 1867 that the Canadian Dairymen's Association was first organized. This was just three years after the first co-operative cheese factory was started in Canada. At the time of the organization there were 235 cheese factories in operation in Ontario, and the efforts of the association were for some time wholly confined to the holding of annual conventions, at which matters pertaining to the development of co-operative dairying were discussed. In 1873 the association was incorporated, and in 1874 it received its first provincial grant; after which its sphere of work was enlarged, and prizes were given at the leading fairs to stimulate the production of cheese of the very best quality.

In 1877 co-operative dairying had so far developed that it was deemed advisable to divide the association into two parts. This was done, and the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario was then organized to look after dairying in the eastern part of the province, and the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario was formed to look after the dairying interests of the west.

In 1879 the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario determined to give instruction to makers in their respective factories. In 1880 a similar