

Manitoba Dairymen Meet.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association was held Wednesday afternoon and evening in the committee room of the city hall, Winnipeg. There was a good attendance of those interested, from different parts of the province and the whole proceedings were of a very interesting character. Prof. S. M. Barie, president, in the chair. The principal item of the afternoon gathering was the reading of an excellent address by the president, which was as follows:

"It is my pleasing duty to open this seventeenth annual dairy convention and to extend to all of you a most cordial welcome. I regret to see so few farmers here present. Our convention promises to be a most interesting and practical one. A good programme has been prepared. Subjects pertaining to the different branches of dairy husbandry will be thoroughly discussed. Dairy systems, methods and practices will be compared and explained. A free interchange of knowledge, experience and opinions will take place, and a vast store of most valuable information will be available to all who will honor the convention by their presence. Gentlemen, we are going through a very hard season, but I believe, a season well filled with valuable teachings. Farmers are complaining on all sides. They justly claim that the last season's crop was not as profitable as it might have been, partly on account of a quality, and above all on account of low selling prices. However, grumbling will do us no good, and we are much better to turn and see if we can do anything to help ourselves out of the deep sea and a look at what has been, and is being done may help to cheer up our spirits. First of all, are the farmers doing all they could and should do to improve their position? I think not. When carloads and carloads of pork, hogs, ham, bacon, mutton, and poultry are being imported here from Ontario and United States—and still larger quantities of the same class of goods go past our doors, it looks as if our farming methods needed improvement. At the present stage of our agriculture we ought to be able to feed our people. Farmers should know that man cannot live on bread alone, and remember the old saying:

Wheat! wheat! only wheat!
And you will have nothing to eat

By adhering exclusively to grain raising, a number of farmers deprive themselves of the surest of all crops, that of milk and its products. By shipping cheap grain instead of feeding it, they sustain a great loss. I say a great loss, not only on account of selling barley, raw material instead of manufactured products, but also on account of excessive shipping expense. Compare the cost of shipping wheat with that of shipping cheese to England. It cost about seventy dollars (\$70) to carry \$100 worth of 50 cent wheat and fifteen dollars (\$15) to carry \$100 worth of cheese, etc. I do not mean to say that we should stop growing wheat, but what I wish to imply is that mixed husbandry (including dairying and stock raising) is one of the sure means of redeeming Manitoba farming from its present discreditable position.

The season of 1892 has taught us many a valuable lesson. 1st. That our dairy cattle are by no means near what they should be. 2nd. That we are badly in need of stables. 3rd. That, as a rule, our provision of hay and other cattle feed is too scant, and does not always last until pasturage is available. On that account a large number of cattle lost their lives last spring or remained in a condition unfit for milk. That over cheese production is increasing; that the Winnipeg cheese market is a limited one and unless we improve the quality of our cheese it will soon be a difficult matter to get rid of it. Never in the history of the Dominion of Canada has dairying received so much attention from legislators and business men. Experimental dairy stations, dairy schools, travelling dairies, factory syndicates and cheese

factory inspection, have been organized in nearly every province. Manitoba is probably the most backward province in this connection. The time has now come when we should adopt more vigorous measures to promote our dairy interests. Here follows an outline of the work which might be undertaken by the association, with the valuable assistance of the provincial and federal governments:

- 1st. The improvement of dairy cattle, including breeding, feeding and selection.
- 2nd. Improvements in the construction of stables; we should try to show how to make them comfortable, labor-saving and cheap.
- 3rd. The culture of corn, fodder, forage plants and roots for fall and winter feed.
- 4th. The extension of the factory season.
- 5th. Improvements in farm butter making, comprising the organization of travelling dairies and the dissemination of all the latest and most reliable information on the subject.
- 6th. Improvements in factory cheese and creamery butter, including the organization of syndicates and factory inspection.
- 7th. The establishment of dairy schools.

When the above-mentioned programme is properly carried out we shall have made a great step in the right direction.

A number took part in the discussion which followed the close of the address, all bearing complimentary references to the excellence of the paper.

EVENING SESSION.

A public meeting was held in the evening, at which an interested gathering of dairy makers assembled, including some ladies. Prof. Barre was in the chair. The proceedings were noticeable for the sameness which seemed to prevail amongst every speaker when discussing the question of how to make the association of more practical benefit in the future than in the past. This organization has been in existence through a large number of years, yet the farmers and dairymen are continually asking: "Of what benefit are their meeting to us?" The idea that seemed to find the most favor was the establishment of a cold storage warehouse in Winnipeg, and the appointing by the province of a government inspector of cheese and butter, so that when this produce was shipped into a centre, the farmers and their wives would receive a good fair grading for their shipments, and would perhaps be able to realize one or two cents more for their butter than that received by the proprietors of a large creamery or cheese factory.

In connection with the business of the afternoon, A. Burrows was elected to represent the association on the exhibition board. Mr. Burrows will in consequence resign his seat on the board as a director, which he is entitled to, being a shareholder.

The first paper of the evening was read by President Barre, and which will be published later.

S. A. Bedford, manager of the Dominion experimental farm, Brandon, read the first paper, to the evident pleasure of the members. He took for his subject, "Fodder," speaking first of corn he recommended the North Dakota Fluet corn as the best, the tests at the farm proving the correctness of this. Twenty-two tons of this corn could be grown to the acre and although not so heavy it was better adapted to dairy cows than any other. An interesting talk was given on ensilage. As to whether this product can be kept outside in good shape, he had his doubts; most farmers said that they had found it impossible, it required protection; but as yet no experiment had been made on the experimental farm. At this latter place no cattle had been fed on hay since September; they are fed on wheat straw mixed with ensilage. He advised all farmers to cut their corn before their wheat, and to plant the former about May 24. Experiments as to planting it in April will be made this year. Green oats and peas make another good ensilage. These are sown at the same time, and crossways. It, however, is not as good an ensilage as corn. Speaking of the

experiments in grasses, he said the most promising grass was the mammoth red clover; it of all others has been the only success outside of the native grasses, which latter were splendid. Root crops did very well, with the exception of carrots, mangles, turnips, etc., were beyond all expectations in their quality and quantity. The purple topped turnip and the mangol wuzles were the best varieties. In the latter 1,400 bushels to the acre were received.

Mr. Champion spoke on the "Home cheese factory." He discussed the question whether cheese or butter-making is the most profitable. He gave an outline of a cheese factory in which he was interested. It has ten farmers bringing it in milk. They all live within 3½ miles of the factory, the milk is collected every day except Sunday, and the whey sent back the next. This latter was a bad custom on account of the sourness of the whey.

Last year 353,508 pounds of milk was delivered at factory, 15 pounds per can per day, 25,247 pounds of cheese made, which sold at 9½ cents a pound. The ten farmers realized a handsome profit after \$1,000 had been deducted for expenses.

Mr. Glennie read a paper on "Dairy Breeds of Cattle." The special causes which will tend to make dairy cattle more profitable were: Nearness to a city as a market, good stability, and good treatment. The dairy cow requires to be well treated and well fed at all times. Holstein calves are the most vigorous, being large and strong. In returns from feeding the Jersey cow beats every breed. Calves two and three years old give \$3 of butter per week for \$1 worth of food. Holsteins give fifty-two pounds of milk per day on dry feed. To keep cows heavily green food should be given them. He closed by asking every practical dairyman to unite and give the dairy business an impetus. He thought half a dozen experimental farms should be established by the provincial government, of ordinary size, where farmers could easily see what line of cultivation is best to follow and where dairying might be taught.

McKellar, chief clerk in the agricultural department, closed with a good paper. Discussions on all the papers followed the reading of each and many interesting questions were answered. The meeting adjourned at 11 p. m.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin of Jan. 16 says: "The traffic with the Eastern roads was light, and the rates remained nominally steady at 25c per 100 lbs for flour and grain and 3½c for provisions. Through rates to Liverpool were steady at the close were 30½ to 31½ per 100 lbs on flour, 18½c per bushel for wheat and 17½c for corn, and 36½ to 41½ per 100 lbs for provisions. The demand for vessel room here was fair, and rates held steady at 4c for wheat and 3½c for corn to Buffalo.

The Northwest Miller of January 13 says: The demand for ocean tonnage from flour shippers has lost a large part of the activity noted last week, and very little is at present being engaged. While the improved call for room was in force last week, some shippers engaged tonnage in excess of their needs at that time, since then this reserve has been drawn on. Rates from Minneapolis to foreign ports are at present much higher than they were a year ago, as the appended table will show. Through rates obtainable Wednesday for prompt shipment, were, in cents, per 100 lbs:

Minneapolis to—	Wednesday.	YEAR AGO.
London.....	42	51
Liverpool.....	40½	49½
Glasgow.....	42	53
Leith.....	44½	54
Bristol.....	44½	
Amsterdam.....	43½	55

A year ago the rate on flour to New York was 33c across lake and 35c all rail. It is now 2½c higher.