

Dairymen of Eastern Ontario Meet at Peterborough.

On thirty-eight different occasions the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario has met in annual convention. The last assembly was held in Peterborough, on January 6th and 7th, 1915. Several years ago the same institution directed its members to that town to hold their annual rally, and while the industry has grown in that period of time and questions relating to the business are just as important, numerous and difficult to solve, the farmers in the Peterborough district did not respond to the invitation to be present in as large numbers as they did on the former occasion. The weather was unfavorable, during one day, that is true, yet the farmers of Eastern Ontario each year neglect one of the greatest opportunities of the season to keep in touch with their own business and at the same time learn more about it. All sorts of activities are compassed about this year by peculiar and trying circumstances, and the general slowing-down and tightening-up in all expenditures from the largest to the smallest may have accounted to some degree for the smaller attendance than is customarily recorded by the Eastern Dairymen's Convention. Again after nearly four decades of vigorous work the Association has acquired a certain degree of perfection in the manufacture of dairy products, and, as we approach that point of superiority and as the farmers approach that degree of excellence, it is felt that little improvement can be made, and human nature assumes a shroud of self-satisfaction. Eastern Ontario dairymen can yet improve in their products, and they should not think of their position as impregnable or unassailable. Other provinces are being heard from, and it is up to the dairymen of Eastern Ontario to put forth every effort and attain and maintain the highest pinnacle of perfection in the manufacture of their products. Although not attended as it should have been the Convention was interesting, and conducted in such a way that features relative to the production of milk and all its products were discussed and the smally problems untangled. It was mutually agreed upon by all the members in quiet conversation that the addresses delivered at the Convention this year were the best that have ever been presented to that body of men.

The thought of the Convention was, if so many men can be of one mind and all were agreed as to this, that the chief failing with the industry is the lack of sufficient fodder produced on the farm to feed the herd in a suitable manner the year round. Mr. Publow asserted that, in his opinion, eighty per cent. of the cows in the country could be made to double their production if adequate quantities of fodder were produced. And further still in spite of the instruction at first hand and the liberal amount of literature handed out to the farmers the same old defects still exist, and only fifty per cent. of the producers handle their milk and land it at the factory in such a condition that the makers are able to put out a first-class article. The other fifty per cent. spoil the whole leaven. There is a sunny side to the circumstances surrounding this industry, however, and it is that milk is now being better cared for, stables are made more sanitary, and cleanliness is contributing to the up-building and improvement of the enterprise.

For the year now past J. A. Sanderson, of Oxford Station, has been President of the Association, and in opening the Convention he drew attention to the important features of the work during his regime. A year ago, owing to changing conditions, there was more or less discontent and uneasiness in the minds of some dairymen, particularly producers. The results of the past season's business, in receiving the highest prices ever paid in the history of the industry, has proven that the uneasiness was unwarranted and should convince the dairymen of Eastern Ontario that they need have no hesitation in engaging in this branch of agriculture as extensively as their conditions will allow. For some years past the officers have been forced to report annually a decrease in exports of cheese from those of the previous years. Nineteen fourteen is no exception in this regard. However, while the decrease in exports from 1912 to 1913 was about nine per cent., the decrease from 1913 to 1914 is only about five and one-half per cent. Relative to this condition the President drew attention to the fact that the average selling price of cheese during 1914 was about one cent per pound greater than that of 1913. When this increase in selling price is taken into consideration, the cash receipts for 1914 will total very little under those of the preceding year.

The creamery business has for some years shown a steady growth, and during the last season three more creameries have commenced operations in Eastern Ontario, while several factories equipped for making both cheese and butter are increasing their output of the latter each year. The butter produced in Eastern Ontario is consumed largely at home, consequently export statistics are of little value, yet those now to

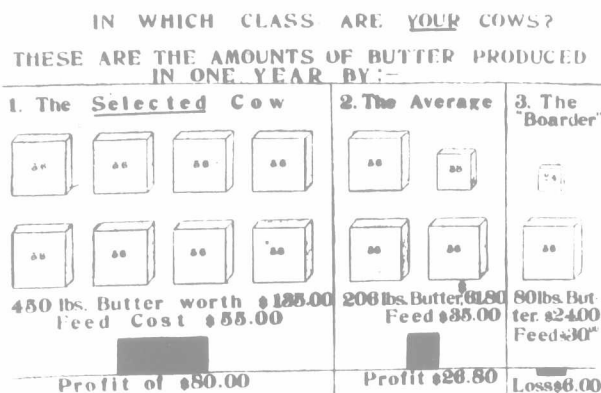
hand are gratifying in that they show a growth. Prior to 1912 exports in butter were a negligible quantity, while in that year 70 packages were sent out. This grew to 1,728 packages in 1913 and to 7,300 packages in 1914.

The urban milk and ice-cream industry has made rapid strides which naturally accounts for a large part of the decrease in the production of cheese.

PROGRESS IN COW TESTING.

C. F. Whitley, in charge of the cow-testing division of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, reviewed the old story of cow testing, but with it brought new evidence of the great value of that practice on dairy farms. As a result of his work dairymen formerly content with 4,000 pounds per cow now talk freely of 7 and 8,000 pounds of milk as a herd average, and the same men aim even higher. Mr. Whitley's arguments in favor of cow testing are always grounded on actual experiences on Canadian dairy farms. In taking a survey of 650 herds in five eastern provinces of Canada he contrasted the best cow in each herd with a poor one, the lowest yield but one, and obtained the following result: Valuing fat at 30 cents per pound and allowing \$35.00 as the average cost of feed, each one of the best cows gave as much profit above that feed cost as was made by fifteen cows of the poorest type. This comparison of 1,300 representative cows surely points out one great want. A better supervision and direction of willing, but at present quite erratic, cow energy is urgently needed on many a farm to-day, with fifteen to one the odds are altogether too unequal.

The argument is timely in view of the claim that there is an investment by dairymen of from \$500 to \$1,000 for each gallon of milk produced per day. Thus the efficiency of each cow is no slight consideration in our huge business of milk manufacture.



What Three Cows Have Done.

The accompanying chart gives us a diagram, the comparative yield in boxes of butter of three types of cows. The first selected, both fed and bred for production, is a five-year-old grade that gave 11,630 pounds of milk, 450 pounds of butter worth \$135, with a feed cost of \$55. Her clear profit is \$80. Such cows and better ones have been discovered through cow testing. The second is the average yield of 8,200 cows as collected by the dairy recorders at thirteen dairy record centres in Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island, namely 206 pounds of butter worth \$61.80 at a feed cost of \$35, thus leaving a profit of \$26.80. This is the average of the cows recorded in the milk testing associations at these centres, and would probably be very much better than the average yield of all cows in the Dominion. The third is the type unmasked by cow testing, desired by no one. In this case it is not just one lone individual cow, but it is the average yield of a herd of ten cows in Ontario, 80 pounds of butter worth \$24, and the owner estimated it cost \$30 to feed each cow. The loss is obvious.

If more evidence is required in favor of cow testing considerable light is shed by the fact that in one creamery in Prince Edward Island over thirty patrons, members of a cow-testing association there took in double the amount of money per cow last year than they did four years ago, while the other patrons show little or no increase. "So it is," said Mr. Whitley, "in many other districts there is nothing to prevent any factory of 500 cows, if its patrons take up cow testing in earnest, handling extra money annually to the extent of \$8,000. We have men in Ontario and Quebec now obtaining 1,000 and 1,500 pounds of milk per cow more than they did two years ago. Scattered all over we find instances like this. The man who has been cow testing now milks 8 cows and gets 20 more cash than the man who does not weigh and sample."

This is indisputable evidence that cow testing is a practice that should be adopted much more largely on dairy farms in Canada.

MORE AND CHEAPER PRODUCTION.

Increase in production was discussed by Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Director of Canada's Experimental Farms. In his remarks he asserted that farmers could control the milk produced by their cows. In the first place they could breed better and along with that provide good housing, well lighted, well ventilated, comfortable and hygienic stables. In this regard he did not advocate the expensive kind of construction, and said that some of the most undesirable barns he had seen in regard to these former requirements cost twice as much as they should. They were spacious where room was not required. They were dark and poorly ventilated. Mr. Grisdale declared that a good stable could be built with two ply of boards and paper at a cost of \$150 per cow.

Some foods are necessary and they happen to be those that can be easily produced in Eastern Canada, and if these feeding stuffs are dispensed to the cattle liberally and intelligently the milk production can be liberally increased. In one section the Director procured a bunch of heifers, such as would be picked up easily in that community, and they found when these heifers freshened that their production was in some cases double that of their mothers. In one community in Quebec cows were chosen from herds that were only averaging \$12 to \$13 per cow per season. Now, some of these cows from those herds are returning \$45 per cow. The cost of food was doubled, but the returns were trebled. Cheap feeding means abundant feeding at all times with no deprivations of fodder when the cows are dry.

With regard to pastures the Director considered them the most expensive way of feeding cattle, and asserted that all land on the farm should be brought under cultivation in a systematic way. Some system of crop rotation should be followed, but the specific systems should be worked out by the farmer himself. There is one principle, however, to be recommended, and that is that the hoe crop follow the hay crop, and third should come the crop of grain.

Relative to machinery the speaker advocates large implements, the two-furrow plow, the four-horse harrow and the wide drill. Experience on Central Experimental Farm has taught the Director that he can lower the cost of cultivation per acre about 10 per cent. below what it was sixteen years ago when horses and when labor were cheaper than they are to-day. The cost of cultivation per unit has been cut in two by using an intelligent system of crop rotation and large implements to carry on the work.

BREEDING UP A DAIRY HERD.

For many years the discussions at the Conventions have been largely scientific, but this year F. R. Mallory, of Frankfort, a live-stock breeder, was called upon to treat a very practical subject, namely, "Building up a Dairy Herd." On account of favorable circumstances and records for thirty years, Mr. Mallory was able to outline the growth of their own herd of cattle. His grandfather, thirty years ago, became discontented with the brindles and line-backs that were producing 2,000 pounds of milk during the factory season. He paid \$750 for a pure-bred bull, and at the same time procured a pure-bred cow. The bull was a good investment, but the cow was a disappointment. To-day there are in Ontario 300 descendants of that one cow. She produced a miserably small amount of milk and her progeny did the same. However, after six years of breeding the herd had a different color, but in milking capacity they had improved very little. The old gentleman was a breeder but not a weeder or feeder. For fourteen years Mr. Mallory's father then carried on breeding operations on their farm, and unlike the beginner of this improvement, he culled severely and sent pure-breds with pedigree to the butcher. At the end of fourteen years the herd averaged over 7,000 pounds. This asserted Mr. Mallory was done more by weeding than by feeding. The speaker himself has been able not only to double but to treble the records of production which his father handed over to him when he assumed the reins of management, and the herd has accomplished some feats that are considered phenomenal in the dairy world. Mr. Mallory referred to their personal experience only to show how a dairy herd may be improved and built up.

It is easier work now said Mr. Mallory than it was thirty years ago, for the opportunities at the disposal of the farmer are very much superior to former days. The operation of building up a herd depends upon the man, his pocket book and his tastes. If production only is desired grades will do, except the sire, which should be a pure-bred. "The day of the scrub sire is gone."

With regard to the value of pedigree Mr. Mallory directed attention to the fact that one cow might make a phenomenal record yet her ancestry, not being high producers, left this "freak cow," as it were, without any guarantee