

The Canadian Dairymen's Convention.

Held their Annual Meeting in Ingersoll, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 1st and 2nd of February. This meeting we consider was the most important of any meeting we ever attended, and will tend to the advancement of agricultural prosperity much more than any other agricultural meeting. It is of far more value to farmers than any meeting of any agricultural board, or even any session of the legislature we have yet seen. From the information derived from this source, the most profitable branch of Agriculture, Dairying, receives its strongest impulse. At this gathering was assembled more of the really intelligent, independent and enterprising farmers than at any previous meeting held in Canada. It is much to be regretted that not a single elected member of the Board of Agriculture was to be seen there, and only one member of parliament. No person having common capacities, and in the least interested in agriculture, could have attended it without gaining knowledge that would have been profitable to him and to the country. The attendance was larger than on any previous occasion, and we believe had the time of holding the meeting been known to farmers, the building would have been crowded to excess, and Ingersoll would have at once seen the necessity of enlarging its town hall for the occasion. The Rev. F. Clarke had prepared the annual address; it was a good address and well received. Professor Buckland also gave an address. The mild, pleasant and conciliatory manner of that gentleman makes him an acquisition to meetings, and we have heard it remarked again and again that his addresses are clear and forcible, but never leave much impression for good or bad on the audience. Professor Smith also delivered a scholarly address on the hoof, udder, &c., which would have graced a college, and which would do much good in causing some of the audience to enquire into the meaning of the various terms used, for one half of those present would not understand the meaning of matter, blood and bone, when couched in classical language. Notwithstanding, the lectures were good and well received, and the Association voted \$25 each to the three above named gentlemen, which we consider but right.

The real value of the meeting consisted in the many really useful and practical suggestions and information given by the practical tillers of the soil. One very plain farmer, we forget his name, said he had much experience of the Foot Disease in Europe, and the only curative that he had found was by cutting off the front part of the claw of the hoof to the quick; the matter would then ooze out, which otherwise would be confined; and in every instance he had found the plan a success.

Garget in cows bags was shown to arise from cold rains, and sudden chills. Remedy, warmth, warm fomentations to the bag, and by keeping the bag or teats open. Remedy for attacks of flies,—grease and coal oil on affected parts. To prevent the attacks keep the animals in sheds or stables during the fly season.

From \$50 to \$72 was found to be the most realized per cow at dairies. The

lack of cleanliness and care were the causes of a low average of the prices obtained.

Pigs should not be kept near a dairy.—The best results are when the milk is immediately cooled when taken from the cow. Cows should never be hurried or worried, but allowed their own time to go and return from the pastures.

Kindness and quietness should be their treatment. The whey from each cow will produce \$4 in pork. When floating curds are found grinding the curd is recommended; but when no curd mill is procurable, the curd should remain from 12 to 24 hours before pressing it. Sowing corn for fodder, to feed either green or dry is found very profitable.

Hogs yield a greater profit when confined in pens, and fed on whey alone, than when allowed to run in a pasture. Clover and whey fed together are most unprofitable; clover alone, or whey alone, will pay much better. Good pure water, and plenty of it, is essential to cows and to dairy operations. Milk may be tainted by cows running in pastures where bad odors are found. Bad milk from one patron may taint that which is supplied from a score or more of patrons whose milk is good.—Cheese is better for being pressed for 48 hours than for 24 hours.

Two pounds of cheese can be made at less expense than one pound of beef. The cheese brings from 10 to 13 cents, the beef from 4 to 7 cents per pound. Which is most profitable? We need be under no alarm of overstocking the cheese market any more than the beef or wheat market.

We gained some of the above information from gentlemen with whom we held private conversation. The annual meeting of the Convention was decided to be held permanently in Ingersoll. This may cause the inhabitants of Belleville to establish another convention in that vicinity. We think it would be of advantage to the dairymen in the east to do so. We hope these conventions may lead to the establishment of Agricultural Clubs.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

We again assemble together with the labours of another year added to our experiences in the great and important interests which this association was organized to foster and promote. It is most gratifying to feel that the past year has been one of unusual prosperity to dairymen; and to whatever extent this Association has contributed to the enlargement of the dairy interests of the country, we may accept the result as the goodly fruit borne by the united and well-directed efforts of its members. It is, indeed, a most worthy and noble pursuit which seeks to elevate the condition, by augmenting the wealth, of the agricultural classes; and that these objects and aims may be the more effectually secured, we invoke the aid of men of science, of observation, and practical knowledge in making this one of the most important and valuable institutions of the land. Progressive and self-reliant as I know dairymen to be, I feel justified in predicting a proud future to the dairymen of Canada. Only let the same earnest spirit of inquiry continue to characterize your efforts, and the obstacles that remain to be overcome in establishing the character of Canadian cheese in the markets of the world will disappear for ever.

Favoured as we are in climate and soil, and in the wisdom and economy of our institutions, we are in a position to compete with the most favoured regions on this continent in supplying the markets of Europe with the products of the dairy. Much has already been accomplished; the avenues of trade have been cleared of the dishonesty and fraud that had been systematically practiced by American dealers against Canadian dairies, and we have to day a channel opened up to the principal British markets, through which our cheese can pass without have heaped upon it other taints and imperfections than those of our own defective making. I am pleased to know that a spirit of enquiry has been set on foot, and instead of the almost universal ignorance on

the subject of milk and its products, which existed a few years ago, we hear almost every day discussions on the constituent elements of milk and the various influences and changes to which they are subject. For many valuable improvements, for much of this information we are directly indebted to the discussions, investigations, and publications of this and kindred associations. Still there is work to be accomplished, to which our untiring energies should be given. We can not yet afford to sit down and hug the fond delusion that we have reached perfection, and that there is no need for further exertion. We may now be even with the foremost, but we have yet to win the race; and to be successful requires the full, free, hearty co-operation of every person connected with the business. It is a fallacy to suppose that there are antagonistic interests existing between the patrons of factories and factorymen, as that which is for the pecuniary interest of one is for the interest of all.

It will be admitted that, other things being equal, the higher the skill and the greater the experience of the manufacturer, the better are the results obtained, both in regard to quality and quantity. Skilled labour always commands a high price, and it is right that it should. The better the quality of an article of produce, the higher the price to be obtained, and the better the market. A really fine article never goes begging for customers; and consequently the dealer is never fearful of heavy losses when his entire stock is strictly gilt-edged goods. Therefore it is for the interest of the cheese factory patron to have none but highly skilled labour engaged in the manufacture of dairy products. The better the success of a factory, the greater the amount of patronage, and the larger its receipts, the easier it is to effect sales, and at better prices, and the better the dealer likes to handle the goods. I would say to the patrons of the factories, that it is to your interest to patronize those factories only which employ the highest class of skilled makers, remembering always that it is more for your interests to pay a skilled cheese-maker two cents per pound for making your cheese than to employ unskilled ones gratis; and I think I shall be able to satisfy you that this is susceptible of perfect demonstration. It is a well understood fact that our best cheesemakers are able to produce a higher yield of cheese from the milk received, while the difference in value between a strictly fine article of cheese and a medium one is never less than from one to two cents per pound; so that taking into account the increase in the yield and the difference in price, we have a difference of from two to three cents a pound between a highly skilled cheesemaker and an ordinary one.

That there are difficulties besetting the factory system of cheesemaking, those of you who have had experience in the business will readily admit. These are incident to the system itself. But there are perils and dangers to be found outside of the system, which threaten to be more destructive to the capital embarked in the enterprise than all the difficulties of its inner working. The reckless rivalry displayed in certain localities, in cutting down the charge for manufacturing below a remunerative point, presents a danger to the business at large that those about to erect factories where the wants of the section are already supplied would do well to heed. No satisfactory progress can be made, and I am bound to say no permanent success secured, unless patrons are willing to pay such a price as will enable factory men to employ the highest skill attainable in the superintendence of their factories. I feel that I cannot too strongly urge upon all connected with this business, whether milk producers, factory proprietors, or dealers, to unite and help one another to bring about an end so important to the establishment of the system on a satisfactory and permanent basis. I regret that the Directors have not been able to publish the report of the last year, as it had been found impossible to obtain the necessary statistics. There is now a better prospect of securing these, and I hope they will be able to incorporate in one publication a full report of both years, including the proceedings of the present Convention. I have been in communication with the Minister of Agriculture, who has promised his aid, and it is proposed to obtain statistics of the dairy industry of the Province in connection with the approaching census.

DAIRY HUSBANDRY AS AFFECTING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE.

Prof. Buckland next addressed the meeting on the subject of dairy husbandry as affecting Canadian agriculture.

He commenced by referring to the prevalent modes of husbandry which had, till a period quite recent, obtained in Canada. From the early settlement of what is now the Province of Ontario, as the land had become denuded of the primeval forest, the production of wheat occupied the chief thoughts of the settlers. As both soil and climate along the lakes were then well adapted for the raising of the finer varieties of winter wheat, the almost only article of the farm at that time which commanded a cash price, what more natural that the settlers, men generally of very scanty means, should, under these circumstances, raise this crop year after year, with very short intermissions, as long as a remunerative return was obtained. As the cultivation given was generally exceedingly superficial, and but little attention was paid to the saving and application of manure, the soil, in obedience to what are now well understood natural laws, gradually became deteriorated; and the point was sooner or later reached when wheat culture ceased to be profitable. The soil becoming, in some cases at first almost imperceptibly, exhausted of plant-food, such as the phosphates for example, and its mechanical condition being unimproved by a more thorough cultivation, the wheat plant naturally diminished in vigour and productiveness, and by degrees became a prey to the attacks of insects, mildew especially, and other maladies popularly termed blights, so that this principal source of the farmer's income became gradually diminished. Within the last quarter of a century several countries might be named that produced with comparative certainty large crops of winter wheat—from 20 to 30, and in rare instances even 40 bushels of fine white wheat per acre; land on which winter wheat has of late almost ceased to be cultivated, and only spring varieties are raised. At this period the price of live stock, beef mutton, and dairy products was very low. Canada did not produce a fourth of the cheese to meet her consumption, and the butter exported to the British markets was meagre in quantity and decidedly inferior in quality. In this juncture of affairs it was fortunate that increased attention began to be diverted to dairy husbandry, which soon led to the improvement of live stock, particularly cattle, and ultimately to the introduction of the co-operative system in the manufacture of cheese. A pressing want now began to be earnestly met; hitherto the practice had been to make grain-growing the farmer's chief object, the soil was rapidly being run down, and an increased quantity of live stock, of improved breeds, became a necessity to restore the long lost balance. In this way, by increased attention to dairying and pasturage, involving more and better kinds of stock, especially if coupled with a more thorough cultivation, will the amelioration of Canadian agriculture be surely, though noiselessly, worked. Land laid down to pasture is placed in a position of rest; and being free from the demands of grain crops for several years naturally recovers, to some extent, its lost fertility. If, therefore, stock raising and dairying can be made profitable operations in themselves, there remains in addition the incalculable advantage of restoring by degrees the exhausted productiveness of the soil, which will again be placed in a condition for the remunerative growth of grain. It must not, however, be inferred, that the grazing of land in no measure exhausts it, as the grasses on which animals feed draw mineral matter largely from the soil; especially the phosphates, which are constantly being carried off in the bones of animals, cheese and butter, and therefore such substances must be occasionally returned to the land in the form of some kind of manure to sustain its productive capability. Hence the advantage often seen in giving pasture land, especially when milch cows are kept occasional slight dressings of well comminuted manures, such as wood ashes, lime—in the state of carbonate, sulphate and phosphate—with or without farm-yard dung. Superphosphate of lime, when genuine, is an excellent dressing for such purposes, and admits of easy application. Whenever pastures become weak and thin, and cannot be readily restored by moderate dressings and sowing fresh grass seeds, they should at once be broken up, as poor pasture is perhaps the most unremunerative condition in which land can be placed. Subject as Canada occasionally is during the growing season to droughts of more or less intensity and duration, when pastures become bare and food for cattle deficient, it is of importance to have always on hand a certain amount of auxiliary food, particularly for milch cows, as thickly sown Indian corn, oats, vetches, rape, &c. On dry calcareous soils patches of lucerne might be