

Dairymen's Association of Ontario.

TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Belleville, Feb. 14.—The tenth Annual Convention of the Ontario Dairymen's Association began its sittings this morning in the Town Hall at eleven o'clock, Mr. P. R. Daly, President.

He called on Prof. Bell to deliver

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Prof. Bell on coming forward, was received with applause. He announced the subject as "Canadian cheese and butter at home, at the Centennial Exhibition, and in England." Within the short period of fifteen years the dairy business had become one of the most important of the country. He proceeded to say that the season of 1876 was far from being favorable to the interests of the dairymen. The long continued dry weather which prevailed during nearly the whole of the spring and summer months not only naturally decreased the flow of milk, but parched up the pastures to such a degree as to diminish the quantity of cheese and butter-making matter which it contained, while the excessive heat of the weather was equally adverse to the production of a first-rate quality of either article. After the rain came indeed both the quantity and quality improved and the fall make might be assumed as a fair average, though it would by no means make up the deficit of the early part of the season, and notwithstanding that fifteen new factories have been put in operation in the course of the year, the total production exhibits a considerable falling off from that of 1875.

Taking the several stations from which I have received no returns, I cannot be far wrong in placing the total amount of cheese in the district of Ontario east of Toronto at 14,000,000 lbs which would exhibit a falling off of half a million of pounds, or ten per cent. from last year from that section. Owing to the keen competition and rivalry existing

between the lines of railway, and the policy of strict secrecy they observe with respect to their traffic returns, it is extremely difficult to obtain any direct information with regard to the quantity of any articles shipped from their stations west of Toronto. So that if we take ten per cent. from the whole we have about 14,000,000 pounds as the net product of the year. The returns of butter show a similar falling off, and the product may be estimated at 14,500,000 pounds against 15,850,000 pounds in 1875.

CANADA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

The position of Canadian cheese at the Centennial had been as gratifying as astonishing, it having been feared that Canadians could not succeed against such well skilled competitors. This had made the Canadians lukewarm, but the result proved that our people had undervalued the skill of their operators and the product of their cows, Canada having fairly beaten all sections of the United States, the percentage per possible one hundred points being 87 points for Canada against 79 for their opponents, in fact three specimens of cheese shown by Mr. Ballantyne, M. P. P., of Stratford, were adjudged to be perfect. Our display of butter had not been successful either in quality or extent, and it had been demonstrated thereby that too much salt was as bad as too little. He advocated the establishment of butter factories, as a more uniform quality is thereby secured. Mr. Pope, the American Commissioner, spoke very

highly of Canadian dairymen and the excellence of their goods. The show of Canadian fruits was very fine although not so large as some of the western exhibits were, yet superior in flavor. The Australian wheat was magnificent. Canadian cheese now stood equal to the best United States make in the English markets, and its position would be bettered by the success at the Centennial. The uniform quality of Canadian cheese was commended. It was largely due, as pointed out by Prof. Arnold, to the honesty of the patrons of the factories. It now remains for Canadians to take command of the market to which we are entitled, not only by the excellence of our goods, but also by our connection with the mother country. In order to do this, the quality of the goods must be kept up, and improved if possible, and above all, means must be taken to identify our productions. Every Canadian dairyman must mark his cheese "Canadian," as if simply marked "Ontario" it went in as American, against which cheese there is a prejudice. On the latter point he read a portion of a letter from Mr. Ashley's factory, near Smithville, having then adjudged by a connoisseur to be equal to the best English. Canadian butter was also rapidly assuming a better position in the markets of England, and was likely to still further improve as it became better known. He urged the establishment of butter factories and the making of 'gilt-edged' butter. Canadians had the ball at their feet, and it was their own fault if they did not keep it rolling.

in the second week of October, and then sold at public auction in the same way as former importations.

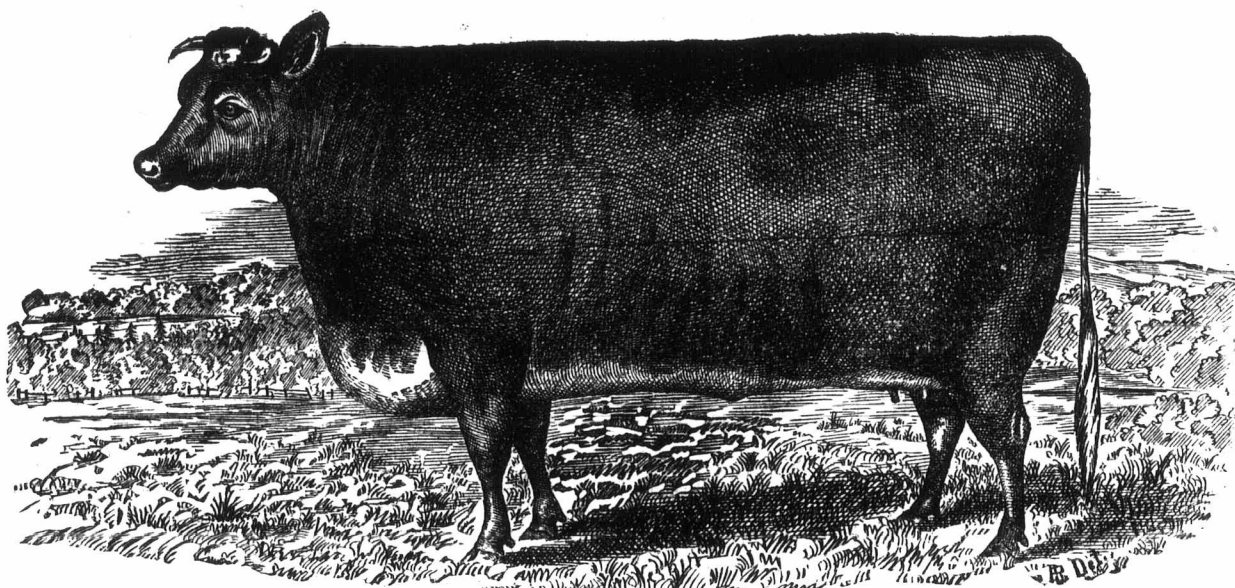
Management of Dairy Stock.

An English farmer sends the following to the *Agricultural Gazette*, as his mode of managing his dairy stock. I rear from 30 to 40 heifer calves every year. The rest of my calves are sold at a few days old for rearing. For some years I have sent most of them by railway into Warwickshire, Notts, and Leicestershire. Of late years I have used pure-bred bulls of registered pedigree and from good milking families. The calves which are kept are not allowed to suck, but have new milk for three or four weeks, and afterwards skim milk, or whey thickened with meal. They are taught to eat linseed cake, and from 1 lb. to 2 lb. per day is given to each of them till they are from 12 to 15 months old, decorticated cotton being partly substituted for linseed cake, in the latter part of the time. They have good grass the second summer and autumn, and have 2 lb. to 3 lb. of decorticated cotton cake with hay, straw, and roots the following winter. They are brought into the dairy at 24 months to 30 months old. I have now a fine lot of more than 30 under 2 years old in calf for next spring.

For the London milk trade I have a number of my own cows calving in the winter, and I purchase a number of calving heifers and barren cows full of milk, which are liberally fed, and milked up

to April, when most of them are dried and made fat on grass, and 4 lb. or 5 lb. of cake per day, given them on the pastures.

There is no doubt but that thousands of cows make a poor annual average, simply by neglect of judicious feeding when fresh. They begin with a good yield, which the farmer or dairyman thinks 'good enough' while it lasts, and when it fails the cow is either still more neglected or is fed high at a loss.



SHORTHORN COW "EUPHEMIA."
Winner of 6 first premiums in England, and 4 in Canada. Imported by John Craig & Bro., Elmhurst, Burnhamthorpe, Ontario.

More Thoroughbred Cattle for Canada.

A consignment of thoroughbred cattle has arrived from Liverpool in Nova Scotia, from Mr. Fleming, of Strathaven, whose Ayrshires were liked so well that breed, including bulls, cows and heifers. Mr. Fleming says he has made a selection just to suit the Nova Scotia taste. Mr. Brobner, the manager of Her Majesty's Norfolk Farm, near Windsor, has selected for us two Devon heifers from the Royal herd, also a number of Berkshire pigs of the Windsor strain, and at last writing he was endeavoring to obtain a few Southdown rams really worth sending. Mr. Cole, of Cirencester, had selected five Cotswold rams from one of the largest and finest Cotswold flocks on the Cotswold Hills. The Earl of Ellesmere's manager has set aside three splendid large sows of the finest of all strains of the Yorkshire breed, the same as the young ones that excited so much admiration last year. One of the principal features of the importation will be the short-horns. These were to be selected by Mr. Thornton, of Princess-street, Hanover Square, and as authority was given him (if necessary to secure really good animals) to reach a higher average price than was paid last year, there is no doubt but will be at least eight short-horns in the importation—four bulls and four cows. On arrival at Halifax the cattle will be conveyed at once to Truro, kept there to the time of the Provincial Exhibition,

According to a published statement, the potato crop of Maine this year probably reaches 2,500,000 bushels, worth a million of dollars. In Aroostook county some 300,000 to 500,000 bushels will be converted into starch. Larger quantities are also shipped to Bangor for exportation. In Aroostook, the farmers get about 30 cents per bushel, while at Bangor, the great potato mart of the State, the price ranges from 50 to 60 cents.

The *Scientific Farmer* says:—Irrigation of many a dry meadow and cropped field, last year, would have doubled the yield. On your farm, reader, has there not been a mountain brook running by unused, a body of water on higher ground, not far from the suffering crops, which might have been utilized?—This is the time of year to project schemes of irrigation. And remember that it is a profitable enterprise wherever crops suffer from droughts. In some countries water is carried long distances for this purpose.

CLAWSON WHEAT.—The *Agriculturist* contradicts the report unfavorable to this variety of wheat which has been quite current in certain quarters. It says:—"It has been ascertained that the injurious report originated with a party who had other kinds of wheat to sell, and who wished to injure the popularity of the Clawson wheat. Those of our readers who have sown this wheat need not be disturbed about it. The numerous favorable statements which the report has called out show that the Clawson wheat is just as good a wheat in the Western States as it is in New York, where in some localities it is almost the only sown."