

## Manitoba Dairy Association.

The annual meeting of the above association was held in Winnipeg on Wednesday, Feb. 19. John Hettle, president, in the chair.

The following report of the directors was read and adopted:

Your directors have reason for great satisfaction with the progress of dairying in this province during the past year. The number of inquiries coming in from all quarters during the year 1894 showed that the farming community have at last become fully alive to the importance of dairying as a branch of mixed farming, and in the early part of 1895 your president and secretary were being continually called to give information either by personal visits or by correspondence to those who proposed to embark on some form of dairy enterprise. In a good many cases the advice given was in favor of delay. Too few cows, lack of funds, scattering settlement were the objections offered against too precipitate action in starting dairy factories, and this counsel was more than justified by the events. Low prices in markets glutted by overproduction have very badly discouraged a good few factories, which, in spite of difficulties, were eager to make a beginning. But if prices were low for factory produce, home dairy butter was much worse and almost unsalable at any terms. The prospect for the future is that while factory butter is likely to do better on the market next year, home-made butter will get to be hardly saleable except in a very limited home market. It is specially important that factory patrons should keep this in mind, and instead of deserting the factory on account of unsatisfactory returns last year, go on to do everything in their power by increasing the number of their cows and cutting down cost of production to push the factory system to more gratifying results. Drawbacks at the start were inevitable even had prices ruled higher, but it is gratifying to find that in spite of low prices, a short season and limited production, the farming community are standing by their co-operative factories with the resolution to do all in their power to increase their production and turn out the best quality of goods.

The aid given to new factories, the appointment of a qualified dairy superintendent and the work of the dairy school are each and all the realization of the resolutions passed at previous meetings of this association, and towards the procuring of which its best energies have never been directed. Another feature of the progressing development of Manitoba dairying is the convention now being held to devise the best and most economical methods of marketing the products of our factories. The systematic sale on advanced business principles of our dairy produce is essential to the profitable expansion of our growing dairy industries, and your directors hope that the measures now being discussed by the dairy factory men will shortly lead to a happy issue.

In addition to the work done publicly and privately by this association an its directorate a bulletin has been published and freely circulated containing much valuable information, and your directors flatter themselves that no public institution has been able to show such an amount of good work done at so small a cost to the country. In every case where visits were made only expenses were paid, and the time spent has been given for nothing. The large attendance of skilled factory workers at the government dairy school is one of the most hopeful features of the situation. In a country like this where factories stood so far apart it is most important that every maker shall have the chance of comparing his own methods and opinions with those of his fellow-workers, and have the whole revised under the professional supervision of the government superintendent.

What is now urgently wanted is enough milk to turn their skill to profitable account.

Reference is also made in the report to the efforts of the provincial government to assist dairying.

Mr. Greig, who represented the dairy association on the board of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association, reported at considerable length.

The report of the secretary-treasurers showed the total receipts for the year to have been \$214.63; disbursements \$174.20; leaving a balance to the credit of the association of \$40.43.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers. Mr. Hettle was unanimously elected president; W. M. Champion, of Raeburn, was elected first vice-president and Richard Waugh for second vice-president; Miss E. Cora Hind was unanimously elected secretary-treasurer. G. H. Greig was appointed auditor and he was also elected as representative on the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition board. The scrutineers reported the election of the following gentlemen as directors. Robert Scott, S. J. Greenwood, D. Munroe, James Bray, Wm. Ryan, R. E. A. Leach, A. O. Allaire, D. W. McQuaig and J. S. Crerar.

Prof. Bure moved that the question of boiler inspection be referred to the legislative committee and that they request the legislature to lower the fees.

That the executive committee wait on the C.P.R., and request them to give lower rates on broken car lots, and also a reduction in freight rates equal to the rebate at present allowed.

At the evening session the proceedings were opened by the reading of an instructive paper on "Manitoba Dairying," contributed by J. A. Ruddick, and read by Richard Waugh. "The Importance of Dairying to the Prosperity of Manitoba," was a thoughtful essay by David Munroe, of Neepawa, who handled his subject in able and entertaining style. R. J. Philp read a valuable paper on "Drawbacks of the Western Factory System," in which he pointed out the existing obstacles and suggested means for their removal. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Brandon experimental farm, spoke of "Mistakes in Dairy Feeding," and gave valuable advice to those present on the subject of feeding and on other matters conducive to successful farming. His paper and the discuss on which followed interested the audience greatly. Mr. Champion, of Raeburn, read a short and witty paper, "Gleanings by the Wayside," which was a change from the purely business tone of the other contributions. "Cold Storage," was a practical paper by J. J. Philp, of the Winnipeg cold storage warehouse. Dr. Hinman delivered a short but pithy address on "Tuberculous Testing of Dairy Cows." His remarks were supplemented by a brief speech from Dr. Rutherford, who conveyed a valuable amount of information in a few well chosen words.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Manitoba government for their liberal assistance to the dairying industry and the establishment of the dairy commission and dairy school; to the C.P.R., for refrigerator car service, and to them and the N. P. & M. and the M. & N. W. railway companies for their generous response to the association's request for a reduction of the freight rates; to the city council for the use of the council chamber; and to those who had contributed papers.

## Live Stock in British Columbia

Cattle were scarcer in British Columbia last year than in 1894; this was due to the severe winter of three years ago, when many calves were killed off which would have come into the market this year. Another cause of the scarcity was the drain on the coast supply by the interior, owing to an un-

expected rush of settlers into the mining country of the province. In the present year cattle will be still scarcer, although there will be enough for home consumption until the spring, but prices will go much higher. In 1897 cattle will be freer unless another anticipated big rush into the interior takes place. However, in any event, it will be two or three years before cattle will be as plentiful as for the past three or four. British Columbia produces good stock, but the drawback in the past has been that ranchers have neglected to provide food for their cattle during the winter, trusting to mild seasons, and thus heavy losses were sustained. A silo is being experimented with in the Lower Fraser but has not been attempted in the interior. However, British Columbia cattle can be fattened up in the summer and kept sleek and in good condition through the winter on hay, rather improving in condition than otherwise. This fact is being brought home to the ranchers, and British Columbia cattle are now being sheltered and fed during the cold weather.

The import business is practically nil. In 1891 only 1000 head were imported from Alberta, and in 1895 only very few head were brought into the country. It was but seven years ago last August that the first cattle were brought from Alberta, and comparatively very few have been imported from there since.

Another ominous feature in this cattle business is that the ranges of British Columbia have been overstocked and the pasturage eaten off. If the province increased in population, new pasturages would have to be found, probably in the Peace River district, where there are large ranges, so that the province may be compelled to bring in cattle in future years.

The sheep business is discouraged in the province, there being an understanding among the ranchers to discourage sheep raising in the interior.

Although poultry and eggs bring such a large price in British Columbia the local raisers do not begin to supply the demand, chiefly because many chicken ranchers do not work on a scientific basis, and understand little about their business. Several successful poultry men, however, report that it is the most profitable branch of the mixed farm. The number of breeders of fancy stock is constantly increasing, and annual poultry shows are successfully held each year in the cities.

## Financial and Insurance Items

The sixth annual meeting of the Manitoba Assurance Co. was held in Winnipeg recently. The directors, amongst other things, called attention to the company's great progress during the past year, the net premium being 47 per cent in excess of that of 1894, which latter was 20 per cent. in excess of 1893. The net fire losses paid, after deducting re-assurances, amounted to \$11,000. The amount of business in force is about two millions. During the past year the British North American Fire Insurance Company having retired from active business, its current business was assumed by the Manitoba. The new board of directors consist of R. H. Agur, president, H. H. Beck, vice-president, and Messrs. John Russell, A. M. Patton and H. S. Crotty.

City clerk Blevins, of Toronto, is preparing to send to the council of every city, town and village in Ontario copies of a draft bill now before the legislature to allow municipalities to establish their own fire insurance bureaux. There will also be sent pamphlets containing full information regarding the matter, as gathered by Ald. Lamb, father of the scheme, and municipalities will be asked to pass resolutions endorsing it and urge their representatives in the legislature to support the bill when voted upon.