

through the lecture feature how these results are obtained.

Just as a dangerous surgical operation is often necessary to a healthy continuance of life, so is a radical change necessary for the healthy growth of the Winter Fair. Unlike the surgical operation, which if unsuccessful means death, in the case of the Winter Fair the change simply involves an experiment, which if unsuccessful is at least not harmful, and can be easily rectified by a triumphant return to Guelph. Then we contend that should the change prove a success, it would also prove of ultimate good to the O. A. C. as well. It would be but a run of a couple of hours or less from Guelph, with excellent train service, and the students might make more use of the information obtainable,

since it would be a little harder to gather than at present. Then, perhaps, a trophy might be arranged for, of equal fame to the one so recently won for the O. A. C. by her student judging team at Chicago.

To sum up, we can have a Winter Fair, or Ontario International, of splendid proportions and international reputation, to replace the present Winter Fair as it is to-day. We would have the new fair held in quarters where the viewing of the exhibits would be a pleasure; where ample judging accommodation could be provided; where lectures (in a new auditorium) could be listened to in comfort; where the quantity as well as the quality of the exhibits would be on a par with those at the Chicago International; where a farmer could see as much inside one enclosure as could be accommodated in

four or five such poorly-lighted, abominably-ventilated buildings as are at present at the fair's disposal. All these arguments, together with the advantage of a more central location, convenience to hotels as well as proximity to the camping ground of the buyers of the Canadian markets, are in favor of the change advocated.

Let us, Mr. Editor, have a thorough discussion, from which may spring up the enthusiasm, the co-operation, the esprit de corps necessary to enable the management of such an undertaking to feel that they have the strength of the great farming community of the United Province at their backs.

R. E. GUNN.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Eastern Dairymen's Convention, at Picton, Prince Edward Co.

"There are over 201,000 farmers in Canada sending milk to cheese factories and creameries. There are, in addition, thousands of farmers who send milk to cities, besides cheesemakers, butter-makers, dairy instructors, proprietors of factories and creameries, buyers and exporters. It is a safe estimate that there are 225,000 people in Canada directly interested in dairying, and that in Ontario alone there are \$175,000,000 invested in cows, lands, factories, apparatus, etc., used for dairying purposes, showing conclusively that the dairy is one of the most important industries of Canada."

This foreword, from the programme of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's 31st annual convention, conveys but a slight idea of the immense value of the dairying business as one of the leading basic industries of the Dominion.

The convention this year was held last week, January 8th, 9th and 10th, in the charming town of Picton, county town of the level peninsular county of Prince Edward, noted for its excellent farms, prosperous farmers, flourishing dairy industry, extensive vegetable canneries, and profitable orchards—truly a stable basis of agricultural prosperity. Though not a very large county in superficial area, its output of cheese bulks up to a value above the half-million-dollar mark, while the enterprise of its dairymen is attested by the fact that, out of a total of 36 factories in Eastern Ontario equipped with cool-curing rooms, Prince Edward County boasts 17. Likewise, it leads in the canning industry, with a total of some dozen factories. Though a little out of the way to reach, Picton was an ideal place for the dairymen's convention, which proved a rousing success—in the opinion of many, the best ever held by the Association. The town is of the right size, and the convention, being the event of the week, drew immense crowds. The forenoon and afternoon sessions were held in a local assembly-room called the Parish Hall, with a capacity of some four or five hundred, and at every session but the opening forenoon, standing space was at a premium. The evening sessions were held in the Methodist Church, which seats some 1,200. It was packed both evenings, all standing room being occupied, and hundreds turned away from the doors before the meetings commenced. For this, the local and outside musical talent, the local reception committee, the local press, and the energetic treasurer, J. R. Anderson, deserve considerable credit. In fact, the Town of Picton and the County of Prince Edward did themselves proud. The most refreshing incident of all to one acquainted with the chronic difficulty of securing attendances for agricultural meetings, was the thanks expressed to the Dairymen's Association for the free entertainment provided. Thus is agriculture being popularized to-day.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

President John R. Dargavel, M. L. A., of Elgin, Ont., opened his presidential address with a complimentary reference to Hon. Senator Derbyshire, ex-president of the Association; mentioned the progress of the dairy industry in Prince Edward County, and expressed the opinion that in no way could a dairyman close up his year's business better than by attending meetings of this kind, and learning, through the experience of others, of the mistakes he has made; nor could he commence the new year better than by attending the convention, and, through interchange of ideas and experience, laying the foundation for a successful business in 1908.

The salient features of the address we quote as follows:

CONTRACTION OF EXPORTS.

"We regret to say that the dairy season of 1907, as far as the export movement is concerned, has been disappointing, the exports of both butter and cheese showing a marked falling off from those of last year, as well as being considerably short of the average of the past few seasons. The aggregate value of Canadian cheese and butter exports for 1907 will be, in round numbers, about \$23,000,000, against \$29,000,000 for 1906.

"The small make of cheese this past year, compared with previous years, was, no doubt, due to the very late spring and the poor pasturage during the season. Throughout all of Eastern Ontario the season was very backward, owing to the continued cold weather, which retarded the growth of grass. Towards the close of the season the make was also reduced by the cold, wet weather, coupled with the shortage and high prices of food, which is used, at this time, to keep up the flow of milk. Feed was so scarce that many farmers sold some of their stock at a great sacrifice. In our opinion, this state of things could have been remedied.

"Through the Dairy and Cold-storage Commissioner's Branch of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, we have been able to get better carrying facilities, and our cheese have, in consequence, reached their destination in better condition. This, together with the improvement of quality and the shortage of make, has kept the average price of our goods, for the season of 1907, in excess of the previous year.

"The improvement of quality has been brought about by the untiring energies of our chief instructor and sanitary inspector, G. G. Publow, who, with 24 competent men under him, has kept a close surveillance over the sanitary production of the raw material and its skillful manufacture into cheese.

"Among the new lines of dairy work recently inaugurated, was the holding of special dairy meetings in each of the districts represented by the various directors on our board. About twenty of these were held in the months of November and December. The meetings were generally well attended, and the results have been such as to warrant a continuance of this means of carrying information to the patrons in districts that do not come so directly under the influence of these large conventions.

"Another matter which has contributed in a large measure to the improvement in quality of our goods has been the fact that the Government took upon itself the entire cost of instruction and inspection, and, in so doing, saved for the dairymen of Eastern Ontario about \$15,000, and made it possible for our inspectors to reach a large number of poor factories which heretofore had escaped inspection and instruction.

"All these things have combined to make our work of use to the dairymen of the eastern part of this Province, but I am sure that I voice the opinion of each of the directors of this association when I say that, were it not for the liberality of the Department of Agriculture for Ontario, of which the Hon. Nelson Monteith is Minister, this educational work could not be carried on. We appreciate the aid he has given us, and, whilst he has looked well after the varied interests of agriculturists, as a whole, we are pleased to know that the dairy industry of Canada, which takes rank among those of most importance, has not suffered at his hands.

"In conclusion, I am going to predict that, with the short make of this past season, with the markets bare, and with the improved quality, we can fairly hope for increased prices this coming season."

A BREEZE FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT.

Ex-President Dan Derbyshire, or, to give the new title, Hon. Senator Derbyshire, filled out a share of the opening session with a speech in the old, familiar strain, commencing by congratulating the president on the marked ability he had shown in promoting dairy interests, not only officially, but in the Provincial Legislature, and, before concluding, finding words of adulation for both Dominion and Provincial Departments of

Agriculture, as well as all the other authorities whom it is considered good policy to stroke according to the lay of the hair. In the course of his speech he mentioned that the \$60,000,000 less money we got for cheese this year than we should have got, went a long way to account for the financial stringency. The season had been untoward and the spring late, but those farmers who had silage to feed their cows last May, and were, therefore, able to keep them stabled for a while, produced more milk in 1907 than the year before, and kept things going at high tide. We must build more silos, and by every means in our power guard against the conditions that prevailed in 1907. There are many farmers watching the shadows of their cows going into the barn, and trying to fill them up with cold water. What they should do is to get the cows to eat more good food. Then, we want better factories in some sections, but the greatest lack is enthusiastic, educated dairymen. If we only had a bright, wide-awake, progressive dairyman in every home, who would do his part on the farm, visit the factory to see how things were going there, provide the maker with a good factory, and see that he was paid enough so that he might feel in his heart that he was compensated for his labor, that he, too, might catch the spirit of enthusiasm! There are so many patrons who sit around the house, and are not sure where they'll send their milk next year. They want to see if they can't get their milk drawn for nothing to a factory four and a half miles down the road. Such a patron should get to know that he belongs to a certain factory, and stay with it. We must take care of the cattle, and, if pasture is short, help it out with something else. Many patrons sit down, helpless, if it doesn't rain whenever the pastures get short. We must take hold of this feed question and study it the coming year. If we make the dairy output worth \$10,000,000 more in 1908 than it has ever been worth before, there will be no talk of hard times.

THE FARMER MUST BECOME MORE OF A MANAGER.

Ontario is going to be the manufacturing center of the Dominion, said W. C. Coe, of London. The Americans are going to come over here—in fact, they are coming—and start factories. Canada is bound to grow. We have a good foundation in our country and our people, and we're just starting out to develop. He threw out the suggestion that farmers might use their heads more and leave more of the actual work to others. This idea was followed up by President Dargavel, himself a dairy farmer, who expressed the opinion that a farmer with 200 or 300 acres of land might well afford to give almost his entire attention to the management of his business, employing others to do the work. The man who is working too hard hasn't the energy left to think.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

About forty years ago (1867) the first Dairymen's Association was organized at Ingersoll, and was known as the Canadian Dairymen's Association, said Secretary R. G. Murphy, in presenting his annual report for 1907. This association held all its meetings in the west (mostly at Ingersoll), and after ten years of successful work it was found necessary to divide the Province into two parts and have two associations, one called the Eastern and one the Western, Yonge St., Toronto, being the dividing line. The first annual convention for the eastern part was held at Belleville, in February, 1878. To-day, on the occasion of our thirty-first annual convention, a comparison of the dairy exports shows that they have increased till they now are five times what they were then. The early work of the association was devoted almost exclusively to educating the cheesemaker, but since the establishment of the Eastern Dairy School, the patron is being instructed regarding the proper selection of a dairy herd, the proper feeding of his cows, their proper care and the proper care of milk. The association has been unusually active during 1907. The sanitary condition of the various cheese and butter factories, as well as the surroundings at the farm, were dealt with, and for the first time the instructors were made sanitary inspectors. The results of their work can be plainly seen all over the eastern section.

The association is now working under the new constitution and by-laws approved by the last annual convention, and later sanctioned by the Minister of Agri-