

The labors of the dairyman, for the past year, have been abundantly rewarded; a ready and satisfactory market for his product has been found, and a more than full average, both in yield and price, has been obtained, and the year closes with light stocks in both the productive and consumptive markets of the world. The quality has also been much improved, and the question may very naturally be asked, How much of this improvement in quality is due to the influence of, and knowledge disseminated through, this Association? I leave the factory man to answer the question, satisfied in my own mind, what his convictions are, believing that his desire would be that every patron connected with his factory should come more directly within its influence.

The county of Oxford has the honor of being the pioneer county, in the dairy of Canada. It was here that the business first became developed as a speciality, and it was here that the factory system was first introduced from our American neighbors, and the advantage of the application of associated labor bids fair to revolutionize the old dairy system. Much has been accomplished in a very short time, and the energy and skill that is being brought to bear upon its proper development may almost be taken as a certain guarantee of success.

We meet on this occasion to talk over dairy matters, to give the experience of the past, to deliberate and advise for the future, and there is probably no subject relating to farming that needs more thorough investigation, or more close attention than the dairy. Much has been said, and much has been written on the subject, yet much remains to be done before our dairy products shall take rank as first-class articles in the markets of the world. The production of good cheese and butter is no more costly or laborious than that of poorer articles. All that is needed to produce an abundant supply of the best products, is knowledge, tact, and well-directed industry. Dairy productions are now becoming of great pecuniary value in our country. Our stake in these articles is now so great, the amount of capital and labor invested in cows, pasture, and meadow is so large that we cannot afford to be ignorant or careless with respect to anything by which the annual product can be augmented or the quality improved. It is not becoming in me, with my superficial knowledge of the details of dairy management, to criticise as with an air of authority; but as it is admitted that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," so would I impress upon dairymen that the same eternal vigilance is just as necessary to insure the successful and profitable management of a dairy. I have said I am not a practical dairyman: yet at the same time my business connection with those who handle and control large amounts of dairy produce give me a very good opportunity of knowing the value and estimation in which many of the cheese factories of our country are rated at in the market to which we must look for the consumption of our surplus production, and while many of our factories will compare very favorably with the best American ones, far too many are below, in quality, what they ought to be. This inferiority, if not remedied, must eventually tell against them, as more