

demands for the more perishable kinds of food are constantly being made upon the surrounding country ; and so the cheese and butter lands are constantly being pushed farther back. This begins to cut sharply into the butter and cheese interest of the State.

Then there are other causes which are operating more or less all over the State—a change from the dairy to sheep or stock-growing, or some other kinds of farming that are less exacting in time and attention ; and this applies in a measure to other States, and among farmers who thoughtlessly rushed into the dairy when prices were high, and were disappointed in not realizing a fortune every year from the business. It will be observed that for six or eight years past the surplus of dairy products in the United States has only been about 60,000,000 pounds of cheese, and no butter of any importance to spare from home consumption. The increased product of both butter and cheese, from year to year, has gone into consumption among our own people ; and hence, the fears that dairying would be overdone has not been realized.

THE SITUATION.

What, then, is the situation to-day ! The emigration to the United States is largely of a cheese-eating people ; cheese is becoming more and more a necessity among our native population ; the large capital required for the dairy business prevents many from entering upon it ; the comparatively limited extent of land adapted to the dairy in soil, water and climate—all seem to argue a sound, healthy condition of dairying as a business at last year's rates of compensation, with the prospect of an advance rather than a decline in prices. As to exports, the gradual advance of the laborer's wages in England must result in a larger consumption of cheese, and in a larger demand from America, coupled with better prices, if we can furnish a sound, good-flavored article to suit the palate of consumers. The low prices in 1871 were due in a great measure to imperfect cheese—cheese injured in the curing and in the shipping, and thrown into the market in large quantities during hot weather, requiring forced sales to save from heavy losses.

I hope to point out presently some of the faults of American dairy practice, and the method by which the business may be made more remunerative than it is ; and first as to the