ready to redeem," but the government refuses to redeem. Individuals are redeeming, but not the government.

Mr. J. W. Sanders — I wish to say that that the government does redeem. He acknowledges that individuals do. Now the government has business to perform. If it has anything to sell, they will redeem and always have redeemed, and that is all we want. We do not want any other redemption. Now, it is folly to talk about redeeming in gold. I had this morning a trade dollar in my pocket. It is a dollar. It is worth more than a dollar. Here I have got a dollar in two half dollars. Everybody says that is a dollar. Why? Because the government has stamped that as a dollar. Have they stamped the trade dollar? Not at all. They simply guaranty it contains so many grains of silver, and it does actually contain seven and a half grains more than the other dollar, but here at the bank they will not take it. They don't want it. Why? It is not a dollar. Why? It is not stamped, yet is worth more in silver. I redeem just that kind of stuff, too. I am appointed a redeemer, and I not only redeem silver, but I redeem greenbacks, and so does the government. The government has declared that they will take this for any kind of dues. They have declared they will take the paper. What have they declared about the gold? They will take gold, too, if anybody wants to pay it. Gold, silver and greenbacks are all redeemable, not only by individuals, but by the government.

THE NATURAL ADVANTAGES OF DAIRYING IN WISCONSIN.

BY HIRAM SMITH, OF SHEBOYGAN.

The thinking portion of the agricultural classes, the world over, was never more thoroughly exercised than at the present time. Questions that seem to involve the success or failure of thousands of families now engaged in some one of the particular branches of agriculture are now being investigated, with greater scrutiny and intelligence than ever before. Old enterprises that were profitable under a certain condition of circumstances have been abandoned, and new enterprises, that are in harmony with changed
conditions engaged in. No one is so blind as not to see, that it would be folly to organize a stage company to run four horse coaches, from Oshkosh to Milwaukee, while at one time it was beneficial and profitable. In an early day, when Wisconsin and the northwest had a rich virgin soil, a mixed system of farming was advocated and practiced as the best system, because it was argued that if one crop failed, there were others to fall back upon. While this theory sounds plausible and at one time could be practiced safely, when the country was rapidly filling up with emigrants and there was a demand for everything a farm could produce, it was safe for a pioneer farmer to plant fifty or a hundred acres of potatoes, relying on the next years emigrants to take them at fair prices. But such an enterprise at this time would depend for its success upon the failure of the crop in other sections, a chance too hazardous to be entertained. Before lines of transportation were opened, and products could not be exchanged, except at the cost of ruinous freight bills, almost everything useful could be sold. But at this time the conditions are all changed, the home demand for many products is limited and unstable, and agriculturists must make selections of some leading staple, for which there is a good demand and an active market. The intelligent farmer, as he surveys the field, sees the productions of beef and the raising of wool in Texas, Kansas and the far west, to much greater profit than in Wisconsin, and he sees at a glance that land in this section would not be worth $20 per acre on which to raise beef or wool, for large flocks and herds can be, and are kept in the far west, beyond the rigors of winter to a great extent, on land that cost nothing, and on which no tax is paid, and no man here can compete against such vast odds. The prairies of Illinois, Iowa, and other western states, with their natural adaptations to the production of corn, practically settle the question of pork raising, and take possession of that branch of agriculture. The immense wheat fields of Minnesota and along the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, where lands can be had for a settlement upon them, but little capital is required to raise wheat, barns are not a necessity and fences are often a rarity, and the idea of keeping up the fertility of the soil, has not yet asserted itself as some day it most assuredly will. But viewing things as we now find them, Wisconsin farmers are practically excluded from engaging in the produc-
tions of beef, wool, pork or wheat, four of the principal staple productions that farmers have hitherto relied upon to raise money. Therefore the everlasting question that interests and agitates all people, what had we better do? is now pressing for answer, with a persistency that will not down at our bidding, and must be met, investigated and decided upon, wisely or unwisely, according to the amount of intelligence we are able to bring to our aid.

Happily through the exertions, enterprise and foresight of a small number of men, who a few years ago were able to read the signs of the times, and have by repeated experiments demonstrated that nearly all portions of Wisconsin were admirably adapted to the profitable pursuit of the dairy enterprise, these experiments were pushed in opposition to the generally expressed opinion of the Wiseacre, that Wisconsin was not a dairy state. Old dairymen from the east, based their opinions that ours was not a dairy country in consequence of the rarity of flowing springs and running streams, but these opinions have been blown to the winds by the introduction of wind mills, that furnishe the best and purest stock water ever used anywhere, and some of the most advanced dairymen now fence off their cattle in winter, from having access to flowing springs and running streams, and the ineventable mud that injures the feet, chills the body, and uselesslly absorbs valuable fertilizers. The climate and soil of our state is proverbial for producing large crops of suitable feed in great perfection of quality. The cooling breezes from border and inland lakes furnish an atmosphere nearer perfection than almost any other locality, our close proximity to the largest corn fields in the world, with numerous railroads running thence from our doors, insures us against any probability of a scarcity of food for dairy stock. The many natural advantages and favorable circumstances coupled with the increasing knowledge obtained by the manufactures of butter and cheese, that give character to our products that are of great advantage to Wisconsin dairymen, the avidity with which the largest New York dealers strive to secure these products, is a sufficient demonstration of their excellence, and insures a ready sale at remunerative prices. All these facts have been slowly worked out by the sure process of successful experiment. In the light of the foregoing statements assuming them to be correct, what is the obvious interest of Wisconsin farmers? There are two systems of
farming open to our choice, and but two; one is to enter into com-
petition with the producers of beef, wool, pork or wheat, on their
low priced and no-priced lands of the west, with no margin of dif-
ference in our favor except the slight one of freight, and the
other system is to enter into competition with the producers of
dairy products on their high priced lands nearer the seaboard, with
only the slight difference of freight against us, which difference, is
rapidly disappearing under the sharp competition of the trunk lines
on through freight.

For the past years, cheese has been taken in car lots in ice cars
from Milwaukee to New York, at less rate than from most of the
dairy counties in the state of New York. I said we were free to
make a choice, which one of these systems we will engage in, and
unlike political contests, we always get what we choose, whereas in
political elections, we sometimes get better officers than those we
voted for. And here a very prominent question arises: What is the
real significance of our choice? If we ally ourselves with the pro-
ducers of the west, it is to a conglomeration of interest, with no
organization, no fraternal relations, no community of interest, no ad-
hesive power of combination, to protect themselves against the com-
bination of grain gamblers and speculators; no safe calculation can
be made of the probable receipts of such a system of farming. A crop
of grain may bring $1,500 this year, and $500 next; the great fluc-
tuations in the price of wheat, beef, and pork, make estimates but
mere guesses. Last August pork sold for ten cents, now four cents
per pound; last summer wheat sold for one dollar and eighty cents,
now one dollar and eight cents. Great variations in receipts are de-
moralizing in tendency; most families live up to their income and
in flush times, extravagance is easily acquired, and the failure of a
crop often brings pinching want, or worse, debt. There is always
a feverish anxiety about the result of a large grain crop, a few days of
wet weather at harvest time, often destroying the profits of a season.
The industrious boy that has worked hard and faithfully through the
year only to find that the failure of the crop, or the depreciation of the
price, has made his labor of no account, becomes discouraged and is
ready to leave the farm and run the hazard of a chance of success
in other departments. If on the other hand, Wisconsin farmers ally
themselves to the dairy fraternity, they find themselves working in
harmony with a class of men that produce the great bulk of dairy
products, from land worth from $100 to $150 per acre; and the business is so managed as to produce the interest on such investment. They also find a permanent and active organization with dairy boards of trade located at every important dairy centre, who receive at every season

MARKET REPORTS BY TELEGRAPH,

from all the commercial centres, the amounts shipped to New York and the price obtained, the amount exported, and the price paid by consumers, with comparative reports of the same week's business, the previous year, which is a valuable addition to market reports, and enables a person to form a comprehensive knowledge of the wholesale situation at a glance. The practical effect produced by such reports is, that if there are heavy shipments one week, there will be comparatively light ones the next. Especially, if the market weakens under the supply. There are channels of communication running through all the dairy literature of the country, giving reports of the supply and demand and comparative statements of exports and consumption, at home and abroad. Fortified with this knowledge, the intelligent dairyman need never rush to market blindly. The stability of the market for

GOOD DAIRY PRODUCTS

enables a person to estimate the receipts from a certain number of cows, with great accuracy. For the past twelve years it has not varied from year to year to exceed two dollars per cow. Cheese for the past season, if measured by the price of gold, is about as high as it ever was, and measured by many of the necessaries of life, it is much higher. It is worth in New York city to-day 13½ cents in gold. One pound of cheese will buy two yards of prints or five pounds of nails; one pound of cheese buys one and a quarter pounds of best sugar; 82 pounds of cheese pays for one barrel of mess pork; 100 pounds of cheese will buy in New York city three barrels of family flour, or two barrels of double extra. So, that measured by most articles of commerce, cheese is as high as it ever was, or ought to be. Many farmers have the pig-headed notion that they ought to get one dollar per 100 pounds of milk, but it is most decidedly a wrong idea, for if one dollar per 100 pounds of milk in the interior of the country is paid, it brings the cheese so high in
price when it reaches market, as to check consumption and cause a glut in the market, the worst calamity that can befall the dairy interests; and besides, eighty cents per 100 pounds, buys more of the staple commodities to-day, than one dollar would three or five years ago. It would be much more to the vital and lasting interest of dairymen to learn by improved methods of breeding, feeding and care of cows, to produce milk at a greater profit for eighty cents per 100 pounds, than to pursue the old miserly starved method of producing milk at one dollar per 100 pounds.

A few years ago, soon after the organization of our state dairy association, the question was under discussion, of how to get cows into the stable to the best advantage. Some advocated a boy on horse-back, some a shepherd dog. As the question was about to be dropped, an old man got up, and in uncouth manner with stammering speech said it was easy enough to get cows into the stable if you began at the right end of the cow. He said two quarts of bran, put where you wanted the cow to go, was worth more than a horse, boy and dog. Here was a whole sermon in an epigram, and has been worth more to me than all the money I have spent in attending dairy conventions, and now I no more think of driving my cows into the stable with the aid of dogs and clubs, than I would of driving the family to dinner in the same manner.

The advantages are, the bran is more than paid for by the increased milk, the cows take their places free from excitement or fear, giving better milk and more of it for that reason.

The milker is also in better condition, being at peace with cows and all the world; quiet reigns supreme.

At a subsequent meeting the question was under discussion of how best to dispose of our cull cows in the fall; cows which by reason of age or other cause were unsuitable to winter. Some advocated that they be milked until foddering time and then killed; sell the hide and cook the carcass and preserve it for feed for poultry, that the cost of fattening in cold weather was more than the beef would bring. Others advocated turning such cows dry in August and they would fatten during the fall, so as to sell for
beef, overlooking the fact that the milk was worth more than the beef. But one man having more light and knowledge than the rest of us, said that if you would commence the first of August to feed such cows eight quarts of wheat middlings per day, that the increased milk would more than pay for the middlings, and at the same time the cow would take on flesh, so that by the middle of November her increased worth for beef was equal to the cost of the feed; so that instead of sustaining a loss on such cows, by an intelligent treatment, they become the instrument of securing double price for the extra feed furnished; a fact that I have repeatedly demonstrated to be literally true, with the additional advantage of frequently finding out that some cows called "culls" proved, with this additional feed to be very valuable, and were kept for years after. So well have I become convinced of the

**PROFIT OF FEEDING GROUND FEED**

from August on through the fall, that for the past two years I call all my cows, culls in August, and feed the middlings to all of them. If this is liberally done, it will be extremely difficult to find a "cull cow" in November, and under this system of feeding, some cows have protested being classed as culls, by giving forty pounds of milk per day (in the best of the season) until after they were nineteen years old.

As you will perceive, my remarks have been directed to the encouragement of the manufacture of cheese, because I see in such manufacture, a safe and profitable return for the investment. And yet the production of cheese is the smallest half of the dairy products in our state.

The value of the butter made in the state is greatly in excess of the amount of cheese exported. I am well aware of the sensitiveness of butter makers, and yet facts, and the best interest of the dairy enterprise, demand plain speech. The largest butter buyers tell me that not more than one in fifty of the

**BUTTER MAKERS OF WISCONSIN**

do make butter that will sell after it is thirty days old for more, than ten cents per pound. Over 1,500 tubs of butter that was bought in Sheboygan county the past summer, at fourteen and sixteen cents per pound (in trade) is now in New York begging buyers at
ten cents per pound, a net loss to the dealers of over $10,000 in one year. A few weeks ago a large butter dealer in Chicago, told me that he had just bought 80,000 pounds of butter at eight cents per pound. Most farmers in Wisconsin higgle and complain of the state, county and town taxes. And yet the annual needless loss on low priced butter in our state is greater than all these taxes combined, aside from the severe loss to our pockets. This condition of things is a standing disgrace to our intelligence. It won't do for a man to say, his wife makes as good butter as anybody; or for a lady to say she can make better butter than any man! That kind of speech is played out, and we are confronted with such market reports as the following:

**NEW YORK, February 7th.**

State Dairies, selected invoices ........................................ 25@26c.
Western Dairy, packed fine fall ........................................ 23@25c.
Western Dairy, fair to good ........................................... 9@10c.
State and Western Creamery ........................................... 38@40c.

Where we deceive ourselves is in the small amount of butter kept out for family use; if eaten the week it is churned, may pass for good, but kept three weeks would, or might be unfit for the table.

I blame no one personally for this, for we have all been educated wrong in the art and philosophy of raising cream. Great discoveries have been made in the past few years that greatly simplify the art of making butter, by working in harmony with the laws that govern the process. Some years ago experiments were made by setting milk in deep pails holding forty pounds of milk, in pools of cold water. While this system makes

**MOST EXCELLENT BUTTER**

yet it is difficult and expensive in warm weather to keep the water cold enough to secure all the cream. Another plan, as practiced by Mr. Harden, of Kentucky, is to put deep cans of milk in a refrigerator, with ice water dropping on the cans. The main difficulty with both of these plans is, it takes from 36 to 48 hours to raise the cream. A combination of these two plans with the important addition of submerging the milk in ice water, was discovered a little over a year ago by Wm. Cooley, of Vermont, by which method cream can all be raised in eight hours, requiring but one set of cans, or only can room for one milking. There is a great saving in labor
and expense. It requires no special milk room; no fire is needed; the tank containing two, three or five cans, can stand in the wood-house or any convenient place; the milk is water sealed; no unpleasant odors, dust or flies, can reach it. The rules are simple, easily learned and understood, and if the water in the tank holding the cans is reduced to $45^\circ$, the result is as certain as sun rise that all the cream is separated from the milk in its greatest perfection between milkings. This system of making butter is well adapted to large or small butter makers. After having practiced this plan last spring and all the present winter, I can unhesitatingly say that it saves more than half of the labor, and produces better results than I have ever before obtained.

Having traced the details of manufacturing butter and cheese, and presented some of the reasons which are deemed sufficient why Wisconsin farmers may safely engage in that enterprise, I will leave its further consideration to your good sense and judgment, assuring you that it becomes a deeply interesting subject to those engaged in it. It is prolific in variety of ideas for investigation, experiment and improvement. It induces thought, reading and comparison of views—requisites essential to intellectual growth. It furnishes steady and profitable employment to the family, making them more contented with their lot in life, better citizens and better men and women.

Mr. K. M. Hutchinson — This completes our programme, but I understand the secretary has an apology for one paper that has not been read. [Cries of read the apology.]

Mr. R. D. Torrey — It has been announced that George W. Peck, editor of the La Crosse Sun, was to furnish at this meeting, a humorous paper. It was not intended for anything else than to provoke laughter, as this is his "stronghold," as the boys say. This morning, on going to the post-office, I received a letter from him which is to be published, as I understand, in his paper of this week. He also requested it to be read here as an excuse for not being present.