

DISCUSSION.

Prof. Henry: What varieties of clover grow in northern Wisconsin?

Mr. Reitbrock: The Medium, I think, is most grown. Alsike is grown on the softer soils and White Clover is grown pretty nearly everywhere. Some people have said that it was indigenous to the soil, but I don't think it is. I think it came there some other way, and then got scattered, and it keeps on growing. My experience extends over a period of about twenty-five years. In one section of territory, that I am more particularly acquainted with, I have heard it said by people living there now that it always grew there, that it came naturally, but the fact is I brought a bushel of White Clover seed there and gave it to a farmer settled there and requested him to scatter a little here and there, wherever he found a patch of bare ground, and the sheep and cows, I think did the rest.

Mr. Gurler: I have hunted up in northern Michigan, just over the Wisconsin line, for twenty-one seasons, and it has been a great surprise to me to see how clover thrives up there. I have expressed many times a wish that I could get a stand of red clover and get it to thrive as well in northern Illinois as it does in northern Wisconsin.

Prof. Henry: You are right.

Mr. Cobb: We have a gentleman down in our country and he has been up in that country, and he says the farmers of Illinois don't know a thing about clover or blue grass either.

Mr. Goodrich: Do cows produce an abundance of milk during the year up there where the timber is thick, up in the woods, up above Athens, for instance?

Mr. Rietbrock: If they get the feed. In its natural state the timber growth is so extensive that there is little grass for the cattle, but as the timber is cleared off and an opportunity given for the grass to come in, of course they get an abundance of feed.

Mr. Goodrich: But are there any flies there, that is what I want to get at?

Mr. Rietbrock: Certainly there are some flies there, but I don't think the flies are as savage as I have known them in the southern part of the state, because the evenings are generally a little cooler and there is a rest from the flies and the mosquitoes after it cools down in the evening:

Mr. Goodrich: Then you think they are not as bad as they are in the southern part of the state?

Mr. Rietbrock: I don't know; a mosquito bite is pretty bad anywhere you get it.

Mr. Wheeler: I moved into northern Wisconsin something over thirty years ago. There was no grass at all in the woods. I bought me a cow and put her in the woods, thinking she would starve to death, but I had to milk that cow three times a day all summer, and she ran in the woods with no grain. She was fat as a hog. That's the way cattle do in northern Wisconsin.

Mr. Rietbrock: My impression is that the gentleman did not follow up that cow all day to see where she went into the little crooked paths and little openings to get the grass naturally growing there. She certainly did not get very fat nibbling the buds from the brush, or the moss from the ground that does not see the light of the sun. It is in the little paths that are open, any place that is open, there is an abundance of grass, providing there is not an over abundance of cattle to eat it. The open territory is limited.

Mr. Thorp: Why is it that we have earlier pastures in northern Wisconsin than in southern Wisconsin?

Mr. Rietbrock: I thought I made that proposition fairly clear. I have studied it out in this way: The soil is deep and is in connection with the water. The ground is covered the winter through with snow, and does not freeze so hard, and the plant roots do not suffer. They start to grow with greater vigor in the spring and your pasture comes thicker on that account. It is more hardy, too, there is more to it. Where your pasture is liable to die out in mid-summer, and your grasses have to come up anew, they are juicy and can't stand much and are easily nipped by the early frosts.

Prof. Henry: How long is the season in northern Wisconsin, in the vicinity of Wausau? A. Well, I should say that it

would be just about as long, no longer or shorter than in the vicinity of Milwaukee. I have been acquainted with those two cities and have been at all seasons of the year in both of those places for twenty-five years, and by that I judge it. They are about the same. There is no very great climatic difference noticeable, and in studying some of the climatic conditions years ago, I found the line of practical equal temperature running from near Milwaukee to Douglas county, in the northwest part of the states; so it would run from southeast to northwest.

Mr. Thorp: It may be that it will do somebody good if I sav something here. Where I live in northern Wisconsin we have a canning factory there, and they hire the farmers' land, pay him so much an acre, plowed, and the canning factory people do the rest. There was a gentleman lived near town and had a nice farm but he didn't like the idea of sowing peas on his land unless they would allow him to sow clover with the peas. They did not propose to do that at first, and he told them he would not take the customary ten dollars an acre for his land unless they would allow him to sow clover with the peas. They finally agreed to let him do it, and after the peas were sown he sowed clover seed on top and went over it with a harvester and when they cut those peas for the canning factory—they cut them green—and when those peas were taken off, that clover was green and in less than a week there was a good growth of clover on the ground and that man got from that piece of land that he had had ten dollars for the use of, two tons of clover hay besides. I don't know whether it would do for people in the southern part of the state where they have canning factories, whether they could get a catch of clover that way or not, but I know that in northern Wisconsin when we sow clover seed we expect to get clover and we never fail, no matter what time of year we sow the seed or with what crops. They cut those peas very early, and of course that took the crop off the ground and gave the clover a chance.

Mr. Rietbrock: Clover in northern Wisconsin is generally sowed in the spring, either with oats, or if the land is prepared in the fall and sown to wheat or rye, the clover is sowed in the

spring, but in either case after the harvesting of the crop, a good growth of clover is made for hay, following the cutting of the other crop.

THE WISCONSIN FEEDING STUFFS LAW, AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE FARMER.

Prof. W. A. Henry, Madison Wis.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

The substance of my address will be found in Bulletin 97, of which there are copies here and of which more can be secured from Madison.

The Wisconsin Feeding Stuffs Law I believe was drawn up by the Honorable Secretary of this Association, and was passed by the Legislature of 1901.

Now, why did our Secretary feel it necessary to have such a feeding stuffs law? As an editor, he knows what is going on all over the United States; he has followed the history of these laws as they have been passed and enforced in other states, and he knows that there is good work being done under them, and therefore that it would be a good thing for us to have.

Laws regulating the sale of high priced feeding stuffs have been enacted by the following states besides our own: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Chapter 377 of the Laws of 1901 as passed by our legislature covers the subject for Wisconsin. The substance of the law is as follows:

Section 1. The term "concentrated commercial feeding stuffs," as used in this act, shall include linseed meals, cotton seed meals, peameals, cocoanut meals, gluten meals, oil meals of all kinds, gluten feeds, maize feeds, starch feeds, sugar feeds, sucrene, hominy feeds, cerealine feeds, rice meals, oat feeds, corn and oat feeds, ground beef or fish scraps, mixed feeds of all kinds, also all condimental stock foods, patented and proprietary