

The sales that were reported the past year were as follows: Butter, two hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight pounds, \$34,008; cheese, four hundred and twenty-four thousand pounds, \$42,786; making the total sales for the first year's existence of the board some over \$100,000. Probably not over one-half of the sales made by the membership were reported. It is perfectly safe to estimate that if all the dairy products of the country were disposed of through the board that there would be a gain annually of \$50,000, that otherwise goes into the hands of speculators.

Sale day every other Wednesday.

W. H. MORRISON,  
*Secretary.*

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#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELGIN BOARD OF TRADE.

The year that has just closed has been one of prosperity to dairymen, as well as to those engaged in other pursuits, and a review of the transactions on the Elgin Board of Trade during the year 1881 shows a larger volume of business than was ever before done. The prices have been well maintained, and the products have been sold off closer than usual. Several booms were experienced during the year, of greater or less duration, but the steadiness with which prices were adhered to, and the general desire on the part of manufacturers to sell their goods when there were buyers present, added largely to the aggregates, and thus shows the general extent of the business. . . .

The year 1881 opened with a very much larger amount of cheese in the hands of factorymen than they held at the close, with prices rather lower for the season. At the first meeting in January sales of cheese were made at seven and one-half to eight cents, with a probable average of seven and three-quarter cents per pound.

The price of butter held steadily through the month at thirty-two cents, with light regular sales, apparently indicating that the demand was not very good. One reason for this may be found in the fact that so much fraudulent stuff was being put upon the market elsewhere that the sales of genuine butter were restricted.

Cheese took an upward tendency about the middle of the month, and so continued until the 10th of May, when prices again receded.

During a portion of that time cheese frequently sold at ten and eleven cents. Butter continued steady at thirty-two for a number of weeks, until April 19th, when it dropped to thirty, and then its course was downward until June 7th, when it sold at eighteen and one-half to nineteen. This was the lowest point reached by butter during the year. It then again advanced, slowly for a time, and then again rapidly, until December 13, when it reached forty-five cents, which was the highest price attained on the board for many years. After that date the price receded until the close of the year, when it rested at forty to forty-two cents.

There were no regular sales of cheese reported during the meetings held May 17th, May 24th, May 31st and June 7th. On the 14th of June, cheese sold at five to eight cents, and from that date it advanced in price until September 13, when 1,685 boxes were sold at twelve to twelve and one-half cents. This was the highest price reached by cheese during the year, with the exception of one sale of fifty boxes full creams, at thirteen cents, October 4th.

From the table published below it will be seen that the total transactions are far in excess of what they ever were before in any one year, and in number of boxes of cheese and aggregate value of butter and cheese are greatly in excess of the sales of the Utica, New York, for the year 1881, or of the Little Falls Boards for the same period. At the former the sales were two hundred and forty thousand four hundred and seventy-six boxes, aggregating fourteen million four hundred and forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty pounds, and sold for \$1,615,184.17. At Little Falls, the sales were two hundred and fifty-three thousand and twenty-five boxes, aggregating fifteen million one hundred and eighty-one thousand and five hundred pounds, and sold for \$1,653,766.34. It will be observed that the cheese sold on the Elgin Board exceeded either of the above in boxes, but fell short two to three millions of pounds.

The accompanying table shows the sales by months on the board:

MONTHS.	Box's cheese sold.	Pounds.	Av. price.	Pounds of butter sold.	Av. price.	Total sales
January .....	32,992	1,471,188	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	278,473	32	\$189,976.41
February .....	21,724	817,457	10	249,822	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	162,469.14
March .....	22,765	914,920	9 1-5	374,680	32 2-5	227,493.22
April .....	19,007	667,653	8 $\frac{1}{3}$	259,371	30	149,641.81
May .....	21,413	805,348	8	304,800	22 1-5	130,997.00
June .....	29,105	1,280,119	6 $\frac{1}{3}$	407,683	20	172,998.32
July .....	18,625	805,329	7	262,597	22	111,164.14
August .....	26,417	1,096,698	9	399,961	27	194,557.79
Sept-ember .....	24,082	872,448	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	266,297	33	198,947.28
October .....	25,037	961,086	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	379,307	34 $\frac{1}{4}$	239,427.40
November .....	12,844	480,622	9 1-5	264,559	37 2-5	143,049.75
December .....	33 673	1,254,657	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	430,079	42	289,877.78
Totals .....	287,664	11,327,525	9	3,868,629	30 $\frac{1}{3}$	\$2,219,600.04

By comparison we find that the average price of cheese through the year has been nine cents, and butter thirty and one-third cents. The highest price paid for cheese at Utica, New York, was thirteen and five-eighths cents; at Little Falls, thirteen cents; at Elgin, thirteen cents. In both cases the cheese was full cream. The lowest price paid at Utica was eight and one half cents; at Little Falls, seven; at Elgin, five; and the Elgin product was part skims, while the other were full creams. These comparisons are useful in that they show that while comparatively a small portion of Illinois is engaged in dairying, and that while a large portion of of the milk from that section is used as an article of food in its natural condition, Illinois holds a proud rank as a butter and cheese producing state.

COL. R. P. MCGLINCY,  
*Secretary.*