

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY DAIRY BOARD OF TRADE.

Organized, 1873. Sale days every Tuesday. Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

At a mass meeting of dairymen of Sheboygan and adjoining counties, held in the court house in the city of Sheboygan, Friday, March 31, 1882, the Sheboygan Falls Dairy Board of Trade and Plymouth Dairy Board of Trade were merged into one, and a new organization formed under the laws of the state, to be known as the Sheboygan County Dairy Board of Trade, with weekly meetings at Sheboygan Falls.

The officers are:

President — Enos Eastman, Plymouth.

Vice-President — Chester Hazen, Brandon.

Secretary — W. C. Thomas, Sheboygan Falls.

Treasurer — F. A. Streblov, Plymouth.

Directors — S. Hollensteiner, Chairman, Rhine; Carl Reich, Wilson; Hiram Smith, Sheboygan Falls.

The Sheboygan Falls Dairy Board of Trade was established in this village in 1873, with Hon. Hiram Smith as president and Hon. A. D. DeLand as secretary. The first sale day was held on Friday, May 22d of that year, when there were five factories represented, Hiram Smith offering fifty boxes, Seth Conover fifty, Pierce and Strong one hundred, Mather Bros. fifty and A. G. Dye sixty boxes, total, three hundred and ten boxes; one hundred and fifty of which were sold to Davis Bros. of Chicago at eleven and one-half cents. During the first two years of the existence of this board, most of the cheese was shipped to Chicago or New York on consignment, but the claims for "short weights," "off stock," etc. were so numerous that manufacturers here kicked severely against that method of doing business, and therefore established a system of selling their goods, to be paid for when delivered at the railroad station or dock, where, also, the weights were to be tested. Since that time the business has almost entirely been conducted on that principle, as there are from eight to fifteen buyers ready to buy each sale day, representing London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Chicago, New York, Boston, St. Louis, New Orleans and other southern

markets, and no cheese goes on commission, unless it is some poor and off stock.

Sheboygan county is peculiarly adapted to dairying pursuits. The abundance of water, and the numerous and excellent tracts of grass bank, have tended to point the attention of farmers in that direction, until the manufacture of cheese has become the all important feature in the agricultural achievements of the county. The first export of cheese from Sheboygan county occurred in the fall of 1858, and consisted of a lot of fifty-eight cheese; sold in Chicago by John J. Smith, who also established the first cheese factory in the county.

The dairy interests of Sheboygan county have been continually on the increase ever since the organization of this Dairy Board of Trade, and new factories have been erected every year; last year they numbered ninety-six in this county, and produced a total of about eight million pounds of cheese, which sold at an average of about eleven cents per pound; seven cents being the lowest and thirteen cents the highest price paid for Cheddars, and fourteen cents the highest paid for Young Americas here. The total value of Sheboygan county's cheese product last year, then, was about \$900,000. Besides the factories of this county, many factories from adjoining counties are represented on this board of trade, and their sales will swell the amount of money disbursed for cheese by banks in this county last year to about *one million dollars*.

The banks through which this business is done are: the Dairy-men's Bank and Falls Bank, Sheboygan Falls, Wis., the German Bank and Bank of Sheboygan, Sheboygan, Wis., and the Bank of Plymouth, Plymouth, Wis.

All the factories in the county made full cream cheese last year except four, and two of those made one vat of full cream cheese. This year, however, the present indications are that three to five more of the old full cream factories will commence making creamery butter and skim cheese.

W. C. THOMAS,
Secretary.