

The Dairy.

STATE DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

An Interesting and Profitable Convention Held at Spokane.

The quarterly meeting of the Washington State Dairymen's Association convened at Spokane April 9 at 10 a. m., and was called to order by Vice President D. C. Dilworth. Mayor Belt was introduced and delivered an address of welcome to the visiting dairymen.

Prof. Spillman in his usual happy manner replied.

The morning session was devoted to the reading and discussion of a paper on "Breeding Up the Dairy Herd," by the well-known Kittitas Jersey breeder, A. M. Stevens.

In the afternoon instructive addresses were delivered by Prof. Spillman and Dr. Nelson, both of Pullman. J. S. Smith followed with the paper which we present in this issue, after which Mrs. A. Reeves Ayres read an address which was well received. Her subject was "How Some Noted Herds are Handled in the East."

Prof. Spillman was one of the most active members of the convention, and his addresses, which were followed by the answering of questions by him, which were very interesting and full of valuable information.

In the evening a banquet was tendered the visitors by the local dairymen, and a very pleasant evening spent.

The following day the session was of but short duration. Prof. Fox read a paper, and general business was transacted, after which the convention adjourned.

RANCHE AND RANGE will give as space permits all the papers and addresses delivered at the convention.

Every pound of flesh lost will have to be made up again when the pastures supply food; but with growing stock this means often more than a loss of flesh; it means a loss of growth.

CARE OF THE DAIRY COW.

Address Delivered at the Convention of the Washington State Dairymen's Association.

BY JOHN S. SMITH.

The old saying that "cleanliness is next to godliness," certainly applies to the cow stable; and I am not sure that it ought not to be reversed and cleanliness come first.

It should be the dairyman's first object to keep everything around his stables clean. The health of his cows depends a good deal on a clean, well ventilated stable that can be kept dry.

The cow that is kept in this way, with a good clean bed, is in a fair way to make her owner money, if she is of any account as a milker. Some people seem to think that a cow to be healthy has to be out all the time, winter or summer. In fact I know men who keep their cows out all day, rain or shine, and I have wondered whether it was for the cow's health or to get out of cleaning the stables. If for the former, he makes a great mistake, as in cold weather a cow that has been in the barn over night has no business to be out all day in the yard, often to get chilled standing around, as there is very little chance for a cow to lie down in the snow or mud; and if he leaves them out to avoid cleaning the stable, he had better quit the dairy business at once, as it will only be a question of time before he has to. No such work will do in dairying and make a profit. That man has missed his calling in life, as no successful dairyman treats his cows in that way.

From one to two hours a day are all the cows should be out in winter, on fine days; and they will be better off if not out at all when it is storming. Every time the cows get cold it lessens their milk supply and takes so much more feed to warm them, thus making the milk cost more. To get the best results you must keep your cows comfortable and reasonably warm. I do not advocate close, hot stables; I do not think them good for the cows, as they will be very sensitive to the cold on coming out

of such a stable, and especially if they have to drink cold water. Do not give them ice water if it can be avoided. As most dairymen only water once a day, and the cows drink such a quantity of the cold water, it is bad for them. Take the chill off the water if possible; it will pay for the trouble in feed alone. It is a question whether to feed more than twice a day. I have tried feeding three or four times a day, but have finally come to the conclusion that it is better to feed twice, night and morning. When fed oftener the cows run too much to beef, and do not milk as well. One of the worst things that can happen to a dairy cow is getting too fat (unless it is getting too thin). We have lost some of our best cows by getting them too fat. When they were dry we fed them well so as to have them in fine condition when they came fresh. We lost several with milk fever; others that came through all right did not give near so much milk as they had been giving. Some that had been giving five and six gallons a day did not give a gallon, and had to go to the butcher as no good in the dairy, although they had immense udders and looked in the pink of condition.

Do not go to the other extreme either, and let your cows get too poor, or it will take all the grass season to get them into any kind of shape again, and you will lose at least half of their profit. Remember a cow is just a machine. If you do not take care of her she cannot last long nor do good work.

I think we will find this summer by the dairy produce that many of the cows are in bad shape, as I have seen more cows this season than ever before that will not pay for the expense of milking until they are put into condition to make their owners money.

One great trouble in this country is too much summer dairying. Most of our farmers think if they can only get their cows through the winter in some fashion, what they make in summer will be clear profit. Now let us see what it does cost. Your cows come in about April, when butter is getting cheap, and your farm work is in full swing; you milk

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