

newer wheat fields of the West, and the farmers have turned their attention to other products, just as the older settlements of the Middle and New England States were years ago compelled to do, when forced to the wall by the new grain fields of that great valley. Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and even Minnesota, are rapidly being converted from grain raising to dairying. If in those States, where cattle have to be housed and fed several months each year, and good green grass can only be had in the spring and summer, butter and cheese can be made at a profit and of superior excellence, how is it that some of our farmers maintain that they cannot make butter in Oregon at thirty cents a pound, even under the favorable conditions of nearly perennially green grass and but little expense for care of stock in winter? Nothing but slovenliness, lack of system and general incompetency can account for it, and as proof of this it is only necessary to point to several of our successful dairymen, who have prospered under the same conditions that have brought failure to others. *Prima facie*, that portion of Oregon and Washington lying west of the Cascades is a dairyman's paradise, and it will require greater evidence than has yet been adduced to prove it otherwise.

SUFFICIENT evidence is now in from the widely scattered ranges of the West to prove that the loss of cattle by exposure and starvation the past winter was but a small percentage, not in excess of the average of other years. The only great mortality was among the "trail cattle," as those on the route from Texas to the northern ranges are designated. Taken late in the season from their warm southern home, and being compelled to endure the snows and chilling blasts of the ranges without time to get in good condition before winter set in, they perish by thousands. Viewing the matter from the cattle owners' standpoint, the past winter was a very satisfactory one, notwithstanding the unusual quantity of stormy weather. But what do the cattle think of it? The amount of suffering they endure cannot be measured by the number of deaths that occur. Every year hundreds of thousands of cattle are exposed to chilling blasts and threatened with starvation almost to the limit of their endurance. A few weeks of grazing in the early spring put them in good condition again, and their fatness at that time is pointed to as an evidence of the jolly good time they must have had all winter. Jolly it was, indeed, when the cowboys were compelled to frequently drive them out of the sheltering canyons upon the wind-swept ranges to keep them from starving to death, and when they would as often return to their shelter in the canyons to keep from freezing to death. There ought to be some provision made for supplying shelter and food to cattle during the occasional severe storms of winter. Humanity demands it. We have societies and laws that prevent the vivisection of a worthless cur for the advancement of science, but who takes thought of the sufferings endured by these millions of cattle for the advancement of bank accounts? If it is impracticable to take proper care of large bands of cattle, then they should be kept in smaller herds.

IT argues well for the prosperity of our producing classes that they are beginning to hold conventions and form associations for the protection of their interests and promotion of the industries in which they are engaged. Particularly is such action as this desirable on the part of those engaged in the production of some special crop or article, where combined action will enable them to increase facilities for marketing their product, enlarge the demand for it, and protect it from the encroachments of inferior and spurious imitations seeking a market under a dishonest use of reputations gained by legitimate goods. There are numerous ways in which such organizations may be of decided advantage to its members, such as securing legislation for their protection; increasing transportation facilities and decreasing the cost of reaching market; sustaining a uniform price that will yield a fair margin of profit; preventing that inharmonious competition that increases the cost of production and decreases the market value of the product; in shutting out or fully exposing spurious products; in drawing a tight rein upon unscrupulous and dishonest dealers, such as are to be found in every line of trade, and in the improvement in methods and quality which must follow a free interchange of ideas and experiences. The recent Dairy Convention in this city will undoubtedly be productive of great good to that industry, and the fruit growers of Southern Oregon will necessarily profit much from the convention held a few weeks since in Ashland. A close alliance of fruit growers, hop growers, stock raisers, salmon cannerymen, flour manufacturers and men engaged in various other industries will be highly beneficial to those interests and to the communities where they exist.

THE indications at present are that the salmon canning industry on the Columbia will show a marked decline the present year. Nearly, if not quite, all the canneries were operated at a loss in 1884, owing to the high price paid for fish and the low price of the canned goods caused by excessive production. There has been a lack of intelligent co-operation among cannerymen, resulting in much injury to themselves and the trade generally. It is plainly evident they cannot afford to pay a dollar, or even seventy-five cents, for fish the present season, and the sooner they agree upon some living rate, and stick to it, the better it will be for the business, and, consequently, for all concerned. Co-operation is also necessary in sustaining the reputation of Columbia River salmon by hunting down the pirate brands which are fast destroying it. The season opened the 1st of April, but great activity will not be shown for several weeks yet, and there will probably be fewer canneries in operation and about five hundred less boats on the river than last year. At present the English market is glutted and prices are not much above the actual cost of production, exclusive of rebates for damages, etc. The outlook is not encouraging, especially with a high price for fish; but if living rates are maintained throughout the season, combined with a better market, cannerymen may get on their feet again.