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Cheese Industry in the South

The cheese industry in this country is branching out in sections where it was unknown before. The demand has started a brand new industry in the Southern States, North Carolina leading the way. Fostered by the United States department of Agriculture, the first chain of cheese factories already is in operation south of the Mason and Dixon line. It is at Sugar Grove, N. C., that the first factory, the pioneer cheese plant of all the South, was started June 5. If the ambitious vision of C. B. Doane, cheese expert of the Department of Agriculture, comes to fruition, something like 100 cheese factories will eventually be in operation in the three highest mountain counties of North Carolina—Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany. Since June five factories have been opened at two other places.

The first Dixieland cheese factories are producing cheese of a quality that commands a price three cents per pound higher than that produced at longer established factories in Pennsylvania. The vision itself is only a little more than a year old, but the North Carolinians fell into line just as soon as the practicability of the scheme was made clear to them, and the farmers of the adjacent country are co-operating with enthusiasm.

It is even said that in some of the coves and little valleys back in the mountains persons who until the State "dry" law went into effect engaged in the manufacture of moonshine whiskey largely because there seemed to be nothing else they could do, are welcoming the establishment of cheese factories because they really want to quit the illicit business.

Many of the coves and valleys are wonderfully productive, ideal spots for raising milk cows. The cheese factories furnish a ready market for the milk. Some believe that the establishment of these factories will do more than any other one thing to promote the big movement for diversification of crops in the southland.

The first cheese factory opened in North Carolina is located in the celebrated Cove Creek Valley, which has been described by enthusiasts as the "Cream of Appalachia," so far as farming is concerned. The factory building is a modern structure of steel and concrete. Farmers daily bring in their supply of milk.

In some instances several farmers combine and take turns in hauling milk to the factory. In other instances men who do not possess a wagon come to the village with a five-gallon can of milk on either side of the horse they are riding. When it is realized that prior to June 5 no milk or cream was sold in Watauga county, the success of this plant from the start is the more surprising.

The first factory is owned by 37 farmers, who have gone into the dairy business and the co-operative scheme of operation has proven highly satisfactory. Of course, the plant is only in its early stages as yet and probably will not be kept in operation at all times throughout the first year. The stockholding farmers and others who sell the milk, however, are planning silos to store feed for winter use.

Dr. Doane believes that conditions are ideal in Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties. Compared with Pennsylvania, the water is cooler, the pasturage splendid and the percentage of butter fat higher. Careful tests at the Cove Creek plant during the first two months of operation

Bumper Crop of Snakes Also

Observer readers who have been following the Tar Heel Prints the past few weeks have been edified and entertained by the number and variety of snake stories gathered from the papers of the State. A superabundance of snakes has been indicated. It is a "bumper" year for snakes, as well as other things and the explanation is easy. The multiplication of the snakes is due to the snake's protection from its natural enemy, the hog. With the adoption of the no-fence law, the hogs have been penned up and the snakes have been given the free run of the woods and the fields with unhindered opportunity for breeding and multiplying. The main objection by the mountain people to the adoption of the stock law was that it would give protection to the snakes and things have turned out just as they had anticipated. There has been a multiplication of snakes of all kinds and especially of the rattler. This variety is the particular object of vengeance by the hog. The average pine-rooter would abandon a good feed of corn to give chase to a rattler and the rattler lives in mortal fear of the hog. At the first sign of the approach of his four-footed enemy, the rattle snake will run for a hole and his escape, if made at all, has to be made quickly. Coming within reach of his victim, the bristling razor-back rears on his hind feet and darting with lightning-like rapidity upon his victim, fastens his back of the neck between the split of the hoof then tears him into ribbons, eating the strips with loudly-grunted satisfaction. In some of the eastern counties, notably Bladen, the rattlers have multiplied to such an extent that the gun is regarded as much of a necessity for a fishing expedition to the creek bank as the rod and line, the bait can and the jug. The piedmont section of the State enjoys a peculiar freedom from the rattler, and while this species exists mainly in the western and eastern counties, it seems that he attains his greatest size in the low lands. The mountain rattler is short and stubby, but the eastern reptile has the girth of a log and the length of a fence rail. But we have plenty

showed that butter fat averaged 4 2-10 per cent., while in the cheese making districts of the North it hardly ever goes over 3 8-10.

The cow best adapted to this region is the Holstein. The only ingredients needed to make the ration perfect are said to be ensilage and cotton seed meal.

People down in this region would have been glad to pay 10 or 12 cents a quart for good milk, but until about the time the cheese factories opened for business nobody in the territory immediately adjacent ever thought of selling it. Many farmers, so the story goes, fed sweet milk to their hogs.

The rule was to market products once a year, and in order to do so they had to devote their energies to raising products that could be handled in that way. Now many of these same farmers are getting cash for their products every 30 days.

The South annually imports large quantities of cheese from Wisconsin and other long-established cheese-making States. The more enthusiastic North Carolinians in the "cheese belt" believe it is only a matter of a comparatively short time before they will wrest this market from the Northern producers and sell their product not only all over the South, but in the North, too.—Washington Spec. to Philadelphia Record.

Formalities Sometimes Necessary

The Raleigh News and Observer is outraged about the amount of red tape required to get into the State prison, as illustrated by the case of Walls, the Watauga man who, although he had proper commitment papers, had to wait in Raleigh a week for the sheriff of his county to go to Raleigh and formally accompany him to the State prison. The Landmark has no patience with unnecessary formalities, but it seems to it that the prison authorities gave a very good reason for the enforcement of this rule. If a convict is allowed to go to Raleigh and commit himself the way is open for fraud. The prisoner could, by arrangement, give the papers to a friend and the latter could enter the prison and stay until the real convict had ample opportunity to make a safe getaway. Then the substitute could make himself known and the State prison authorities couldn't hold him. There may be, and doubtless is, a law to punish one who would help to perpetrate a fraud in such cases, but this wouldn't bring the real offender back and it would involve much trouble. It will be contended that such cases would be rare, but it is best, possibly, to be on the safe side and not open the door for them.—Statesville Landmark.

Dwarfs

Purveyors of side-show amusements are agreed, it is said, that dwarfs no longer may be counted upon to draw audiences, no matter how gifted these Liliputians may be. In Charles Stratton, known the world over by his pseudonym of Tom Thumb, this country furnished the most attractive dwarf that ever exploited his accomplishments, and who, as stated by his sponsor in what was considered the most "stunning" advertising of the day, was "the delight of all the crowned heads of Europe" as well as of the uncrowned sovereigns of America.

Great as Tom Thumb was in his time, there were dwarfs preceding him that made most enviable reputations. Among these were Richard Gibson, aged 75 at his death, July 23, 1690, and his widow, who died 19 years later, at the advanced age of 89. Gibson was a miniature painter—miniature in every sense of the phrase—as well as court dwarf to Charles I of England, and his wife, Ann Shepherd, was court dwarf to Queen Henrietta Marie. Her majesty promoted a marriage between these two clever but diminutive persons, and the marriage proved a happy one. The couple broke another established opinion—that dwarfs do not reproduce. They had nine children, five of whom lived to years of maturity and were of ordinary stature.

Gibson's works were valued and one of them was the innocent cause of a tragical event. This painting represented the parable of the lost sheep, and was highly prized by the King, who gave it in charge to Vandervoort the keeper of the royal pictures. One day the King asked for this picture. Afraid or ashamed to say that he mislaid it, Vandervoort committed suicide by hanging. A few days after his death the picture was found in the spot where he had placed it. Gidson

ty of snakes, including the deadly copperhead, without the rattler, and it is somewhat mournful to contemplate that while the snake family is on the increase, the fount of the all-potent antidote has gone dry as a gourd. It behooves the people more than ever to beware the snake bite!—Charlotte Observer.

Electric Power Will be Cheap

"The new schedule of rates for power on and after January 1st next will be so ridiculously low that no practical cotton mill man in Piedmont Carolina who desires to obtain his lowest operating cost and greatest efficiency from his mill will be able to resist the contract that we will be in a position to offer him," declared Mr. James B. Duke, millionaire head of the Southern Power Company, to a group of cotton mill men at Anderson this week. "Furthermore this schedule will be available to all mills in the Carolina transmission field and on such a remarkable basis as to admit of no comparison between the two kinds of power—steam and electric. It is our purpose to load up every plant we have in operation and then just as fast as the output is taken, to erect new plants until the entire field is covered. This is for secondary power but the facts of the situation will be such that for the next three years this secondary power will be practically the equivalent of primary power and therefore just as valuable but at a very low secondary rate power basis."—Charlotte Observer.

Explorer Stefansson is Safe

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, chief of the Canadian government Arctic exploring and surveying expedition that left Victoria, B. C., in June, 1913, and who set out afoot over the ice with two companions from the shores of northeastern Alaska in March, 1914, to seek new land in uncharted seas, did not go to his death, as the world had begun to fear, but found the new land and the only hardships endured were those of short rations.

The power schooner Ruby has arrived from Herschel Island with dispatches from Stefansson to the Canadian government, in which he omits reference to the perils of the journey on the ice and gives space to the scientific results achieved.

Stefansson is wintering at Banks Land, where he has a large power schooner and a small one. He plans to explore his new territory during the winter and next summer penetrate further into the region of mystery between Alaska and the North Pole, where no ship has ever gone.

The southern, or Anderson, wing of the expedition is pursuing its scientific work in Mackenzie Delta and reports no mishap except the death of Engineer Daniel Blue, of the power boat Alaska. This is the thirteenth death among the members of the expedition. Eight men perished while trying to reach Wrangell Island and another accidentally shot and killed himself there. Another in the Mackenzie country went insane while lost and committed suicide by shooting.—Nome, Alaska, Dispatch.

Eat Dogs Cats and Horse Flesh

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian quotes from a private letter from Dr. Neill E. Pressly, the missionary, who writes from Tampico, Mexico:

"A man came from Mexico City, and his word is not to be doubted, who was telling of the necessity there. He said there was not a dog nor cat to be seen, and if perchance one came out, it was immediately killed and eaten. One of the rich men there had a beautiful pair of ponies of which he was very fond, and as long as and his wife have, however, been excelled in brevity of stature, as the united height of the two was about seven feet.—Indianapolis News.

There are 26 museums of safety and institutes for the study of industrial hygiene in the world—22 in Europe, three in the United States and one in Canada.

Water power turbines, aided when necessary by electric motors, enable a Swiss waterworks to pump water to a town 1,500 feet above it.

Caldwell County Fair
TO BE HELD AT
Lenoir Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Oct. 13, 14, 15, 1915
This is to be, without doubt, the biggest and in every way the most important public event ever held in Caldwell County. List of exhibits and prizes and premiums offered will soon be announced. Plenty of entertainments and amusements will be provided for both old and young. Begin now to make your arrangements to attend, for you can not afford to miss any of the three days attractions.

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