

these factories is about 2,500; and fully 600,000 pounds of cheese are now made in a season in the township of New Glarus alone. It is a branch of farming that, on these rolling lands, assures the farmer a steady income. There are no fortunes made quickly by it, but it gives a surer return for labor than any other branch of farming industry, and is a direct benefit to the soil, more land being in grass, and better manured than with grain culture.

The factories are built by the farmers, and leased to cheese-makers, who buy the milk at a fixed price, thus differing from many other places, where the farmers hire the cheese-maker, and divide the net proceeds. Some Swiss cheese is still made here, but not to compare with former years in quantity. Of the cheese product, the most was formerly shipped to Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Louis; but of late, cheese has been sent to Great Britain, and, incredible as it may seem, some even to Switzerland, that land of cheese.

In the year 1849, the stock in the colony, according to the report of the Rev. Mr. Streissguth, consisted of one horse; one bull; forty-one oxen; forty-nine cows; forty heifers and steers two years old; fifty-one calves; fifteen sheep; and four hundred and eighty-two hogs. The crop of that year was sixty-five bushels of oats, five hundred and forty-five of corn, and four hundred and ninety-five of potatoes—the product of one hundred and four acres of cultivated land. The population was then rated at one hundred and twenty-five.

Bilten is the name of a branch of this colony, in the adjoining town of Washington, and was founded in 1847 by the authorities of the parish of Bilten, in Glarus, Switzerland. In that year sufficient funds were sent to Mr. Fridolin Streiff, one of the pioneers of New Glarus, to purchase seventeen forty acre tracts; and in the same year twelve families, mostly from the above named parish, settled thereon. The Bilten settlement has shared with the main colony in reputation for thrift and industry; and the people, as a class, are doing well. They have by purchase extended the original boundaries, which were about five miles from New Glarus, so that now the two settlements have blended into one, with no intervening settlers of other nationalities.