

## Dairymen Almost Unanimously Favor Cream Grading

It Would Result in Improving the Quality of Ontario Butter—Some Difficulties in the Way—How They May be Overcome.

AS the time arrived for Ontario to adopt cream grading? Indications are that the dairymen of the province are rapidly lining up for the introduction of this reform. The favorable reception that has greeted the remarks of those who have addressed the last few annual dairymen's conventions, on this question, have indicated that a strong sentiment was spreading in favor of the adoption of cream grading. The spread of this sentiment has been hastened by the rapid progress that has been made in other provinces and by the great showing made by them at our large fairs in the creamery butter sections, a showing which they do not hesitate to ascribe to the systems of cream and butter grading which they have adopted. The expressed opinion of dairy farmers, of creamery men and of buyers, whenever and wherever the subject of cream grading has been under discussion, has been for the most part favorable. At the creamery meeting held in Guelph recently, the speakers for the system of grading were more outspoken than ever. It was also revealed that preparations had quietly been made to gather data by which a satisfactory basis for the grading of butter and of cream could be arrived at. Steps had also been taken to devise some system by which creamery men would be educated to do the grading uniformly. Everything points to the early adoption of both cream and butter grading in Ontario.

### What Dairymen Say.

With the object of securing information as to the opinion of the rank and file of dairymen on this important subject, Farm and Dairy recently addressed letters to a number of representative dairymen requesting their opinion on different phases of the cream grading question. To give uniformity to the replies, certain questions were asked, the object being to give men of every shade of opinion an opportunity to express their views. Full discussion of the question was also invited. To those who believe that great good would accrue to the dairy industry of Ontario through the adoption of cream grading, the answers received were very gratifying. They show that there is remarkable unanimity of opinion as to the desirability of the introduction of cream grading throughout Ontario.

In answer to the question: "Are you in favor of the adoption of a province wide system of cream grading in Ontario," about 10 to one were in the affirmative. Some are enthusiastic in their support of the reform. "Yes, by all means;" "Absolutely;" "Most emphatically yes;" were characteristic answers. The necessity for making cream grading province-wide and uniform was emphasized by some. "I am in favor of cream grading providing everyone has to do it," said one. "Yes, providing it is made compulsory," said another. A few are out opposed. "The only compulsion I am in favor of is recruiting" was one of the answers. Another was opposed until more settled conditions in the dairy industry have set in.

### The Probable Effect.

"What do you think would be the probable effect of such a system on the quality of creamery butter?" brought out many illuminating replies. The following are some of these: "I think probably we would receive a great deal better prices for our butter, for we would make a better grade." "It would certainly improve both the quality of the butter and the price." "The effects of such a sys-

tem would improve the quality of creamery butter by persuading the patron who sends inferior cream, thus stimulating him to improve the quality of the cream." "It would place Ontario among the first in the quality of her dairy output." "There could be only one effect and that would be a much improved quality of butter." "One effect would be a splendid improvement in the quality of Ontario creamery butter." "It would mean a better quality of cream; a better quality of butter; better prices and a better demand for the export and local trade." "It should make a great improvement." "It would improve the quality of cream and the buttermaker would be able to make a better quality of butter." "It would result in a decided improvement in favor and an all round choice product when the system had been given fair trial." "Ontario creamery butter would compare favorably then with creamery butter from other provinces where cream grading has been practiced for the last few years." "A more uniform product and one of very much better quality would result."

The following are some of the replies received to the question as to its effect on the quality of creamery butter from those who do not favor the adoption of the system: "It would not affect the quality of butter as long as we are not paid for our butter according to quality." "This question would not affect my factory in any way. Every other creamery would be in the same position. If the buttermakers and owners would do their duty, and the instructors also are responsible, the patrons can be educated along this line."

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R. B. BENNETT,

Director General.

Ottawa, 15th December, 1916.

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