

CITY MILK SUPPLY

Toronto Producers Raise Prices

THE high cost of dairy cattle and the prevailing high prices for the feed and upkeep of cows were assigned as the cause of raising the cost of milk to \$2.2 a can to the wholesalers by the Toronto Milk Producers' Association recently. It was pointed out by the dairy farmers present that feed costs approximately 30 per cent. more than it did last year, the principal reason being that less than half the amount has been produced. As an example of the way in which prices for gluten meal which is now quoted at \$13 a ton, sold last year for \$20, and that shorts are now selling at \$24, as against \$24 this time last year. President E. H. Stonehouse declared that the question before the association was not "how much can we get for our milk," but "how little a price can we afford to sell it at and still get a fair and reasonable margin." It was also argued that the producer during the summer months has received three and one-half cents a quart for his milk, while the dairies in Toronto were charging consumers from eight and one-half to nine cents a quart for it. Milk, it was stated, had been produced at a loss by the farmer. Out of two dollars a can which he will realize under the new schedule, 20 cents goes for freight charges, which must be advanced by the producer.

The association heartily endorsed the president's suggestion that a federal commission to investigate the condition surrounding the production of milk for city consumption would be welcomed by the producers. The members desired the people of Toronto to know that they were being fairly and squarely dealt with by them and that the city dairies should refrain from raising the retail price. It was felt that the dairies were raising more in proportion from the city milk trade than were the farmers who supplied the milk.

The election of officers for the ensuing year took place, the following executive being chosen: E. H. Stonehouse, A. J. Reynolds, E. A. Orr, A. Forester, John Newhouse and R. F. Hicks.

U.S. Milk Prices Increasing

THE situation in the United States with regard to the price of milk produced for city consumption is developing rapidly. Referring to the situation in the state of Illinois which supplies a large part of the Chicago trade, Hoar's Dairyman has this to say: "The Milk Producers' Association of Illinois is asking an average price of \$2 per 100 lbs. testing 35 per cent. fat, beginning Oct. 1st and for the six months following. This is not too much for the producer to receive for milk when the price of feed, labor, land, cows and other things are considered. It is cheap food at this price. The price of \$2 per 100 lbs. market milk is in keeping with the price of butter and cheese. The price demanded for market milk by the producers for the next six months is not out of proportion to the prices that may be reasonably expected for milk sold to cheese factories and creameries."

In last week's issue of Farm and Dairy, reference was made to an investigation that had been started by the federal authorities into the conditions surrounding the production of milk for city consumption. The first investigation will be made on a complaint received from Boston which accuses the milk dealers of combining against the public interests and the violation of the anti-trust law. The investigation is being carried on by the Department of Justice.

HORTICULTURE

Harvesting Apples

Prof. W. G. Brierley, University Farm, St. Paul.

THE proper time to begin picking the apple depends upon the season of the variety, its behavior after picking, the color of the fruit and the marketing plan. Summer and early fall apples should be picked and handled much the same as pears, as they are perishable and "go down" rapidly. The Duchess is an example. This variety should be picked when it has made good size and color, but before any softening begins, but never before it is well developed, as it will shrivel badly. Successful marketing of the Duchess depends very largely upon firmness, as soft apples of this variety bruise readily and settle in the barrel, giving a poor appearance. Varieties maturing later in the season also benefit from a close study of picking needs. Immaturity or over-maturity should be avoided, as the fruit will not hold up if kept on the market long. All apples are best picked when "hard ripe"—fully developed in size and color with the seeds colored a light brown.

Picking should be done carefully, so that bruises are few. Lift and twist the apples from the spur and do not pull it off. Pulling often pulls out the stem and hastens decay or pulls the spur off so that future crops are picked at the same time. Do not grasp the apple tightly, as this may bruise it. Use the whole hand and grasp just firmly enough to pick. Various picking devices, such as baskets, pails or sacks, are available. In general, baskets or pails are better than sacks, as there is less danger of bruises from swinging against the ladder or tree. The best type of device is a basket or pail lined with burlap or canvas to prevent bruising, and with a swinging bottom which can be opened to empty

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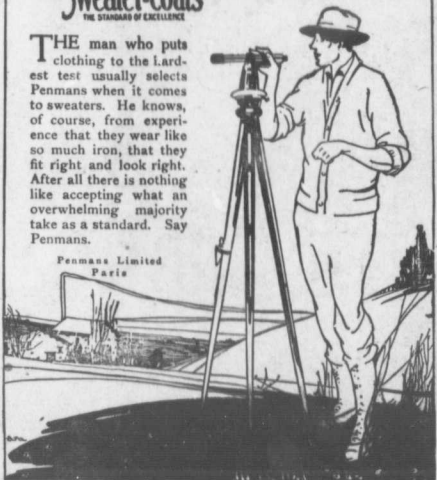
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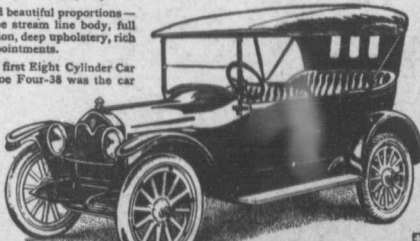
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