



ALBERTA SECTION

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Alberta Creameries Convention

The convention of delegates from the government creameries of Alberta held at Red Deer on January 5 and 6 was probably the most important one in the history of the creameries. Some 40 delegates were in attendance and Hon. Duncan Marshall, Geo. Harcourt, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, C. Marker, Deputy Commissioner, and W. F. Stevens, Live Stock Commissioner were also present.

Among the important points decided upon was that the creameries should take up a greater share of the work than has been done in the past, that patrons should be paid according to the quality of the cream supplied by them, and that the creameries should be paid according to the quality of the butter shipped into cold storage. By these changes it is expected that the high standard now secured for government creamery butter will be maintained and the careful farmer will no longer have to assist in paying for the sour and poor stuff sent to the creamery by his careless neighbor. The delegates were unanimous for the change and it is expected that the whole plan will be worked out in detail before the summer season opens up.

Mr. Marker gave comprehensive addresses, dealing with a review of last year's work, and with the markets, prices and sales during the year, comparing same with the seasons of 1908 and 1907 and showing how the Montreal market ruled the prices to be obtained. Mr. Marker said that one or two features of last year's work were noticeable. The supply is just as much a factor in the market as demand, and if a supply cannot be laid in for the winter, the wholesalers and jobbers will bring in the stocks from the east. The winter output is very irregular and wants to be remedied. In regard to the capacity for winter dairying, as long as the output is uniform then it can be easily handled, but when it fluctuates, as it has done during the last three winters, then the business is up against snags. The winter dairying was worth looking into as the average prices are at least five cents per pound higher, but to do this it will mean providing better quarters for the stock and better feed. Another point is the old one of getting better dairy stock into the province, and the testing of the herds so that only the paying animals would be kept.

Important Figures

In 1906 statistics were secured from the owners of 412 herds, comprising 3,925 animals, and as a result it was found that in the summer season only the following averages for each herd were made:

Number of Owners	Receipts per cow	Number of Cows
2	\$45 or over	11
2	\$40-\$45	28
15	\$35-\$40	118
48	\$30-\$35	407
111	\$25-\$30	993
137	\$20-\$25	1380
83	\$15-\$20	887
14	\$10-\$15	121

This table alone would show the need of testing the animals, and the matter of herd testing and herd records should be taken up and pushed vigorously.

W. F. Stevens gave an interesting lecture on the importation of dairy stock, showing that during the past year, under the plan of assistance proposed by the government seven and a half carloads of Ayrshires and one and a half carloads of Holsteins had been imported. No Jerseys had been brought in under this arrangement, but two cars in all had been sold in the year. The arrangement for assistance during the past year had been made for one year only and it was not known what plan would be adopted for the ensuing year.

Geo. Harcourt then took up the matter of the proposed change in the local management of creameries. He described the policy of the Dominion government when the assistance was just given to the creameries, and stated that although

the older creameries were now out of debt, it was doubtful if they were in a better position to conduct the work than they were years ago. The policy of the government was to help the creameries to help themselves, and it was proposed that the creameries now in a position to do so should take over a larger share of the local working of the creameries. The part the government had undertaken was to pay for all labor, material, etc., and carry on the work of the creamery generally, also to issue cheques to all patrons for cream supplied. Now it was proposed that the local associations out of debt should undertake this work, the government marketing the butter, providing boxes, packages, etc., in wholesale quantities and supplying same to the creameries at actual cost and paying the local associations by one cheque, then letting the local creameries settle with the patrons.

Hon. Duncan Marshall stated that although it was the wish of the government that the creameries should undertake more of the work still as long as the services of the dairy commissioner were required in the matter of marketing butter, etc., he would only be too pleased to assist in carrying out the work. It was not the intention of the government to abandon the creamery business.

A long discussion ensued on the merits of the proposed plan, the general opinion being in favor of the changes on the ground that most of the local work could be done

ed the following resolutions, all of which were adopted:—

(1) "Having heard the explanations of Mr. Marker in regard to the proposed changes in the local management of the government operated creameries, we do recommend that all creameries now in a position to do so should accept the proposed new agreement and undertake the work as outlined in sections one to five inclusive of the agreement. We would further recommend that arrangements be made by the department so that any creamery association not yet self supporting can undertake the new work upon the association entering into an agreement with the department to allow a nominal assessment per pound of butter to be made, or any other satisfactory agreement to pay off the indebtedness."

(2) This convention recognizes the importance of the grading of cream and of settling for same on the basis of a premium for first grade, and further we recommend that as far as possible the system be adopted by all creameries on the basis outlined."

(3) "That this convention agrees to the plan of grading of butter at a premium for first grade, and recommends that in future all creamery associations be paid at the rate per pound earned by them on the quality of the butter supplied, as determined by the department."

(4) "Whereas the convention has recommended the adoption of the scheme for the local working of the creameries, we wish to place on record our regrets at the apparent desire of the government to withdraw from the co-operative creamery system and we firmly believe that the future welfare and prosperity of the co-

taken on same, this convention hereby reiterates the said resolutions and recommends to the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture that regulations be passed providing for the licensing of all creameries and cheese factories, the issuing of permits to erect new creameries or factories by a representative council, the issuing of detailed statements showing butterfat, moisture, basis of payment and all other information that may be required, government inspection of manufacturing and sanitation, and providing that the books of all creameries and factories shall be open to patrons at all times during business hours."

(6) "Whereas the present system of allotting shares adopted by the creamery associations had resulted in shares being issued to former patrons who have left the district and these shares are now being carried on the books of the associations, thereby causing a large amount of unnecessary labor, we do hereby request the Minister of Agriculture to bring in an amendment to the Dairymen's Act, giving associations power to cancel any shares, whether, fully paid up or otherwise, in the event of the said shareholders not registering their proper address within five years after the allotting of said shares; and after advertising the names of said absentee shareholders at least three times in a local newspaper and once in the official Gazette of the province."

(7) "Whereas it is a well-known fact that a large quantity of dairy butter sold over the counters in the stores is underweight and the Dominion laws governing same do not seem to be well-known, we recommend that an amendment be placed in the Dairymen's Act providing that all pound prints made up and put on the market must be of full weight and providing for penalties for the non-fulfilment of this provision."

(8) "This convention places on record its appreciation of the services and assistance rendered to the creamery industry by the Minister of Agriculture and his staff, more especially Mr. Marker, Dairy Commissioner, whose splendid work has done so much to build up the dairy industry of the province."

(9) "Whereas at every convention of creamery delegates, complaints are made dealing with different matters in which all associations are interested and it is impossible for these local associations to undertake the investigation of these complaints, and whereas the time has now arrived when the creamery associations under government control should come closer together for the better working of the associations and to enable different matters of interest to be quickly acted upon, we do hereby recommend that the convention organize an association to be known as the Association of Government Creameries of Alberta."

On the adoption of this resolution it was decided to appoint an advising committee to bring in a draft constitution under which the association could be formed, the committee to report after the adjournment for lunch. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs. Fream, Carswell, Langston, Duncan, Creighton and Morkeberg.

After adjournment, the following resolutions were taken up and unanimously adopted:—

(10) "That the convention requests the Minister of Agriculture to arrange for the publication of the proceedings of this convention, together with the charts shown, and that a copy of the proceedings be forwarded to all patrons of the government creameries."

(11) "That Mr. Marker be requested to have copies of the resolutions passed at this convention forwarded to the creamery associations so that if possible they can be presented to the annual meetings of the associations."

(12) "This convention recommends that the regulations applying to entire animals running at large be so amended that bulls will not be permitted to run at large in acknowledged dairy districts."

The Organization

The advisory committee then presented the following report, which was unanimously adopted:—

"Name.—The name of the association shall be 'The Association of the Government Creameries of Alberta.'"

"Objects.—The object of the association shall be to assist all co-operative creamery associations in Alberta by any legitimate means, by investigating any

RED DEER CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The monthly report of the Red Deer U.F.A. Co-operative Association is as follows:—

The work of the co-operative association for the month just ended has been quite satisfactory, and considering the tendency of the farmers to hold their grain, shipping has been going on quite briskly.

Sixteen cars of hay, three cars of oats and three cars of hogs have been sent out during the month. The expense during the month has been somewhat less than three per cent. of the amount of the sales, this covering salaries, office rent, storage, stationery, light, heat, etc. This would be materially decreased if grain was coming forward more freely, as the staff now employed could handle a greater volume of shipping. Of course, there are other preliminary expenses incurred earlier in the season, but of a kind that can well be charged up to capital account. This, however, will be referred to the vote of the members, at the annual general meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 31st, this meeting being called a week earlier than the limit fixed by the constitution on account of other meetings interfering with that date.

The management would again urge the farmers to come forward with their lists so as to keep the secretary posted as far ahead as possible as to the amount of stuff for sale; and we would again remind members that the more business done, the less the expense accordingly.

Prospects are good for high prices for hogs for the next two weeks and large shipments are expected to be made during that time.

The general price of grain has kept almost stationary during the month, but with slight variations up and down every day or so; oats are now 26½ cents and No. 3 wheat 82½ cents.

Hay is dull but firm in price, considering the rush of shipments from all over the province, and prices are not likely to undergo much change for some weeks.

Barley has been dull of sale, but enquiries are now coming in more freely for feed.

The formation of the Association has attracted considerable attention and favorable comments all over the west, and enquiries are daily coming in from prospective buyers. Applications have also been made by commission firms in the west wanting to act as the exclusive agents in the cities where they are located, but so far the management have no difficulty in placing shipment with actual buyers.

more expeditiously and cheaper by the local associations than by the government.

The following resolution committee was then appointed:—Messrs. E. J. Fream, J. Duncan, A. J. Creighton, D. Cameron and D. Morkeberg.

Mr. Marker then addressed the convention on the grading of cream, showing by means of a chart how the work would be carried out and the prices which the patrons of one creamery would have received last year if the grading plan had been in operation. By this it was seen that there was a difference of nearly two cents per pound between the highest and lowest prices and yet under the old system all patrons received the same price.

The resolution committee then present-

ed the following resolutions, all of which were adopted:—

(5) "Whereas the convention of creamery delegates held at Red Deer in April, 1909, passed resolutions recommending stricter regulations of all creameries and cheese factories and no action has been