

Creamery Department

Butter makers are invited to send contributions to this department, to ask questions on matters relating to butter making and to suggest subjects for discussion. Address letters to Creamery Department.

C. Marker—An Appreciation

When in Denmark recently Mr. C. Marker, Dairy Commissioner for Alberta, called on that well-known Danish dairy authority, Mr. J. H. Monrad. Writing of Mr. Marker's visit in a recent issue of the New York Produce Review, Mr. Monrad has the following to say about our Alberta Commissioner:

"I had a pleasant visit from C. Marker, the dairy commissioner of Alberta, Canada, and though he, being born in Denmark, speaks Danish and thus had no need of an interpreter I followed him on various visits in order to squeeze out a little information as to the government butter scoring in Calgary.

MR. MARKER'S BIOGRAPHY

"As Mr. Marker has not been mentioned in the dairy press as much as many others who have not done half his effective work I give a short biography: Born in Jutland, Denmark, 1869, he attended the common public school and at an age of 15 took up creamery work. After six years' training he went to Canada in 1890 and not getting creamery work hired out as a farm hand.

The next year he was given charge of the dairy experiments on the government farm in Ottawa under the able leadership of Prof. Robertson and married Miss Mary E. Garrett, by whom he has a boy and a girl. Later he acted as travelling instructor (in 1895-96 at St. Hyacinthe Dairy School, Quebec) and in 1897 was made superintendent of the Dominion creameries where the patrons furnish the buildings and the Dominion the equipment to be repaid with one cent per pound of butter made. A cold storage was built in Calgary and he also had to sell the products. To

Commissioner by the Provincial Government when it took up the Dominion work: Having a practical eye, he soon saw the weak point in the creamery business which is the same nearly all over the world, the lack of payment for cream and butter according to quality.

"I here want to emphasize the unassuming character of this man; as a rule when you interview a man he is only too willing to put his light on

and even now obtaining, and not only helped the farmers to operate creameries but also to find a market for the butter. He inaugurated educational butter scorings which led to the work of improving the cream and the taking of a general survey of the conditions in which it arrived at the creameries, showing the need of grading it and paying accordingly.

GRADE PAYMENT ACTUALLY STARTS

"The work was extended, but not



Substantial Evidence of Western Dairy Development

top, and counsel measure, but Mr. Marker seemed more inclined to hide it and give all the credit to Prof. Robertson. All I can say is that in addition to all the good qualities of Prof. Robertson must be added that of having picked up and given a good man a chance.

IN THE VANGUARD

"What we pen and ink buttermakers have written about for years and years, what the leading dairymen in Denmark and in most of our states have been talking about, Mr. Mark-

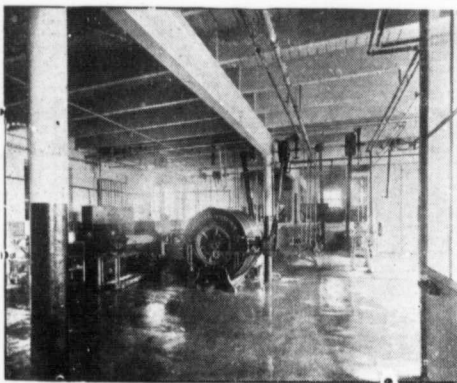
er until the winter of 1909-10 did he deem the time ripe for urging the actual payment according to grade by showing the results of the survey at the dairy meetings and putting it up straight to those who produced clean and good cream whether they would continue to accept the same pay as the careless ones. It was then agreed between patrons and the management that the government creameries should be paid a premium of two cents per pound of butter for first grade butter marketed by the Department. Instead of fining the producers of poor cream a premium was paid for the best.

"Early in 1912 the commissioner had a meeting with the wholesale butter merchants of Calgary (and later with others) and explained his plans by which the department would co-operate with the creameries and the trade in grading the butter from the individual creameries in connection with the weekly educational scorings, a plan which was endorsed by them all, agreeing to pay accordingly.

RESULTS ACCOMPLISHED

"At present only about 10 per cent of the total butter output is thus sold, yet the commissioner has at his command some \$250,000 for advancing payments by drawing on the treasury where all the checks for butter sold are turned in.

"It should only be a question of time, I believe, when—through the example thus set—all cream will be bought and butter sold by grades and Commissioner Marker deserves great credit for thus having taken the bull by the horns. May his shadow never grow less!"



An Interior View of One of Western Canada's Great Creameries

Western Canada has followed the policy of centralizing its creameries. A large creamery drawing on a large territory has there proved more successful than those Western creameries. They represent the plant of The Dominion Dairy Co., Regina.

this was added the work of attending farmers' institutes and lecturing.

AS A WRITER

"In 1904 he visited Denmark and wrote an interesting bulletin (No. 4 Dairy Commissioners' Branch, Ottawa, 1905) on 'Some phases of dairying in Denmark.' (After that the cow testing associations were started.) In 1906 he was appointed Dairy

er has in the course of six years realized in what seems to me a most happy manner under the conditions existing in Alberta, mind you. I take this reservation as the system will not, I fear, prove practical everywhere.

"The commissioner first started a campaign of education much needed under the pioneer conditions then,

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Farm and Dairy, Peterboro.

Our average crop of alfalfa has been five tons of hay to the acre—Prof. C. A. Zavits, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.