

ACTION BY MILK VENDORS.

To Eliminate Waste Involved in Duplication of Services.

Vancouver dairymen have appointed a committee to consider amalgamation of their milk distribution system, with a view to eliminating the waste now involved in duplication of delivery services. This action is along the lines suggested by the Milk Committee of the Food Controller's Office and was prompted by the announcement that the Food Controller would fix the spread between the producer and the consumer, effective January 1. The question is being taken up seriously in Vancouver and the committee of dairymen has asked the various milk vendors operating there to quote selling prices for their businesses. In deference to public demand and on account of the fact that a reduction in price would be compulsory on and after January 1 under the Food Controller's order, the dairies reduced the price of quarts one month sooner than was obligatory. The proposed amalgamation is expected to release a large number of men for military service or agricultural or other essential work. When these facts were recently adduced before an exemption appeal court in Vancouver, Mr. Justice Macdonald commended the action of the milk vendors in endeavouring to eliminate wasteful duplication of deliveries.

In Winnipeg a plan is also being worked out, with similar objects in view.

It is expected that steps will be taken in many other centres of Canada in order to enable the dairies to operate under the spread as fixed. The Milk Committee of the Food Controller's Office has outlined a plan whereby this may be done and a copy of their report will be sent to milk producers or distributors or to provincial or municipal officials upon application.

Saturday Night, published in Toronto, commenting upon the Report of the Milk Committee of the Food Controller's Office says that it "should, if it does nothing else, awake us to a sense of our responsibilities as regards waste." The editorial continues: "For instance, owing to unnecessary duplication of services in the distribution of milk, which means in our larger centres anywhere from a half dozen to several dozen milk wagons tramping over the same routes, the citizens of seventeen of our larger centres are paying annually somewhere between one and one-half and three million dollars more for their milk than it would cost were these businesses organized upon a zone system.

"This high cost of duplicated services is not confined by any means to city distribution, for it is as bad, if not worse, as regards the producer getting his wares to the retailer."

"Taken altogether, the report reflects not only our lack of organization, but also our gross stupidity and inattention to the many details making for the high cost of living."

MILK DISTRIBUTION COST.

"Spread" has been Limited by the Food Controller.

The Food Controller has limited the amount which distributors of milk may add to the actual cost of the product delivered at their premises. From and after January 1 and until further notice, the amount so added must not exceed such cost by more than 5½ cents per quart anywhere in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia or by more than 5 cents per quart anywhere in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or Prince Edward Island. No distributor selling milk in any locality where the amount now paid to distributors is less than the maximum prescribed in the Order may increase such amount without the written consent of the Food Controller.

Retail dealers are forbidden to charge a higher price for milk than the milk distributors charge the consumers in the same locality. If the cost of labour or other factors increase the cost of distribution, any distributor may submit evidence to the Food Controller and make application for an increase in the margin allowed in that Province.

SUPPLY OF BINDER TWINE.

Yucatan Sisal Crop Has Been Secured at Slight Advance in Cost.

An ample supply of binder twine for Canadian requirements next year at reasonable prices has been ensured, as the result of an agreement reached between the United States Food Administration and the Mexican sisal growers of Yucatan. The growers were holding out for a high price but under the arrangement just consummated the entire crop has been secured at a slight advance over last year's price. Co-operation of Canada and the United States in controlling food exports from this continent was one of the factors which made it possible to secure the sisal supply on reasonable terms.