

Western Ontario Farmers Out and Out for Grading

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large percentage of the butter coming in had been moved up to the special grade. Less than four and one-quarter per cent. of the butter graded in 1916 went into the old grades and seconds. Notwithstanding the fact of a ready market and a small spread between the different grades, they had stuck to the grading system during the past season, for they realized that the buoyancy of the butter market would not last forever, and they did not want their plans to become disorganized.

Representatives of the Trade Arrive. At this point of the proceedings, Mr. H. B. Clemes, secretary of the Toronto Produce Exchange, addressed the convention. He began by stating that for years they had been working around the outside of the problem. The trade was just as anxious as the creamery men to have the butter industry put on a more satisfactory basis, and many of the members of the Toronto Exchange had come to the meeting to lay their views before the dairymen. For years the dairymen have been asking what benefit they would receive if butter were to be sold on a grading basis. The trade was prepared to pledge itself to the dairymen to buy all their butter on grade, as soon as working plans could be evolved, and were anxious to cooperate with the dairymen in every possible way toward the working out of a satisfactory basis. Mr. J. A. McLean, of the Boves Company, in supporting what Mr. Clemes had said, stated that they now had the viewpoint of the dealers before them. They wished to work in closest harmony with the creamery men of both Eastern and Western Ontario, so that they might arrive at a solution of this pressing problem of butter grading. One of the creamery men present here stated that they were now starting at the right end of the problem, and that the butter dealers had taken the right stand. If they would put up the quality and the dealers would make a fair discrimination in the prices of each grade, there would be no kick coming from the farmers.

The Difference in Prices.

At this point of the discussion, one of the dairymen requested information as to what the difference would be in the prices of first, second and third grade cream. Mr. Marker was asked to give his experience in Alberta. He stated that the returns were not all in for the year, 51 creameries having reported with six to come. Of these 51, seven received nothing but first grade cream, and received two grades and paid a difference of five cents per lb. of butter fat. Twenty-four were working on three grades, one giving four cents a pound difference, and 23 giving two cents a pound difference. Ten creameries were working on four grades, some giving a preference of three cents, and others only two cents. One factory had five grades of cream and gave preference of from two to two and a half cents a pound butter fat. These creameries had a total output of approximately 8,000,000 lbs. of butter.

Upon being asked how often the cream was gathered, Mr. Marker stated, usually twice a week, though in some cases more frequent gatherings if their trade demanded sweet cream. If the farmer takes his cream in twice or three times a week, he arrives in better condition, and therefore grades higher, bringing a better price. It is often a question of time vs. the labor of frequent delivery that the farmer wishes to settle for himself. It is therefore left entirely for him to decide. There had been a strong swing toward individual cans, but where these were not used it was the custom to grade in samples. The hauler takes a sample case of 12 four-ounce jars. After thoroughly stir-

ring the cream at each farm, it is weighed, the jar filled and closed tight, the maker doing the grading upon the arrival of the cream at the factory. Each creamery man settles his own grade, no legislation being found to be the most effective legislation. The Department has set a set of established grades, but it is left to the creamery man's choice to adopt them. There was no compulsion about it.

Mr. J. A. McPeeters stated that the dairymen could rest assured that if cream grading were taken up, they would be supported all along the line by the trade. There was no danger whatever of cream grading discriminating in favor of the larger city concern. He paid a high tribute to the honesty and ability of Mr. Scott, stating that they could not have secured the services of a better man to do the experimental grading during the past season. Mr. McLean also expressed the confidence of the members of the Exchange in Mr. Scott's ability, and strongly approved of his appointment as official butter grader.

Convention Records Its Support of Grading.

Mr. A. E. Silverwood, of London, introduced a resolution favoring butter grading. He had, he said, been driven into the business of making butter because it was impossible to secure good quality butter that his trade demanded. The resolution was as follows: Resolved, that this convention of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association endorse the principle of government grading and request the provincial government to put into operation the machinery necessary to that end. The resolution was seconded by Mr. F. Showers, of Bruden, who stated that there was a widespread feeling among dairymen in favor of the grading of butter and cream, and the resolution, he believed, fully expressed this opinion. It was carried to the meeting the resolution carried without a single dissenting voice.

From the Churn to the Depot

ASSUMING that the butter has been made and is in the churn properly worked and ready for the packing into the tubs, what are the buttermaker's duties from that time on?

Before the butter is taken from the churn, it should be sampled and tested for moisture. This, of course, requires a few moments time, but certainly is very essential. The results obtained should be kept in a permanent book so that, should occasion require, they can be referred to readily. Some buttermakers make routine tests only occasionally, as they state, to see how the "butter is running." This is a mistake, and no well-organized creamery will permit such practice. It is too dangerous. During the past year we had several conferences with creamerymen that tested the butter for moisture "occasionally," and were caught when the butter was to the market. A buttermaker has no right to jeopardize the institution for which he is working by being careless about this matter.

The packing of the butter, of course, should be done so that it will be a credit to the buttermaker. Butter carelessly thrown in and carelessly packed will not win a favorable impression when stripped on the market. Aside from the fact that a pound or two more can be marketed without any additional package expense, it is plainly evident that the large holes frequently found indicate that the buttermaker is either a beginner or is inclined to be careless.

Amortization of loans is a good principle. If money is borrowed it should be for a productive purpose, and if the production is increased a part of that increase should be used to reduce the principal of the loan.

Progress the Watchword at W.O.D.A. Convention

Butter and Cream Grading Unanimously Endorsed—Dairy Standards Act Approved—More Farmer Directors Elected to the Board—Splendid Addresses Given

THE dairymen of Western Ontario who met in convention at Woodstock, on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, were out for progress. Although they realized the unfavorable conditions of the labor market, and also the high prices, and for the time, an indiscriminating market, makes the immediate adoption of new measures more difficult, still they realized that present conditions were only temporary, and that now is the time to prepare for the keener market conditions that will prevail after the close of the war. On this ground they strongly favored immediate action in the matter of cream grading, and unanimously passed a resolution supporting it. They also strongly favored the Dairy Standards Act going still further than it does, and requested that a clause be added which would provide for the sale of all milk at wholesale on a quality basis. They urged the maintenance of the present restrictions against the oleomargarine trade. In order to encourage interest in the association, they elected two additional farmers to the board. Besides this, they transacted the usual business and listened to several inspiring and instructive addresses.

Position of the Association.

The reports of the directors and secretary showed the association and dairy interest in Western Ontario generally to be in a sound financial position. The directors reported that there had been practically no export of cream during the past winter, high prices of butter and heavy shipments disposing of all the surplus. Reference was made to the work that was done during the past season in the matter of grading of butter. The Dairy Standards Act was strongly endorsed as a measure that would eventually prove a strong force in the improvement of dairy conditions, and it was hoped that the dairymen would accept it as one of the most progressive of the dairy acts ever enacted by the Provincial Government. The financial statement showed total receipts for the year of \$5,260.79, and total expenditures of \$5,790.95, leaving a balance of \$469.84 as compared with \$271.46 at the beginning of the year. Money from prosecutions totalled \$392.

In his report as Chief Instructor, Mr. Hearn stated that there was an increase of 573 patrons to cheese factories for the year. The average percentage of fat in the milk was 3.37. The average pounds of milk required to make one pound of cheese was 11.06. The box problem which had developed in some sections he hoped would be solved by next year. During the year, Western Ontario creameries produced 1,022,661 lbs. of butter, the number of patrons being 35,504. Mr. Hearn's report will be published in greater detail in an early issue.

The Dairy Herd Competitions.

The winners of the dairy herd competition for cheese factory patrons was Jas. Burton & Son, Sparta, of Sparta cheese factory, whose 12 grade Holsteins and two grade Durhams produced a total for the factory season of 119,553 lbs. milk, or 8,540 lbs. a cow. The silver cup donated by the Canadian Salt Co., Windsor, in this section, because the permanent property of the Burtons. The competition for creamery patrons was won by Mr. E. L. Earley, Kerwood, a patron of the Kerwood creamery, whose six Short-horn grade cows totalled \$78.8 lbs. fat.

More Farmers on the Executive. The question of having more farmers on the executive of the W.O.D.A. was raised by Prof. Deane. This would mean more interest by farmers

in the affairs of the association," he said. "For the last 50 years, the association has largely been in the hands of those connected with the manufacturing end of the dairy business. For the next 50 years, let us see if we can't get more good dairy farmers to work." Mr. John H. Scott claimed that the farmers had a fair representation on the board at present, as not more than 10 per cent. of the members were farmers. A great many more of them should belong to the association. Mr. Geo. Mahon, a lawyer-farmer of Woodstock, also held that affairs were too much in the hands of makers and buyers. He also suggested that the work of the association be extended to include exhibits of dairy cattle, such as the dairy congresses in the United States. J. N. Paget, Canboro, held that if the farmers had not a sufficient representation, it was not due to any action after the board, for 40 per cent. of the members were farmers, and perhaps not three per cent. of those attending were farmers. They would not go more than 25 miles to attend a convention. Later in the convention, Messrs. John Scott and Geo. Mahon, Woodstock, were elected directors, these, with Jas. Donaldson, Atwood, being the farmers' representatives.

The Dairy Farmer of 1917.

"The dairy farmer of 1917 should aim to produce all milk possible for two reasons—there is going to be a great shortage of milk in the world over, and the price is likely to be the best on record," said Prof. Deane in discussing the outlook for dairymen. The problem of the amateur statesman was to make farming remunerative. He quoted the President of the British Board of Trade, who said that if you do not make the production of milk remunerative for the farmer there is no arrangement under the sun that will make him produce milk. Prof. Deane scored those who were advocating the introduction of oleomargarine, claiming that experience proved that it cannot be regulated as to be sold for what it is, that the source of the milk is uncertain, and that the price it displaces a pound or more of good pure butter.

Prof. Leitch addressed the convention on the place of spring pastures in the production of cheap milk. In Eastern Ontario they were forced into the dairy industry to maintain a livelihood. In Western Ontario they went into it because it was a good profession, he said. The labor problem which had developed was the same in both districts, however, and the problem before the dairymen was the production of milk at the lowest labor possible. In endeavoring to solve this problem of cheaper production, Prof. Leitch advocated better cows; the use of the milking machine, and the improvement of pastures. A spring pasture mixture consisting of one bushel each of oats, barley and spring wheat, with six or seven pounds of red clover, per acre, had proved to be the most reliable spring pasture on the O.A.C. farm, and was by far the cheapest food available for the production of milk.

Cow Co-Partnership.

Chas. F. Whitley gave many striking examples of dairy herd improvement which had resulted from cow testing. The cow and the dairy farmer, he said, were partners, and the cow should receive credit for her contribution to the wealth of the farm. This could only be given correctly when the record of her production was down in black and white. Geo. A. Putnam, Toronto, stated that a bulletin was being prepared showing the comparative (Continued on Page 30.)