

MAINTAINING DAIRY **HERDS**

Following are extracts from the address of Herbert Hoover, U.S. Food Administrator, at the National Milk and Dairy Farm Exposition, Grand Central Palace, New York City, Thursday, May 23, 1918:

O one knows how long the war will last. If we are to win we will with four collateral weapons-men, munitions, ships and food. It may require years to win it and we intend to fight it out on this line-not if it takes all summer, but if it takes all of your lifetime and mine. We cannot anticipate that the animal situation in Europe will improve during the war. The enormous destruction must go on until the end. Throughout the whole of the course of the war there will be continued destruction of cattle and diminishing dairy products. There will be steady creeping of jeopardy towards the children of the Allies. North America stands unique in one great particular in this situation. We are independent of sea transport for feeding stuffs for our animals; we grow them side by side. Here lies the great economic difference in these foods between ourselves and Europe and here also the one reason why we can and must be the great final reservoir of supplies.

"There falls, therefore, upon us an increasing duty in the provision of food. To provide supplies we must build up reserves. The first reserve in meat and dairy products is the maintentenance of our herd. The second is to build up stocks in our warehouses in seasons of surplus production. If we can maintain our herds and our production, we can, in any emergency reduce the consumption of our own people without damaging our health by margins of such an amount as will provide for the Allies.

"In maintaining our dairy herds that they may be ready for any demand, you face one paramount difficulty-that is, labor. More men will be drafted to war, more will be required to furnish them munitions. There is only one ultimate solution in this industry.

That is, by the increased efforts of our men and the additional efforts of our women. Our women are ready and willing to stand with our men in this struggle.

"Far beyond our domestic difficulties, however, is our world duty. Parallel with this enormous and continuing destruction in Europe we must build our food resources so as to stand ready for any demands upon us by our Allies. It is of no purpose to us to send millions of our best to France if we fail to maintain the strength of their men, women and children on our lines of communication. After the war the time will come when we will need to replenish their herds from our own cattle. This United States is the last reservoir of men, the last reservoir of ships, the last reservoir of munitions and the last reservoir of food upon which the Allied world must depend if Germany is to be defeated and if we are to be free men.

"It therefore devolves upon us to maintain our present great potential strength in herds, for they cannot be re-established for many years if once lost. Not only must they be maintained as a guarantee to our Allies but they will be vital in the world's regeneration. The day may yet come when the child life of the world will be in your hands. place this before you on the high plane of service to the world. It is the duty of the government, just so far as we are able, to maintain economic equilibrium in the industry so that it can go on without hardship to those who engage in it, but should the impact of war so dislocate the industry as to cause temporary periods when loss faces you, it is the duty of every dairyman to stand by with that courage that comes from the knowledge that he is a part of the world's reserve army that may, at any moment, be called into battle for our existence and the existence of the next generation."

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