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STANDARD FEEDS

Eastern Dairymen Want Higher Cheese Prices

The Work of the Cheese Commission Last Year Appreciated. Cost of Producing Milk, However, is Advancing so Dairymen Will Ask Government to Try for Higher Prices.

ONE thing stood out above everything else at the M. O. D. A. Convention held last week at Perth—this was that higher prices are required for cheese if its production is to be fully maintained. This subject was discussed from all angles and at great length. As a result it was decided to send a monster deputation to Ottawa, in the near future, to ask the Federal Minister of Agriculture to use his influence with the British Government to have a higher price set for Canadian cheese this year. Incidentally the following facts were brought out:

First—During the past year a number of cheese factories in Eastern Ontario have found it impossible, at the prices they were receiving for cheese, to offer such prices for milk as would enable them to compete with certain other milk markets, and as a consequence had to close their doors.

Second—The increased cost of producing milk over those at the time the price of cheese was set last spring will require that many factories pay more for their milk this last year or shut down, and to pay more they

there was a disposition to feel that the farmers should have been consulted last year before a price was set. The subject was introduced by J. A. Campbell, of Ormond, who proposed that a deputation of one man from each county of Eastern Ontario go before the Federal Minister of Agriculture and ask that the Government use its influence with the British Government to have the price of cheese increased. He pointed to the closing of cheese factories in certain sections of Eastern Ontario through their inability to compete with the prices being paid for milk by condenseries, and stated that every blow to the cheese industry hits the pork industry, which is so important at present. "Cheese and hogs," said Mr. Campbell "go together."

J. W. McLeod, of Cornwall, commended the resolution. Dairymen will produce but they want a just recompense. "We are entitled to the cost of production, marketing milk through cheese," said Mr. McLeod, "and next year conditions will be worse. The high price fixed for wheat will make our feeds expensive, and the increased

THE RESOLUTION

The resolution that caused so much discussion, but which ultimately stood was moved by J. A. Campbell, Ormond, and seconded by A. McGrure, "That whereas, the price of cheese has been fixed at a level which means milk for cheese-making less profitable than milk disposed of in other ways; and,

"Whereas, this action has tended to discourage the production of milk for cheese-making; and,

"Whereas, the closing of cheese factories caused by the production of cheese and competition from condenseries in turn discourages the production of pork; and,

"Whereas, cheese is one of the standard foods of the British people and an important part of the army ration.

"Be it resolved that we the dairymen of Eastern Ontario, assembled in session, with a view to increased production at a reasonable profit to production, demand prompt action by this Association, a deputation of one man from each district to interview the Federal Minister of Agriculture and request that he direct that each district notify the manager or owner of each cheese factory of this resolution and urge them with any further information."

The Western Ontario Dairymen's Association and the Quebec Association will be asked to join the E. O. D. A. in this deputation.

must receive higher cheese prices. (The advances in the cost of milk production are due largely to the higher prices of grain and labor, and to the increase in freight rates.)

Third—The British Government last year did not, however, set a maximum price for Canadian cheese, but simply the price it was willing to pay for it. If Canadian producers could have obtained higher prices elsewhere they were free to do so.

Fourth—The cheese trade in Canada, because of the complete breakdown in shipping and banking facilities, brought about by the war, would have been absolutely unable to have handled the cheese export business last year had it not been for the appointment of the cheese commission.

Fifth—That after the British Government had set the price it was willing to pay for Canadian cheese it appointed one commissioner and asked the Canadian Government to appoint two others to look after the buying and shipping of the cheese. These commissioners were Dairy Commissioner Hudtuck and Mr. James Alexander, who worked all season without remuneration.

Sixth—The reason higher prices are paid for condensed milk than for cheese is that a larger number of countries are competing for it. England is our only cheese market.

Seventh—That while the Canadian Government may ask to have a higher price set for cheese this year it has no power to ensure such action being taken.

The Discussion.

This discussion was opened on Thursday, "Farmers' Day" at the Convention. At that time the members of the commission had not arrived and

freight rates will increase this expense still more."

The resolution was called for, and was passed without a dissenting vote.

Both Sides of It.

The resolution, however, was brought up for further consideration on Friday after the members of the Cheese Commission had arrived. Dairy Commissioner Hudtuck in his address Friday pointed out the futility of asking the Canadian Government for higher cheese prices. These, he stated, are fixed by the British Board of Trade. The buyer always has the privilege of refusing an article if he considers the price too high. He showed that had it not been for the work of the cheese commission, Canadian cheese could not have been exported last season in any price because of disorganized trade conditions. The commission took up the work because the ordinary channels of trade were closed, and they obtained the best deal possible under the circumstances for the cheese.

James Alexander, chairman of the commission, reviewed the conditions that led up to the appointment of the cheese commission. He told of the blocked warehouses, the inability of the exporters to get tonnage or to float their shipments because of the uncertainty of exchange. When the British Government offered to take the cheese at a certain price the commission was formed to buy and ship the cheese at the price offered by the British Board of Trade, and within three weeks had moved 800,000 cheese. The Canadian Government advanced \$40,000,000 and looked after the financing. By doing the business on a dollar basis, instead of the sterling basis as an

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