then arrive at a conclusion as to which would serve them best. All kinds of farm machinery were exhibited by the different manufacturers, and here again visitors to the fair had an opportunity of making comparisons as to the probable efficiency of the different implements. Silo-filling outfits were quite numerous, and they are being built more and more to guarantee safety to the operator. Anyone interested in road building was able to spend an interesting hour looking over the different species of machinery on exhibit for road construction purposes. Then there were different kinds of lighting plants with the various attachments for assisting in the household duties. Anyone at all interested in machinery would find the time spent in looking over the different exhibits of considerable value to them.

Splendid Showing of Poultry.

There was as usual a splendid showing of poultry at the C. N. E. this year although the number of entries was not quite up to the high standard set last year when 6,120 entries were made. All classes, however, were well filled and the various breeds were represented in about the same proportions as usual. The poultry exhibit is certainly a worth while one and one has the privilege of examining the very finest of exhibition specimens of almost any breed. The young stock this year was good, but the older birds did not put up their usual appearance because of the fact that they are starting to moult earlier than usual a fact that is regarded by some as indicative of an early winter. Great crowds are attracted to the poultry building and much interest is shown in the many different breeds and varieties of birds on exhibit. There is always a very fine entry in all of the ornamental classes and the more useful classes also show from 20 to 40 entries in each class. Barred Rocks, Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, Wyandottes, Orpingtons and Anconas are all out in force while among the Asiatics there are multitudes of Cochins and Brahmas. Any one who likes poultry should not fail to take in the poultry exhibit when visiting the Exhibition.

Toronto Milk Price Investigated.

Last week, on page 1,584, we published for our readers the report of the Milk Commission appointed by the Ontario Government, and referred to the investigation that would be held into the matter of Toronto winter milk prices, on September 9, in the City Hall, Toronto, by the Board of Commerce. This investigation has been held and lasted over two days. A representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" was present from the beginning to the last of the inquiry, and a report of the proceedings is herewith given as fully as space permits. Readers who wish to refresh their memory as to events leading up to the inquiry should consult the article published in last week's issue.

E. H. Stonehouse, President of the National Dairy Council and President of the Toronto Milk and Cream Producers' Association, was the first witness called. Mr. Stonehouse reviewed the situation up to the present, and recalled how $3.10 per eight-gallon can was a compromise last year on the understanding that an effort would be made to reduce the cost of millfeeds. The Board of Commerce had failed to reduce the cost of millfeeds, and the latter had, on the other hand, increased in price to a very considerable extent. Witness furthermore explained why September had been decided upon as a winter rather than as a summer month. Previously there had been five summer months and seven winter months, but conditions are such that the producers felt justified in claiming eight winter months and four summer months. Pastures are dry in September, flies are bad, and the cows are drying up; dairymen in a great many cases put their herds on full winter rations in September, in order to maintain a supply of milk, and witness thought it only reasonable that winter prices for milk should obtain then. Mr. Stonehouse declared "That producers were not striving to exact the last farthing from consumers, but were endeavoring only to obtain a price that would leave a fair margin of profit, so production would not decrease below the point of adequate supply for urban dwellers. They were endeavoring to obtain a fair price only.

The next witness called was J. E. Brethour, Burford, Ontario, who gave evidence that he was now feeding the full winter ration of grain and roughage; more than that, concentrates were costing him more than last year, and hay was costing $6 to $8 more per ton. In 1919, he maintained fifty to sixty cows, but had disposed of twenty because he did not find dairying profitable. Labor has cost $10 to $15 more per month than last year, and it is not efficient. Mr. Brethour gave evidence before the Fair Price Committee, one year ago, that it cost him $3.06 per cwt. to produce milk, and on this occasion he gave evidence that milk production was costing him fifteen to twenty per cent. more than last year.

E. S. Archibald, Director, Dominion Experimental Farms, was then called. Mr. Archibald was Chairman of the Ontario Milk Commission, whose report had been placed in the Minister's hands just prior to the hearing. Major Duncan, Counsel for the Board of Commerce, objected to the report being accepted as evidence, on the ground that the information had not been given under oath, but the report was read in and finally accepted. The witness then went on to explain how the survey had been made and the cost of milk production arrived at. Mr. Archibald declared that in his opinion the figures which gave $2.96 as the cost of producing an eight-gallon can of milk at the farm were extremely conservative. This cost, he declared, was low compared with the results of investigations carried on under his direction on the experimental farms throughout Canada. The witness was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Major Duncan, with little satisfaction indeed to the Counsel for the Board of Commerce. Since a large part of the report of the Ontario Milk Commission was given in our issue of September 2, we shall not elaborate on the evidence given at this point, but Mr. Archibald went further than the report and discussed the great risks involved by dairymen in that they had to combat certain contagious diseases, which, if they gained a foothold in the herd, would more than double the cost of milk production. He furthermore explained how the inspection carried out under the orders of the City Council, and the sanitary requirements, increased the cost of milk production when the product went to the consumer as whole milk, rather than to plants where it is converted into milk products. Mr. Archibald furthermore emphasized the point that it was necessary for producers to receive a fair price in order to keep them established in the business of milk production and in order to maintain a supply sufficient to meet the needs of city consumers. A reduction of the price below what was fair would discourage dairymen and leave consumers inadequately supplied. He was interested in the farm from the viewpoint of increasing production and decreasing production costs, and he was fully convinced that anything less than $3.25 per eight-gallon can, delivered, would discourage production and militate against the best interests of city consumers.

On the second day of the investigation the attention of the Board was largely devoted to the examination of milk distributors. In addition to these men there were represented the condensed milk, evaporated milk and milk powder plants taking milk from Oxford County, as well as Mrs. Huestis, representing the Child Welfare League and Dr. Allan Brown, Physician-in-Chief to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto. The President of the City Dairy, Toronto, testified that their product was sold both wholesale and retail, and that the average selling price of their whole product was about eighty per cent. of the retail selling price. The retail selling price per quart under the new price is 16.66 cents per quart; the average selling price of the whole product is 13.32 cents per quart; the average operating cost is about 3 cents per quart. The cost of milk to the dairy under present prices is 10.15 cents per quart, so that if the operating cost is deducted from the average selling price, and the September cost deducted from the figure remaining, the spread to the Company will be .35 cents per quart of milk. Out of this net spread such charges as interest, possible increases in business, increased labor, etc., must be taken care of. In addition to wages, the drivers are paid a three per cent. commission on sales, which amounts to .07 cents per quart, so that the net spread to the City Dairy Company was stated to be .28 cents per quart for the present month. Endeavor was made by counsel for the Board and for the City of Toronto to show that there is in existence a combine between the distributors and the producers to enhance the price of milk unfairly. This was denied by all the witnesses. Neither the City Dairy nor the Farmers' Dairy belong to the Toronto Retail Milk Distributors' Association, nor, according to the evidence, do they discuss with each other the question of milk prices with a view to imposing a common price upon the public.

It is a practice to meet the Toronto Milk & Cream Producers' Association twice yearly in order to determine the price which the producer shall receive, and at these meetings consideration must be had, according to witnesses, for the ultimate price which the consumer shall be charged. Distributors do not buy milk at other than the price agreed upon with the Producers' Association, and practically all witnesses stated that they found this method the only one practicable of dealing with a large number of producers. Contracts are made directly with individual producers, one-half of whom in the case of the City Dairy ship direct to Toronto, and the other half to receiving stations throughout the Province. All payments are made direct to the producer from the Company. The increased retail price per quart to the consumer, due to the new price established September 1, amounts to 2½ cents per quart. The same price is paid the producer for milk delivered at receiving stations as for milk delivered to the Company's plant in Toronto, less the costs of handling and transportation.

The evidence of other distributors was somewhat similar to that of the City Dairy Company, which has from 1,200 to 1,500 patrons. The Farmers' Dairy does both a retail and wholesale business and has about 450 shippers—receiving approximately 100,000 pounds of milk per month, of which 75 per cent. is distributed wholesale. The operating costs of this Company are over 3 cents per quart. Both companies testified that the price to the producer was a fair one and that it cost from 25 to 30 cents per can to transport milk, either by truck or by rail, from the producer to the dairy. One of the smaller distributors testified that it cost about one cent per quart more to distribute milk now than it did a year ago, and that the cost of delivery alone had gone up 3 cents per gallon. This witness also pointed out that it was impossible to gauge exactly the amount of milk required for the retail trade on any day or week. For the week ending September 4, for instance, he had received 124,752 pounds of milk, of which only 115,170 pounds were sold at retail. This left 9,582 pounds to be disposed of otherwise, for which he had paid $370.57, and received only $230.40. The amount lost on this excess supply, namely, $140.15, constitutes, according to the witness, one of the factors which the small distributor must face. Representatives of the Borden Milk Company, the Carnation Milk Company, and the Canadian Milk Products Company, were called by Major Duncan, representing the Board of Commerce, in an endeavor to prove that these companies can get all the milk they require and of a quality that compares very favorably with that required for the city milk trade, at a price far below $3.25 per eight-gallon can. D'Arcy Scott, for the producers, however, was able to show that last winter these companies had paid as high as $3.50 per cwt. for milk delivered at their local plants, and testing 3.5 per cent. fat. Mr. Scott was able to bring out the fact that even at these prices the companies were not always able to get all the milk they wanted.

Dr. R. M. Jenkins, Chief of the Milk Division, City Health Department, Toronto, testified that about 5,000 eight-gallon cans of milk are shipped daily into Toronto, and that about one-quarter of the city's milk supply comes from Oxford County in the winter months. Mr. Geary, for the City of Toronto, also endeavored to show, through testimony on the part of Dr. Allan Brown, that from the standpoint of the health of the people the increase in the price of milk should be forbidden. Dr. Brown discussed very authoritatively the value of milk in the growth of infants, and for the nourishment of nursing mothers, and pointed out that there is no other substitute for breast feeding except modified cow's milk in its natural state. He strongly condemned the use of canned milk and patent baby foods, and in reply to a question said he strenuously objected to any increase in the cost of milk, because it would seriously decrease the consumption. On being cross-examined by D'Arcy Scott, however, he pointed out the absolute superiority of milk as a food by various illustrations, and said that upon no other single food could a human being remain in a healthy condition, nor was there any other single food which supplied all the various food elements necessary for human growth and development. He was finally brought to say that, if necessary to maintain the supply of milk for city residents, an increase in the price of milk was certainly more to be desired than a decrease in the supply.

Strenuous efforts were made during all of the second day by Major Duncan, Counsel for the Board of Commerce, to discredit the figures presented in the report of the Milk Commission appointed by the Ontario Government. On several occasions Major Duncan sought to prove these figures wrong, and by manipulating them to suit his purpose he managed to distort them so that the same figures arranged differently yielded a different cost of production of milk; and in one case cost lower than for last year. It was noticeable, however, that whereas he was seemingly successful in this attempt on the second day of the investigation when none of the witnesses were producers, or even well acquainted with the producing business, he had signally failed on the first day in any attempts to impose such distortion upon witnesses like Messrs. Stonehouse, Archibald and Brethour. In fact, Major Duncan's conduct throughout the investigation proved him ever ready to adopt whatever tactics came to hand in order to maintain his prosecuting attitude toward the producers. His picayune tactics were in strong contrast to those of Major Geary, representing the City of Toronto, who, though a strong opponent of the increase in price, proved himself a fair fighter and assumed no more knowledge on his own behalf than he felt he could carry through.

At the evening session all of the time was devoted to the arguments of counsel. The producers' case rests upon the fact that the increase of 15 cents per can amounts to only five per cent., and that the Board must prove that this extra five per cent. will create an unfair profit for the producer, when the price of $3.10 per can last year was declared by the Board to be a fair price. D'Arcy Scott put up a strong argument for the producers, and a strong plea for the justice of the present price. The arguments of Majors Geary and Duncan in opposition emphasized the inefficiency of the average milk producer, and opposed the thought that the consumer should be forced to pay for the poor methods and the high cost of production of many producers. Major Duncan made a characteristic remark when he said that there was not tittle of evidence to justify a price of $3.25 per can being forced on the citizens of Toronto for the month of September. If winter conditions were prevalent in September, so they had been in every other September, and it was an altogether unwarranted and high-handed procedure to try and force an extra winter month on the consumer, especially when the condenseries, etc., are paying only $2.66 per can. The Major also made some suggestions for the Board's approval. He suggested that the Board declare $2.70 per can a fair price for a period of thirty days from September 15, and that a price of $3.10 be declared a fair price for the winter months following October 15; this price to be subject to increase or reduction, provided the producers could show the cost of rationing dairy cattle to have increased at any time during the winter, or that the City could show the cost of feeding to have decreased. He also made certain recommendations with regard to the spread which the distributor should be allowed. The Board reserved its decision, pending the elaboration of the testimony taken at the investigation. In the meantime the price of $3.25 per can remains in effect.

Western Fair in Progress.

At the beginning of this week the Western Fair opened its gates for the 1920 Exhibition and, with favorable weather, the best fair in the history of London should be staged. Entries are large and all the live stock is on hand that can be accommodated. As we go to press the weather is favorable and everything is progressing well. A full report of the Fair will appear in next week's issue.