

## Dairymen Want Legislation Postponed

E.O.D.A. Convention Passes Resolution to that Effect—Principle of Dairy Standards Act Commended—Country Not Ready For It

KERN is the interest taken by the dairymen of eastern Ontario in the legislation providing that after March 31st next the milk received at cheese factories in the province shall be paid for on a quality basis. As was expected, interest was manifest at the Dairymen's convention at Napanee. The attendance, larger than it has been at a convention of the E.O.D.A. for the last eight or ten years, was evidence of this interest. The opponents of the Dairy Standards Act are aggressive in their opposition, and when that part of the programme providing for the discussion of the Act was reached, a lively discussion took place. A considerable proportion of those in attendance were from those districts in which the opposition to the Act has been most marked, and the sentiment of the meeting reflected this attitude. The result was, therefore, that when the moment of decision came a resolution asking the Ontario Government to postpone the date of carrying the dairy legislation into effect be postponed until a further campaign of education regarding quality payment be carried on was agreed to.

### Mr. Roadhouse Opens Discussion.

"It could not be expected that conditions that had existed for thirty years could be disturbed without causing pain," said Mr. W. Bert Roadhouse in opening the discussion on the new Dairy Standards Act. "From the start there has been difference of opinion as to which of the various systems of quality payment was nearest right; there has been no difference of opinion, however, that the pooling system was the furthest from the right method." After outlining the method by which the Act had been drafted and placed before the people Mr. Roadhouse stated that from Quebec, New York, and many other states they had received letters of commendation for the Act. Authorities everywhere were agreed that the move was with the trend of the times. He then referred to some of the objections that had been raised. To those who said that the principle was all right but that it wouldn't work in practice, the answer was that it was working in 10 per cent. of the factories of eastern Ontario; 86 of which had adopted the quality basis of payment. Some had objected on the ground that the legislation was arbitrary, but that could be said of all legislation. In this case it was necessary to legislate on the matter in order to do justice to all. This was not an objection, but a part of the formality. "We didn't ask for it," said some, but since there had been a persistent discussion of the matter for over 20 years it could not be said that the Legislature had broken the speed laws in framing it. One way of judging public opinion was by the press, and the agricultural press of Ontario had, without exception, favored the legislation. Time had been given, every means to facilitate the smooth working of the Act had been provided. The close of the war would see a scramble for trade, and he believed that this legislation would put the cheese industry on a sounder footing to meet the demands of such times, since it would guarantee to each patron of cheese factories a fair share of his return from the cheese industry.

### Mr. Zuehl Explain Experiments.

The experiments that were conducted to find out the amount of cheese that was produced from 100 lbs. lots of milk of different percentages of fat were explained by Mr. Zuehl. These

experiments have already been dealt with in full in these columns and required no further comment. Mr. Zuehl asked the pointed question, "Would you be willing to pool your cows and receive payment for your milk according to the number of cows whose milk you sent to the factory?" If many were out 10 lbs. in their weights, he said, the patron called him to time, and rightly so, yet the richness of the milk he sent to the factory had much more to do with the amount of money he received than a slight mistake in the weighing.

At this point a young farmer asked the question, "Is there a danger to the breeding of dairy cows in that farmers would, instead of taking the long road to breed up for higher fat readings, take what might appear to be a short cut, and cross breed to high testing breeds?" Mr. Zuehl replied that it was not the fat reading of a cow's milk that determined her value, but her combined milk and fat production. It was conceivable that a 2.5 cow would be a profitable one if she gave milk enough.

Mr. Zuehl went on to say that the curse of the dairy business was the lack of discrimination in the value of our cows' production. It resulted in sending to the poorest, instead of up to the best. The proper enforcement of the Dairy Act would do more for the upbuilding of the dairy industry in Ontario than all the cumulative legislation of the last 30 years.

Mr. Ayer raised a tremendously important point when he stated that cheese from high testing milk lacked the body that was required by the British market. He showed plugs of cheese taken from exhibits in the hall, one of which was from 4.2 milk and the other from 3.8 milk. The latter was much firmer and, said Mr. Ayer, was more what the market required. He was not opposing the dairy Act, but wished to point out to dairymen that milk could be too rich for making good export cheese.

### A Vigorous Protest.

Jas. McCormack, of Richmond Hill, entered a vigorous protest against the legislation. "There are very few men sending 4.3 per cent. milk to factories," he said. "The average is around 3.5 per cent. and there is not enough variation from this to warrant any such legislation." A few men, he stated, had stood the matter and had the legislation put through without asking the farmers whether they wanted it or not. The members of the legislature had worn cushion-soled boots when they were passing the Act so that the farmers would not find out what they were about. Now they were sending men around with sugar-coated speeches to tell them what had been done, but the sugar would soon melt off and the farmers would taste the slops. They did not want a Government auditor over them at every cross road.

### A Resolution Introduced.

W. J. Paul, M.P., then took the platform. He paid a high tribute to Mr. Paul. Mr. Zuehl and the instructors under them. Regarding the Act he said that it was easy to bring arguments to support it, but not so easy to argue against it. The question they should all ask themselves, however, was how was it going to affect the situation. The results, he feared, would be disappointing. Two or three disgruntled patrons on a route of ten would destroy it and two or three devious routes would mean a destroyed factory. If the Act was going to have the effect of disorganizing co-operation, they would be better with-

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