

By the Chairman:

Q. At the present time what is the average price per quart paid for milk by the consumer in Montreal?—A. That likewise is a difficult question to answer, because, presumably, ultimately the consumer buys all the milk sold at wholesale—through hotels, grocery stores and small dealers. Probably it is in the neighbourhood of eight and a quarter cents. It is just a guess.

Q. Perhaps I should have said the prevailing price.—A. I wish there was one. The house to house delivery is ten cents, ostensibly. Actually some cuts are given in the case of large customers, and there are what we call small peddlers selling for eight cents right now.

By Hon. Mr. Sinclair:

Q. As a producer, what do you receive?—A. Forty-three cents a pound butter fat, which is on the basis of \$1.50, which is the price in Montreal for 3.5 milk.

By Hon. Mr. Sharpe:

Q. What does that work out at a quart?—A. Five cents, approximately.

Q. They double the price, then.—A. But that, of course, sir, is a very good price, because I am selling Jersey milk, very high in test.

Q. You said you got the common price.—A. I get the common price per pound of butter fat. My milk tests about 5.

By the Chairman:

Q. Is 3.5 the standard required?—A. Yes, sir.

By Hon. Mr. Sharpe:

Q. And we pay at our door ten cents a quart for it. We do not know what test that is at all. What does the average farmer get for that a quart?—A. Oh, three or three and a half cents a quart; sometimes less.

By Hon. Mr. Pope:

Q. Never more?—A. Never more under present circumstances.

Q. Never more, and sometimes less.—A. I should like to point out very definitely that it is not any absolute level of price that attracts a farmer into a given line of agriculture business; it is the relative price; it is whether such a price is high or low compared with the returns in some other line of activity in which that farmer can engage. You have just intimated that the price received by farmers who supply whole milk is probably an inadequate price. It is; but it is less inadequate than the price received for manufacturing milk at present. Therefore, relatively speaking it is a good price, not a bad price. The fact that the price does not enable me to make interest on my money is, if you like, the fault of the times. The whole society of Canada is failing to make interest on its money at the present time.

By Hon. Mr. Sharpe:

Q. When you are delivering common run of milk for three and a half cents you hand it over to some person else, and he sells it at ten cents?—A. Yes.

Q. That man must be making money?—A. I wish he was.

Q. Where does the expense come in?—A. That is a long story. There is an endless train of expenses that have grown up over a period of years. In many cities there is the Union scale of wages to drivers—Winnipeg, for instance. Wages are as high as they were three or four years ago. There are very stringent health regulations that compel the maintenance of the plant in a certain