

HOW MR. PAT CLARKE SOLVED HIS BIGGEST PROBLEM IN DAIRYING

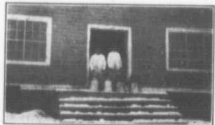
One of Ottawa's Leading Dairymen and His Neighbor, also a City Milkman, put in B-L-K Mechanical Milkers, and do away with Hand Milking. How They Save Their Men the old time Drudgery. The Machines are Popular and are a Success. Inspected by an Editor of Farm & Dairy.



B-L-K Milkers in Mr. Clarke's Stable Being Set for Us to Inspect and Photograph

A GREAT big question is in the minds of every progressive and extensive dairy farmer as to whether or not he should put in equipment to milk his cows mechanically and thereby greatly lessen the hard work and do away with the drudgery of hand milking his cows. Will it pay? And is the milking machine a success? You can find much in the way of satisfactory answer to your questions about Mechanical milking, by reading about the facts in the following, as secured first-hand by an editor of Farm and Dairy recently from Mr. Pat Clarke, one of Ottawa's largest and most successful dairy farmers, who supplies milk to that city; and also by noting the information as gathered from a visit to Mr. L. D. Slater's big dairy near Ottawa, both of these dairymen having now had for some little time in successful operation B-L-K Mechanical Milkers in their respective dairy stables.

I instal the milking machine. Before I put it in I wanted to get out of dairying, as I was sick of it, for I had had so much trouble with getting suitable help and men to milk the cows. I found that if I wanted to get clean milk I must put on the men, and then having put on the men there was no profit left in the business. Last year I got into greatest difficulty in securing men; to save the situation I put in the B-L-K Milker. "I am getting good results and I have not missed milking as yet with the milker. Not a cow has gone wrong in her milk flow since putting in the machine; the milk flow is more regular and it has not cost me a cent for repairs so far. I can see even with my limited experience covering the actual use of the milker, that it is here to stay. I have always said that if I could get the kind of milkers I would like, I would rather not have the machine, but if I have the same opinion at the end of the year as I now have of my B-L-K Milker, I'll forget about my former prejudice."



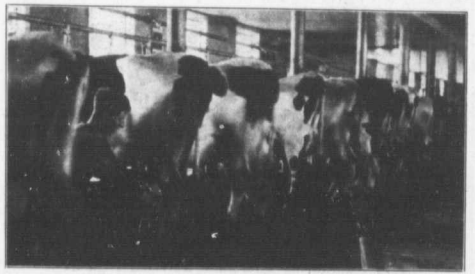
Mr. Clark's Outfit Milks 8 Cows at Once

You would probably have to travel the country over to find a better informed and more up-to-the-minute dairymen and who has had as wide an experience up against all of the problems confronting dairymen, than Mr. Pat Clarke, of the Silver Springs Dairy Farm, Ottawa. When we called on him we found him right in his dairy attending to business. He hesitated to talk at first about the success he is having with his Mechanical Milker. We found him very cautious in his statements. He realized full well that he ought to be careful about saying too much about his success with those milkers until he had used them for several years. Because of his attitude in this respect we regarded his opinion with the more favor, and herewith set it before Farm and Dairy readers for their careful consideration.

At the outset Mr. Clarke said: "I have been looking at Mechanical Milkers and considering the question of installing them seriously, during the past seven years. I had seen 18 or 20 different installations of Mechanical Milkers and I even went right to the factory to see the machines. I then decided I would not have it, as I had been and always will be very particular about the bacterial count in the milk and some experiments that had been concluded at the Ohio Experiment Station had given me a "chill," since the bacterial count with them had gone up. But at last I had to have the milker or get out of this dairy business. I was driven to

As he continued to discuss the merits of this great labor-saving device for milking cows, Mr. Clarke made it clear that there was still a man problem to solve and this in connection with the operation and care of the Mechanical Milker. "I believe," he said, "that a farmer who is using the milker himself and has his wife or his daughter to give attention to the cleaning of it, will make the greatest success of Mechanical Milking. The man in charge of the operation of the machines should be someone whose pocket nerve is touched by every mistake that he makes. Such a man will find out all that he can about how best to operate the milkers, and he will be very careful about making the same mistakes twice."

"It is in connection with cleaning the machine that great care should be exercised. The instructions sent



Placing the B-L-K Milkers on the Cows in Mr. L. D. Slater's Dairy, Ottawa, Ont.

-All photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

out by some manufacturers are all wrong in that they advise cleaning only once a week. It stands to reason that the machine should be taken down every day and cleaned. There is hardly a man that one can get to do this work rightly. A woman would do it better and it is here that the average farmer would score a point over a large dairymen, who is depending on hired outside help exclusively."

Mr. Clarke has four units or milkers in his outfit; each of these milks two cows at a time. In order to keep track of the production of each individual cow, the milk from each cow is weighed on every 10th day. He finds that every 10th day will give a very close estimate as to the total production. Figuring up on some of his cows for 18 months back, the total difference of every day milking was only a matter of 72 lbs. covering that extended period of time; this difference he considers hardly worth while to make advisable the extra trouble of taking weighings daily for each cow.

There is considerable to learn about the management of a herd under mechanical milking to secure the best result from the Mechanical Milkers. "It is most essential," remarked Mr. Clarke, "to mate up the cows in pairs, so they will milk out clean together, and thus save time on the machines. It takes one week to get the cows arranged just right. One should aim to build up the herd so that it will give best results when the machine is to be used for milking. Discard cows with big large teats and those also with small teats. Heifers I find milk out quickly and cleanly with the Mechanical Milker and even the heifers of last year milk out better with the machine than do the old cows. I find it is better not to milk out the cows too clean, but rather to strip out the last by hand, since you thus enable the machine to make better time. In working with heifers, or a young herd and when one is wishing to build up a herd that will give the best results with the milker, I would not advise the practice of stripping since the herd should be built up and educated as it were to milk out clean."

"A good man can operate two machines handily. For the best results I would not advise him operating more than two. I believe that the dissatisfaction some people have had with Mechanical Milkers, is because they have tried to get one man to operate too many units. It is important to manipulate the udder and stimulate the secretion of the cow. We, of course, are anxious about the bacterial count in the milk we produce, therefore wash the few drops drawn from each teat just previous to attaching the machine and this is a good practice also from the standpoint of stimulating the cow to "let

down" her milk. Then the operator should have time to be able to exercise care in watching the milk and getting the machine on to the next pair of cows. It is difficult to get a good operator. He must in addition to giving care to these details as suggested, see that the pulsating is right, see that the vacuum is right—not too high nor too low."

The day previous to our visit to this farm, Dr. Higgins, of Ottawa, had been out to secure samples of the mechanically drawn milk to test for bacterial count. He had found them to be below 10,000 per cc. (cubic centimeter). A second sample he had taken went below 1,000 per cc. This is considered to be exceptionally low, as milk ordinarily drawn is well over



B-L-K Milker Half at Work, Half Idle

20,000 and often over 80,000 to 100,000 bacteria per cc. The bacterial count is of course greatly dependant upon the cleanliness of the stables, of the cows, and most certainly of the machine. In this connection Mr. Clarke remarked: "I know of one large dairy where care had to be taken of the bacterial count, and because of this they discarded the Mechanical Milker. On personal investigation I found the reason to be because of the machines not being regularly and properly cleaned. Water was drawn through the machine, but they were not taken down and thoroughly gone over, except once in two weeks, and they had even let it go as long as four weeks! The machines must be taken down every day, and they would be better to be cleaned twice a day.

(Continued on page 8.)

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G. A. Street

Jack must lo ever crossed through and little short of all he surr of barn, an the Hill-Crest a little better not? Doesn them a com scratch their "I would r keep many co before making Countess. "I any other we year later, ex more milking whole life bef 2 I was m Now I am so will have at t work."

Did you ev every dairy fa Spot, and Sue, that will trun he is worth don't care a name or not. from England, you, by your f make him an wire on your f be to play an I have about efficient help d enthusias the w social fitness. Say, did you was willing af