

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE W. R. MOTHERWELL
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

**"THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND ITS BEARING ON
THE DAIRY INDUSTRY."**

At the outset let me express my appreciation of the privilege of meeting you all as co-workers in a good cause. The department has, in the past, and hopes in the future, to work in conjunction with you. By working together and in harmony a great deal can be done, and there is still room for much to be done. In the past we have been working on rather a small scale; we have been experimenting, as it were, but now the time has come when we should meet together and discuss the difficulties we have met with in different localities in the past, and—more important still—discuss the future. We have a great responsibility; I mean we as the first Dairymen's Convention have a great responsibility. Upon you rests more or less what the future shall be. To some of us who have been waiting and hoping for years this meeting means a lot.

PIONEER DAIRYING.

Some of you will remember in the early days in this province when we first came up here some of the difficulties we then experienced. Grain growing did not pay in those days. Most of us were from Ontario and it was only natural that with the tendency for dairying, and under the conditions existing at that time, we should try to make dairying a success. Many of you will remember that in those days some of us were saved from going to the wall by a few cows while many of our grain growers did go to the wall. But there was such a small population then and so few that were interested in dairying that it was impossible to make a real success of the industry. Then there was another reason why it did not succeed. There was such a small home consumption of butter, and you might say no outside market whatever, that the larger the number that tried dairying the worse it got, and dairy butter went down and kept going down until you could only get sometimes as low as eight or ten cents per pound for it.

In the year 1897 the Dominion Government undertook to aid the dairy industry in this province and for that purpose they established a number of creameries here. It is easy to look back now and see the mistakes of that day, which after all have been common to most new countries. I never yet have discovered the man who did not make a mistake, but the effect of those mistakes to us as an association must now be beneficial. It is a wise man who does not make the same mistake twice. Creameries were established at Moosomin, Whitewood, Grenfell, Wolseley, Indian Head and many other wheat growing districts. Everybody wanted creameries and with the enthusiasm for their own town that still characterises the west, they all wanted a