

BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Fruit and Farm Magazine

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Man on the Land.

Vol. IX.—No. 3

Vancouver, British Columbia

\$1.00 per year  
in Advance

## Provincial Dairymen in Annual Conclave.

Encouraging Progress in Marketing Dairy Produce.

By T. A. F. WIANCHO, Provincial Dairy Instructor.

The eleventh annual convention of the B. C. Dairymen's Association was held in the city of Nanaimo on Thursday and Friday, January 25 and 26. Prominent dairymen were present from almost every dairying district of the province, and from the opening of the first session till the close of the last on the second day the keenest interest and goodfellowship was shown, and it was conceded by many to have been one of the most successful events of its kind held in B. C.

Hon. John Oliver, minister of agriculture, sent his regrets at his inability to be present, and in the absence of President Wm. Duncan, the president's address was read by S. H. Shannon, Cloverdale, chairman, extracts of which are here given:

"The progress that is being made towards the more economical marketing of dairy and other farm products is very encouraging. That spirit of individualism which, up to a certain point, is to be commended, should not be carried too far. During the progress of this convention we will hear from some of the men, both on the mainland and on the island, who are taking a leading part in uniting us for our mutual benefit, and who should be congratulated on the progress that is being made.

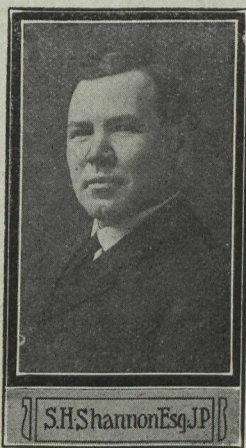
"This is not an opportune time to give an expression of opinion as to the merits of any particular breed of dairy cattle. Such an expression in a convention of this kind would call forth a discussion which, while it might not be profitable, would certainly be lively. This, however, may be said, and cannot be too much emphasized; the breed that will give the best returns at the least cost is the breed we should have. Further, whatever breed we have, let us breed something worth while; let the sire be pure and pedigreed and the best that we can afford, and if we cannot afford to own a good sire, let us take advantage of the assistance towards that end offered by the government.

"The loss to the province caused by breeding from what should have been veal years ago would be difficult to estimate.

"The work done by the cow-testing associations is becoming more and more appreciated, and in these days the man who fails to take advantage of the means of knowing whether the individual cow is making him a profit or simply eating up his high-priced feed is, to say the least, lacking in business ability and weak in details."

### Directors' Report.

The report of the directors showed the association to be in a sound financial position, and that the funds were wisely and judiciously spent. The beginning of the year was somewhat discouraging, owing to



President.

severe weather conditions and the scarcity of dairy feeds. Spring conditions were also less favorable than in 1915 owing to cold wet weather and lack of early pasture. Heavy rains during early July resulted in much damage to the hay crop and this will be severely felt during the present feeding period.

The increase of total dairy produce is not as marked as expected, and any increase due from yield of young stock was largely offset by the weather conditions already referred to.

The average prices for butter during the past year were the highest ever reached in B. C., resulting in good prices to the milk and cream producer.

### Outlook Promising.

The directors expressed the belief that after the war is over there will possibly be a temporary drop in the prices of dairy products, but this should not, in their opinion, be of so serious a nature that dairymen will be induced to decrease their herds, but to continue to make dairying a permanent feature of their farming operations. Past experience has proved that there is no other line of agriculture which will, for a period of years, pay better than dairy farming, and the directors expressed the hope that high prices together with better climatic conditions next season will stimulate dairying to a much larger production.

The total membership of the association for 1916 was 224, which was an increase of twenty per cent more than in 1915. All of the directors, and about 95 per cent of the members, are actual dairy farmers, the balance being creamery men and others

closely connected with the industry. In this respect the B. C. Dairymen's Association shows a very marked contrast to the associations of our sister provinces.

Appreciation was expressed of the assistance given the association by the B. C. department of agriculture to further the dairy interests of the province, and of the effort of the department to stamp out bovine tuberculosis, and the hope was expressed that the government would vigorously continue this important work.

### Interesting Address.

During the first afternoon session Prof. P. A. Boving, of the field husbandry department of the University of British Columbia, gave a very instructive address on "Succulent foods, with special reference to corn and roots," and Prof. J. A. McLean, of the animal husbandry department of the university, took for his subject "Some essentials of dairy cattle feeding," and pointed out the importance of the dairy farmer growing as much as possible of the proper kind of feeds on his own farm, to provide plenty of succulent feed, and feed grain in accordance with the individual needs of each cow.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie, B. C. representative of the Dominion Live Stock branch, spoke on "Contagious Abortions," and pointed out the essentials in preventing the spread of this dreaded disease.

### Evening Session.

The evening session was devoted to an address by Geo. H. Barr, chief of the dairy division, Ottawa, on the "Care of Milk and Cream." Many ladies and school children attended to get the benefit of this talk on a subject which has such a very important bearing on the health of our people. Prof. Boving followed with an address on the "Importance of a Right Start in Seed-growing; Some Breeding Problems," and gave it as his opinion that British Columbia will become one of the important seed growing centres of the continent, owing to peculiar climatic and soil conditions which are found here.

### Second Day.

Mr. C. Marker, dairy commissioner, Alberta, reported on the butter competition, and complimented our makers on the excellence of their exhibits. Continuing, he emphasized the importance of grading and paying for cream on a quality basis.

Mr. Barr, in his talk on the "Importance of Cow-testing," brought out some very valuable discussion and expressed appreciation of the work done by the four cow-testing associations in B. C., whose work is particularly valuable in that they also take food costs into consideration.