

CITY MILK SUPPLY

London Producers Organizing

THE milk producers in the vicinity of London have organized an association and are endeavoring to put the milk trade of that city on a better basis. The high and constantly rising cost of production, and the necessity for securing prices that would adequately compensate them under the new conditions, was the ground on which the dairymen got together. District Representative R. A. Plan, in his departmental report, gives the following short resume of the organization work among the milk producers: "On account of the scarcity of rough feed, and the high price of grain, the dairymen in the vicinity of London have felt they were not getting a sufficient price for their milk. They have been supplying milk to retailers and were only getting four cents a quart. They decided to organize, and at their first meeting raised the price to five cents. They came to this office and asked for help along this line. After getting in touch with Toronto Wholesale Milk Producers, and a like association in Oxford county, we were able to draw up a constitution for them which they accepted without any changes. They decided to raise the price to five and one-half cents a quart, and if feed prices should warrant it on the first of January, they will make a further advance in price. As yet, not all the producers have joined the association, but about twenty-five have. These men are all within a radius of ten miles of London. They also intend to cooperate in buying and selling supplies."

Wentworth Milk Producers Want Increase

THE striking of the word "unduly" from the former law regarding combines, and the activity of the Department of Labor in preventing concerted action on the part of milk producers in bargaining on the price they are to receive for their product, has left the milk producers in a quandary as to how to proceed in settling their difficulties with city dealers and in securing a fair price for their milk. It is stated that the retailers also hesitate to work together for fear of governmental action. Considerable difficulty, therefore, is being met in settling the questions at issue between these two parties. A deputation of the Wentworth County Milk Producers' Association recently waited upon the Hon. I. B. Lucas, Provincial Attorney-General, for the purpose of ascertaining what lines they can operate on in case the retail dealers persist in their refusal to pay the advance price demanded.

In placing the case of the association before the Attorney-General, President J. P. Griffin stated that his association had not definitely decided upon the advance price of milk supplied to the Hamilton dealers, but they felt that an increase from 21 to 24 cents a gallon, or \$1.92 a can, which is eight cents lower than the price paid in Toronto, would not be unreasonable.

At the present price, the producers were losing on an average of nine cents a gallon. He declared that the present wholesale price was absurd under existing conditions and that Wentworth producers, because of the lack of fodder, corn, were forced to purchase feed at high prices, with the result that they were losing an average of 12 cents a can on every can of milk delivered to the Hamilton dealers. In this connection, Mr. Griffin produced figures to show that, leaving out of consideration the overhead expenses, interest on capital invested, and the high cost of labor, it took 30 cents to produce a gallon of milk. The fear was expressed that,

should the producers refuse to deliver to Hamilton, some of the Toronto companies might fill Hamilton orders, but this view was disavowed by some of the Toronto producers, who claimed that the Toronto dealers had difficulty in securing milk sufficient to supply their own trade.

After the Attorney-General had heard the arguments advanced by the producers, he advised them to take up the matter with their solicitors, so that they would not fall in danger of exceeding the regulations laid down by the new order respecting combines. The Hon. Mr. Ferguson also informed them that he could not promise anything definite until further investigations were made. It is likely the Wentworth producers will continue their agitation, and it is hoped that the rise in price can be secured without disturbance to the Hamilton milk trade.

Woodstock Milk Producers Amalgamate

THE milk dealers of Woodstock, Ont., are endeavoring to effect the rising price of milk by organizing to reduce the cost of delivery. It is expected to effect considerable economy by doing away with unnecessary duplication of milk routes. Local consumers are promised that, as a result of the reduction in the cost of distributing, made possible by the amalgamation, the price of milk will be reduced from ten to nine cents a quart as soon as the company starts operation. Next summer it is proposed to install a pasteurization plant, the first in Woodstock. The high cost and scarcity of labor is given as the reason for the amalgamation.

Dairy Notes

TO give proper care to milk you must have the equipment with which to do it. Those who grow grain have a granary. Every crop you produce, you have in addition to put on the market. The dairyman is keeping his cows on expensive land. He is selling all of his crops through them. What he gets from milk is his reward. Surely then, it is worth while giving the milk proper care in order that the resultant product may bring the best price possible—G. G. Publow, Chief Dairy Inspector, Eastern Ontario.

The best of salt should always be used when making butter. There are many good brands of dairy salt, but we always use the Windsor, which is put up in barrels.—Mrs. A. Thomson, Wellington Co., Ont.

Adding enough preservative to keep the composite sample fresh without shaking after adding the daily sample, gave the least mould in the bottles at the Ontario Agricultural College Dairy School. It was noticed that if cream was not allowed to spill on the sides of the bottle the mould developed. Mr. Mac Robinson, of Belleville, suggests that the method may be improved on where powder is used by adding half the preservative when a composite sample is started and the other half when half the individual samples have been added.

One of the farmers' most troublesome problems is the equalization of labor throughout the year. Among the suggestions for winter work are the following: Repair each piece of farm machinery, make tools and do other carpenter and repair work; oil and repair harness, haul manure, sharpen all tools, sharpen mower sickles, sharpen post for fences, prune orchard and other trees, clean seed, repair buildings (particularly inside work), and market grain and hay. Where cows freshen in the fall, the larger care in milking them and caring for their calves comes during the winter months.

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