

FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

VOL. XXXV

TORONTO, ONT., NOVEMBER 23, 1916

No. 46

The Organization of Milk and Cream Producers' Associations

The Need of Organization—Initial Steps—Objects to be Attained and Dangers to be Avoided

By R. D. COLQUETTE, B.S.A.

THE producers of milk for city consumption, when acting singly, have difficulty in arriving at what the milk rate should be. When a dealer can come to a man and say, "Here is my price, your neighbors have agreed to take it," and that man has no means of ascertaining the consensus of the producers' opinion regarding the market value of milk, he is at a disadvantage in making his contract. Even if he has talked the matter over with his neighbors, and there is understanding between them, there is still a possibility of one community being played off against another, and of the price being thereby depressed. To meet such conditions, as well as to improve the quality of the milk supply, to mitigate unfavorable shipping conditions, and to look after the interests of producers generally, is the object of every well-conducted milk producers' association. Although there are now many such associations in successful operation still more are being formed. There is, therefore, a demand for information as to how organizations of milk producers can best be effected, and what the objects of the associations should be. It was to secure additional information on these important matters that I recently journeyed to the home of Mr. A. J. Reynolds, Durham Co., Ont., who, for many years, has filled the position of secretary of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association with conspicuous success, and who is therefore qualified to speak with authority on the problems that confront the producer of city milk.

The First Step.

"The best time of the year to start proceedings in the organization of a milk producers' association is in the fall," said Mr. Reynolds. "At that season the demand for milk is strong, and there is greater assurance of gaining recognition at the hands of the dealers. There is the additional advantage that both officers and members have more time during the winter months to complete the work of organization than they have in the busier seasons. If the proposed organization is to cover the entire territory from which milk is contributed to a city, so much the better, though associations covering only part of such territory are being successfully operated in some sections."

The first step in organization is to call a meeting of those directly engaged in the production of milk within the district to be covered. This meeting should be well advertised in order to attract the attention of every farmer interested. After the appointment of a temporary chairman and secretary the business of the meeting may be proceeded with. This is to discuss matters in general, to decide whether an organization be formed and to confirm or modify the proposals of those who called the meeting as to the territory to be covered by the organization. Having decided to organize, the next step is the appointment of a

committee to draft a constitution. In the drafting of this important document, it is wise to make use of the experience of other and similar associations, and it may be necessary to give the committee some time in which to do their work. It helps greatly to expedite matters, however, if the information necessary for the drafting of a constitution has been collected, and at least a tentative constitution is ready for presentation at the



Milk Producers' Association Membership.

ANY farmer may become a member of an association upon the recommendation of a member and by sending his name to the secretary-treasurer, accompanied by the annual fee.

Objects.

1. To encourage the production of pure, wholesome milk for city consumption.
2. To establish uniform prices for that milk.
3. To secure better shipping facilities on railroads.
4. To protect the interests of producers generally.

Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors consists of a president, a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer assisted by directors. They are elected annually. Their duties are to conduct the general management of the association, to promote the welfare and prosperity of the trade, to investigate charges, disputes and difficulties of a financial character, and render their award.

Meetings.

An annual meeting, to be held at the time and place appointed, and at which the election of officers takes place. When circumstances demand it special meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by the President.

meeting. This assists in getting the association off to a good start so that it can at once get down to the business for which it was organized without experiencing the delay that would be occasioned in calling another meeting for organization purposes.

The constitution deals with such matters as the name of the association, its objects, the terms of membership, the constitution of the official board, the time and place of annual meetings, the filling of vacancies on the board, and the making of amendments to the constitution and by-laws. The treatment of cases of infringement against the constitution and by-laws may also be set forth. Upon the adoption of this constitution a roll of members may be opened and the executive elected. With the Toronto Milk Producers' Association this board formerly consisted of five trustees, but upon the extension of the activities of the association to include the cream producers, the board was increased to six. As set forth in the constitution the officers of the association, namely, the president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, are elected by the board of trustees from among their members on the same day as that on which the annual meeting of the association is held. After the appointment of the trustees and officers, by-laws and regulations may be introduced and passed. These in general have to do with the duties of the various officials of the organization, the order of business for the general meetings and the rights and privileges of members at such meetings.

Plan of Organization.

In districts tributary to small cities, which can be conveniently covered by a single organization, it is not necessary to have local or branches. In such districts many of the producers deliver their own milk and do not depend upon their contracts with dealers. In such districts, the chief business of the association will be to bring members together in order that they may decide what the milk rate should be and to deal with consumers' or other organizations in matters affecting the general welfare of the members.

Where the district covered by a milk producers' association is large so that it is impossible to secure frequent meetings of all those interested and difficult to keep in touch with the local conditions that exist in each community, a more complex system of organization is required. It is then necessary to organize local unions. A unit usually composed of those along a wagon route, or of shippers who deliver their milk to the same station. The chief business of the local union is to make arrangements regarding the loading of the cans, to settle grievances, to keep the central posted on the local conditions that prevail, and to collect the annual fees, forwarding these to the central after keeping out an amount