TRANSACTIONS

WITH

ACCOMPANYING PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS
(Abridged)

OF THE

Wisconsin Dairymen's Association

AT THEIR

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Held in Waupaca, December 5, 6, 7, 1916.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS

Math. Michels, Peebles

This is the forty-fifth annual meeting of this most important and most useful association. This association is the mother of the Wisconsin Dairy and Food Commission, the Wisconsin Dairy School, the Wisconsin Cheese Makers' association and the Wisconsin Butter Makers' association, and its late children are the Wisconsin Cow Testing associations. At each annual meeting since its organization it could truthfully say that it had accomplished more, had been of greater benefit than the year before. This certainly holds good for the past year.

A year ago we had 42 cow testing associations in operation in this state, today we have no less than 57 cow testing associations in operation and each and every one working to its full capacity. These associations are doing an untold amount of good not only to its members but to any community as a whole.

About ten years ago, when General George W. Burchard was secretary (father of our present secretary) and C. L. Hill president, this work of testing cows was first undertaken. The first
few years’ work was hard and results slow but sure. Of late years this work has been growing steadily until the demand became so great that it became necessary, owing to lack of funds, that the Wisconsin College of Agriculture and the Federal government were called upon to help in carrying on this great work, and thanks are due them for the valuable assistance given in this work of testing cows for milk and butter fat production and the feeding and care of the cows under test.

The results obtained from this work of testing cows, go much farther, have much more meaning, and point out the way for more profitable and better dairying than is realized at the end of a few years testing.

It leads to higher and better ideals as is plainly shown today throughout the sections where some of the first cow testing associations were started. It leads to the culling out of the cow boarder; it leads to the introduction of pure bred sires, it leads to better care and more economical feeding. In fact, it gives the dairy farmer a solid, substantial foundation upon which to build his business. The result has been not alone the increased profits of the herds. Among the indirect results may be mentioned the impetus given to silo building; the general improvement of dairy barns; the introduction of new equipment making not only for the comfort and convenience of the dairyman and his help, but also adding to the comfort and health of all his stock.

The lessons learned from this association work are of more value and felt even more today than ever before, continually leading the way to better producing herds; teaching the dairymen to become better judges in selecting, breeding and caring for dairy stock. It has been a leading factor in arousing interest in dairy experiments conducted by agricultural colleges and dairy literature in general. In fact it has led directly in a number of cases to semi-official testing with records as high as 600 to 700 lbs. of butter fat.

In just the same proportion as the dairy knowledge has been increasing has there been an increase in production of butter fat, in uniformity of herds, trueness to breed, and better care of the cattle and the milk and cream produced. Besides the direct money received for the butter fat (which in a number of instances is crowding the $100.00 mark per cow) there is an in-
crease in the sale and price of live stock from year to year. As soon as a community gets a cow testing association under way, just so soon will it attract buyers of dairy stock from various parts of the country. A community with a cow testing association has the further advantage of cooperating in disposing of their cream and milk and in buying their feed. The dairy farmers will soon learn what feeds they want and how to grow and put up such feeds as are wanted.

Wisconsin leads not only in the number of cow testing associations and cows under test by those associations, but also in the number of cows that are being officially tested and in the amount of butter and cheese made. Wisconsin leads in the production of butter fat per cow and Wisconsin produces about three-fourths of all pedigreed grains grown in this country. In order that we may continue to lead as a dairy and agricultural state, it will be necessary to keep up the good work of educating and applying business methods to Wisconsin farming.

I believe the day is not far distant when the testing of cows will be accepted as official by the various breed associations. Of course, to accomplish this it will be necessary to take preliminary milkings and the tester will have to stay longer at each farm. This would mean that the expense of carrying on the work would be higher, but as the value of this work is recognized more fully from year to year, I believe the dairyman who wants official work done will be willing to pay the difference.

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LETTER FROM EX-GOVERNOR W. D. HOARD, FT. ATKINSON

I regret that the infirmities of old age make it impossible for me to meet with you. If I did gather with you, there would not be one among you who were my comrades in those first days of sowing the seed of dairy ideas that has now grown to a wonderful harvest of results. None of us dreamed in those first days of seeing Wisconsin such a great and important dairy state. We only felt that we were dealing with a great and lasting principle which, when unfolded to its full working, would bring a new order of agriculture into being.

Those far-sighted men who showed their great faith and