

should be allowed, not at the discretion of the Inspector altogether, but if put down in a proper workmanlike manner they should meet every requirement. Concrete would be too expensive altogether for a poor struggling farmer. I quite agree with the last speaker in regard to the cans. It would take quite fourteen days to get a new can in place of one condemned. There is one thing I have been asked to object to. This is that no person can give away or sell milk unless he has a registered dairy. There are some places where there are one or two cows milked and where it has been the habit of employers to give married couples working for them some milk. They could not do so under this regulation. It is extremely drastic. A man milking only one or two cows and not able to give some milk to his employees to take home is not what it should be. Or if a man comes to your house and you give him a small bottle of cream you are liable to a fine of £5. Then, the regulation in regard to preventing the use of a cowshed, &c., for other purposes should be amended. In the case of a small farmer, who can without much extra expense put up a small lean-to for his cart, he would have to put up a separate building. This would be very hard on him.

1. *Mr. Okey.*] You favour a cow-tax?—No, I do not. It should be taken off altogether. It was taken off the sheep-farmer and now it is put on the dairy-farmer.

2. You said a man should be registered?—I say a man milking 150 cows does not pay in proportion to the poor man

3. You are not, then, in favour of a cow-tax?—No.

4. With the clauses suggested to be abolished you do not think there will be much objection to the regulations?—Not altogether, though I agree that inspection is quite necessary, but there are inspectors and inspectors.

5. Provided it is carried out with tact?—They are not uniform.

6. If the inspectors have not the power to cause trouble to the farmer?—It is to be hoped not.

7. What do you think of the Department issuing plans?—It is an excellent idea. It would educate the farmers and save them a certain amount of expense.

8. *Mr. Lang.*] Notwithstanding the Minister's suggestions you still think several of the clauses are too drastic?—They could be improved on.

9. Do you think in the case of a dispute there should be an appeal?—Certainly, as it is intended no farmer could call evidence on his behalf.

10. Do you think the dairyman should be called on to pay a tax on his cows any more than on other classes of stock?—Certainly not.

11. *Mr. Hogg.*] Would you strongly object to defining how cans and utensils may be cleaned?—I object, because some of the small farmers could not do it.

12. Would you leave it to the dairy-farmer?—It is to the interest of the dairy-farmer to keep his cans sweet and clean.

13. Whether he uses a brush or cloth or what not?—His own judgment would tell him that.

JOSES GRIFFITH, Dairy-farmer, Otaki, examined. (No. 28.)

*Witness:* I am a representative from a meeting at Otaki. I may say that I am not opposed to a system of inspection, but I cannot approve of a system of inspection carried out by the State, for this reason, that I believe there should be a system of inspection carried out by the dairy-farmers' associations themselves. But, as they have not undertaken to do this, I recognise that a system of inspection by the State is necessary. But there are a great many difficulties. Being a director of a factory, I have been made acquainted with the difficulties which have arisen. We have had difficulties in dealing with bad milk, and there is always trouble in getting over that difficulty. If the manager has instructions to refuse bad milk they simply take it over to the other factory, and the evil is still going on. As chairman of directors of the Otaki Dairy Factory it came to this in some cases: Where a man brought bad milk, and, on it being refused, he went over to the other factory, I had to give the manager instructions to be very careful in refusing a man's milk for the future. I said, "If it is not fit to make good butter from, send it down the drain."

1. *Mr. Okey.*] And you paid him for it?—Yes. It was not only losing that particular supplier's milk, but the effect the loss of a supplier would have on other suppliers, causing them to leave without any cause whatever. It was necessary to do it. While I agree it is needful under a system of inspection to have regulations to guide the Inspector, it seems to me it is hedged round with many difficulties. It is difficult to make hard and fast rules that are going to apply equally in many different circumstances and many different conditions in regard to yards and so forth. It may be necessary in some cases to have certain conditions to apply to make a yard in a state so that good clean milk can be taken from it. In other cases it may not be necessary to apply those rules to get the same results. It is all summed up in the word "cleanliness." That is a thing you cannot provide for by regulation. How are you going to regulate and make people cleanly in their habits. I have noticed in my experience of dairying that people that are cleanly in other respects fall into a habit of dirtiness in milking. You can have a yard-bail according to the best regulations you can make, you can take the shed on the Weraroa Experimental Farm, but the dirty milker would get dirty milk. This is a subject bristling with difficulties, and the only thing better than the State taking it up is for the dairy-farmers themselves to tackle it. Being better acquainted with the many difficulties that are in existence, they would be able to meet them without injuring the industry or the individual dairy-farmer. The trouble with hard and fast rules is that different men have different opinions as to efficiency, and while you have these men scattered over the whole of New Zealand it is impossible that they are all going to carry out just the same style of inspection. What may satisfy one may not satisfy another who would succeed him. There are certain sections in the regulations that I am not in favour of. I propose not to go into them. They have been referred to by other speakers, and I am in favour of the objections raised.