

Dairy Inspectors See Blue Ribbon Milk Producers

Wisconsin Swamps Turned In to \$150,000 Plants; Cream Checks Did It.

By WILL M. MAUPIN.
Fort Atkinson, Wis., Sept. 30.—Two days of inspecting the dairy industry of Waukesha and Jefferson counties, Wisconsin, has been a revelation to the Nebraskans. Many dairy farms in this section are great industrial plants, employing from 30 to 40 men and necessitating an investment of from \$100,000 to \$150,000. But every one of the successful dairy farms began in a small way, and expanded with the dairy industry. Thirty years ago William Mitchell bought a swamp six miles from Waukesha. When he had made his first payment on this swamp he had to borrow the money to pay for his first dairy cow. The only dry place on his farm was the knoll on which his house and barn, primitive structures, were erected. It is all different now. Mitchell tilled the low land and today it produces splendid crops of alfalfa and corn for silage. The humble little residence has given way to a magnificent modern home. The one little barn has been replaced by three huge dairy barns which house 800 pure-bred cows. These barns are electrically lighted, and kept surprisingly clean. Every quart of the milk from these cows is certified and shipped to Chicago, where it is retailed at 35 cents a quart. A quarter of a million dollars would not tempt Mitchell to sell, and he doesn't owe a dollar.

Valuable Ayrshire Herd.
Adam Sites' dairy farm near Waukesha represents a value of \$150,000. His is an Ayrshire herd, and Sites has more than 3,000 blue ribbons won at fairs and expositions the country over. When he started in the dairy business he had to give his note for his first two cows. Incidentally, Sites breeds Boston ter-

riers as a side line, and says it is profitable. For many years crop production was the sole aim of the farmers of this section. But gradually they learned it was not a paying game. Corn is not raised here. But there is a great acreage of corn for silage purposes, and the corn itself seldom gets ripe. Dairying was engaged in because farming did not pay. Two-thirds of the farms about here are really dairy farms, the crops being raised almost wholly for dairy feeding purposes. And there are no "boarders" on these dairy farms. A cow is not just a cow to these dairymen. She has to pay her way; and then some. If she falls, and her future is soon noted, off she goes to the butcher. This explains why the average annual milk production in this neck of the woods is around 19,000 pounds per cow, with a butter fat percentage of more than 4 per cent. This means more than 450 pounds of butter per cow per year, with the

skim milk left to fatten hogs and poultry. The giant milk plants are not conducted for butter-making purposes, but as milk supply depots for Milwaukee and Chicago. All splendid development of the Wisconsin dairy industry was not accomplished overnight. A visitor from North Dakota, after looking over the industry at Fort Atkinson, remarked: "We have a better dairy country than you have here, and in a couple of years we'll have more and better dairies." Maybe, but it has taken 30 years to bring it up to its present standard in Wisconsin. It may not take that long in Nebraska, but it will take more than the two years South Dakota had in mind. Nebraska Has Opportunities. The greater part of Nebraska affords better dairying opportunities than Wisconsin. Nebraska can produce more and better feed. It has a better climate. Contributing conditions are better. The first obstacle to overcome is

the tendency of Nebraskans to want to do things all at once. The development of the dairy industry in Nebraska is not to be accomplished overnight. It is an industry that must be studied, experimented with and tried out. The big dairy herds have been built up, not purchased. And that is the way it will have to be done in Nebraska. But the farmers who enter the game in the right spirit, study it like good business men, profit by experience, and never lose faith, will be able to walk into the bank with their hats on. Cream Check Life-Saver. One has but to examine the bank statement of this section to see what the dairy industry is doing. And for further evidence just interview the merchants. I have talked to a score of merchants and have yet to hear one complaining about poor conditions or an undue amount on his books. The reason is the cream check. There are a lot of animals for sale in these parts. There is small

tendency on the part of these breeders not to send out their best stuff when they can send out their culls. The best stuff is more profitably kept here at home. This visit off inspection, under the auspices of the Nebraska Dairy Development association, is going to be a great impetus to the industry in Nebraska. See Want Ads Produce Results.

BANKING INSTITUTE HEAD IS COMING

Edwin V. Krick, national president of the American Institute of Banking, will be entertained by the Omaha chapter of the institute at a dinner Saturday evening, it was announced by Austin L. Vickery of the United

States National, president of the local chapter. President Krick has been attending the national convention of the American Bankers' association in Chicago. His home is in San Francisco, where he is associated with the Mer-

cantile Trust company. The dinner probably will be held at the Brandeis restaurants. Little black hats for early fall wear are exceedingly becoming when they have white kid facings.

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