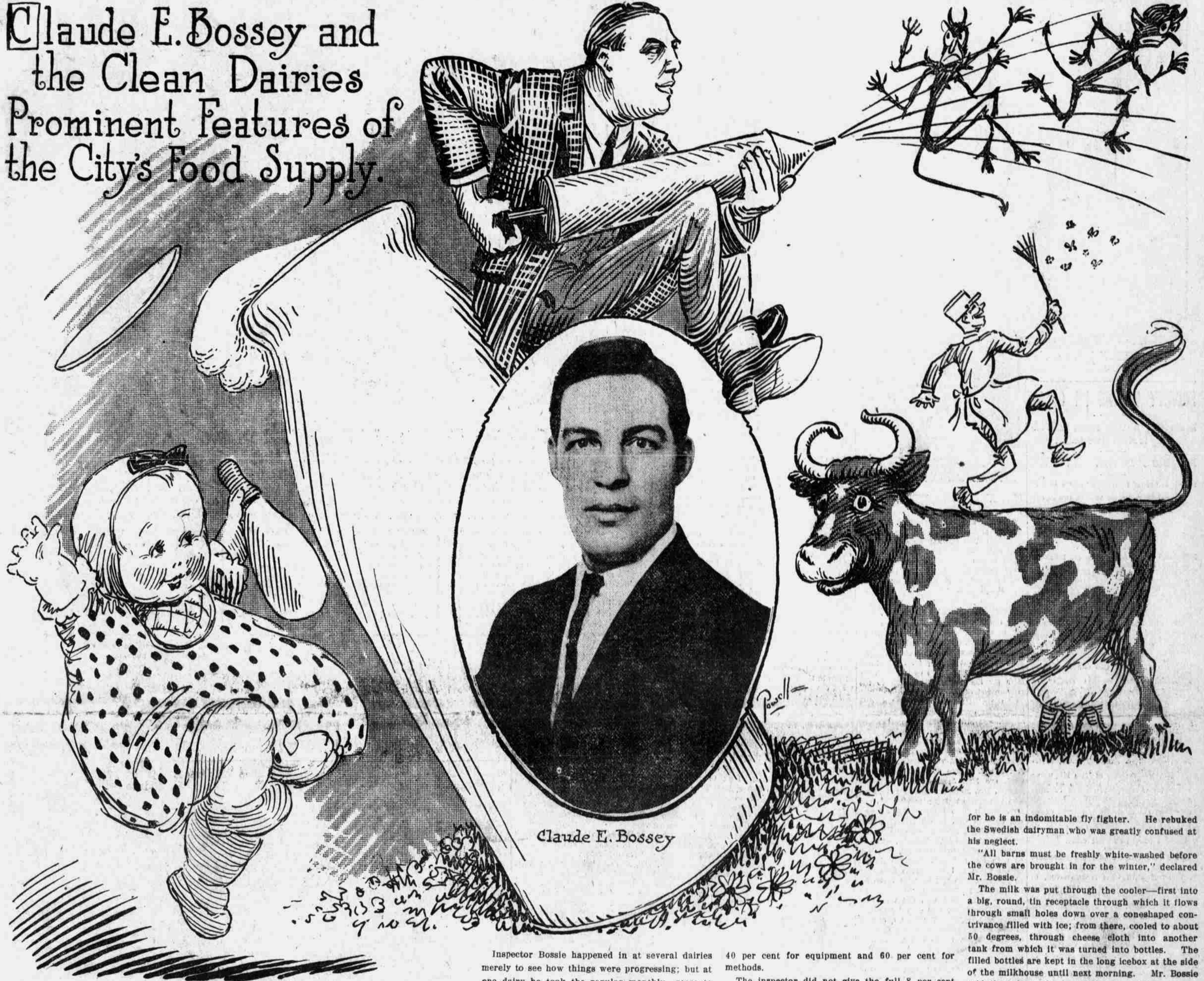


Omaha's Pure Milk and How it is Guarded

Claude E. Bossey and the Clean Dairies Prominent Features of the City's Food Supply.



Claude E. Bossey

BY FAITH LEE HOEL.

YOU have read of the milk baths, champagne shampoos, and similar ultra-luxurious health and beauty fads of Lillian Russell, Gaby Deslys and other petted beauties of the stage. But—will you believe it?—the thought and care lavished on the attractive persons of these popular actresses are nothing compared to the attention given to the cows of Omaha.

The bovines are guarded and groomed as attentively as the most delicate beauty according to the rules made by the federal government and carried out under the supervision of local Dairy Inspector Claude Bossie. It seems as if nothing which could add to their health and comfort has been forgotten. Her highness, the cow, must have a certain amount of fresh air and sunshine; her diet is regulated with the utmost precision; her habitation must be sanitary and well-made; her recreation ground—the barnyard—must be free from contamination. Truly, enough to make cows of the past generation wonder what magic has been at work.

Inspector Bossie happened in at several dairies merely to see how things were progressing; but at one dairy he took the regular monthly score to which each of the eighty-five dairies is submitted in turn.

It was just milking time at this dairy the buildings of which were in a little group at the foot of a green hill on which the cows of another dairyman were grazing against the blue sky. The bovines were lined up in two red-brown rows, one on each side of the long barn.

Inspector Bossie with one eye on his government score card and the other noticing every detail of the place marked down the result in figures. The dairies are scored on the basis of 100 per cent—

40 per cent for equipment and 60 per cent for methods.

The inspector did not give the full 8 per cent for clean cows for there was mud on some of the hoofs. But full credit was given for cement floor, adequate drain, lime-lined gutter and white-washed walls, all of which were in compliance with rules.

Next windows were noticed. Each cow is supposed to have four square feet of window; but in this barn, although the windows were the right size, there were only twenty-six of them for the thirty cows. The inspector called attention to the cleanliness of the barn and to the fact that the barnyard was free from debris.

The screen door to the milk house was open and this did not escape the keen eye of the inspector

for he is an indomitable fly fighter. He rebuked the Swedish dairyman who was greatly confused at his neglect.

"All barns must be freshly white-washed before the cows are brought in for the winter," declared Mr. Bossie.

The milk was put through the cooler—first into a big, round, tin receptacle through which it flows through small holes down over a coneshaped contrivance filled with ice; from there, cooled to about 50 degrees, through cheese cloth into another tank from which it was turned into bottles. The filled bottles are kept in the long icebox at the side of the milkhouse until next morning. Mr. Bossie said that the racks in which the bottles are carried in the wagons during delivery must be filled with ice from April 1 to October 15.

The men did not have on their coats to their milking suits and one-half of 1 per cent was docked for this neglect. But the score averaged 86 per cent, which is high.

"This method of scoring the dairies is the big stick over the dairymen," said Mr. Bossie, "because the scores are published once a month. It is to the milkmen's interest to have a high score because the housewives watch the list. It has also come to be a matter of pride with them to raise their score."

When It Comes to Johns, Omaha Has Them in Profusion and Prominence in Professions, Business and Society



ETC.—AD INFINITUM

A REFERENCE to "the four Johns" about twenty years ago would without further explanation be fixed upon a quartet of political luminaries that shone brightly in the local republican firmament. It just happens that all four of these "Johns" still scintillate more or less among the political constellations, although they no longer draw the fire that the enemy used to pour out upon the combination. The membership of this political "four Johns" company was made up of John M. Thurston, John C. Cowin, John L. Webster and John C. Wharton. It is noteworthy that they are all lawyers by profession, playing politics merely as an avocation, although all of them have at different times had political bees of various styles in their bonnets, and have

had public office thrust upon them. After retiring from the senate John M. Thurston set up a law office in Washington, John L. Webster and John C. Cowin are practicing at the bar here, and John C. Wharton, now the local Nasby, is presiding over our postoffice.

Just a casual glance round about, however, discloses the fact that the "Four Johns" did not by any means exhaust the members of "John" family. A lot of "Johns" have figured in our political arena with more or less success. John L. Kennedy was our last republican congressman, and John A. McShane warned the seat before him. John J. Ryder is one of our most popular commission-plan councilmen, and John C. Lynch the head of our board of county commissioners. John A. Rine is city attorney, John Mathiesen is assistant license

inspector and John G. Pegg city inspector of weights and measures. In the school board Dr. John J. Foster is in evidence, and John Latenser has been drawing the architects' plans for our new school houses. It seemed once that the "Johns" had a mortgage on the sheriff's office when John F. Boyd, John McDonald, John Drexel and John Powers passed it around from one to another almost without interruption. Then our late chief of police was John J. Donahue. Here in the bull moose movement the two noisiest bulls are John O. Yeiser and John W. Towle.

For some reason or other the "Johns" apparently take to law as a duck does to water, as witness the long list of "Johnnies" claiming to possess legal talent, most of them aspiring also to be lawmakers. Here is John Paul Breen, who drafted

our charter amendments; John E. Reagan and John H. Grossman, who were in the last legislature, and want to be in the next; John M. McFarland, who aimed at the supreme court last year, and at the state senate this year; John G. Kuhn, once chosen to fill a legislative vacancy; John D. Ware, who came within an ace of acquiring the title of judge; John W. Battin, familiarly called "Jack"; John A. Corson, John D. Howe and John W. Cooper. But there are enough "Johns" to let medicine catch a few like Dr. John E. Summers, Dr. John P. Lord and Dr. John C. Davis. When it comes to preaching we have had Bishop John H. Nuelsen, Rev. John Matthews, Rev. John E. Hummon, Father John Williams and Rev. John Albert Williams. The veteran insurance man is John Dale. In the real estate crowd we have John L. McCague, among

the bankers John F. Flack, with the wholesalers John S. Brady. One of the high-ups in the Woodmen is John T. Yates, the all-around man for Ak-Sar-Ben is John "Dad" Weaver, and the secretary of the Commercial club is John M. Guild, who was preceded in the office by John E. Utt. It will be remembered that the big prize automobile in The Bee's picture puzzle contest was won by John Bath, and the cripple who made fame and fortune as a magazine subscription agent is John Gordon. Last, but not least, no enumeration of the distinguished "Johns" whose names are inscribed on the scroll in Omaha's Hall of Fame would pass muster that did not mention one "John" equally well known and popular—Johnny Kern—to whom few of the other "Johns" would need a guide.