

MILK PRODUCERS MEET.

A CENTRAL MILK DEPOT AND A CREAMERY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE SURPLUS AD- VOCATED.

A meeting of milk producers was held at the Albion yesterday afternoon. There were present about 60 representatives from Burlington, Edmonton, Norval, Thistleton, Wexford, Claremont, Markham, Etobicoke, Myrtle, Islington, Oakville, York Mills, Pickering, Dixie, and many other places. The chair was taken by the president of the Toronto Milk Producers' Association, Mr. James Congdon, Islington, who explained that farmers who sold milk did not want to form a combine to raise the price, but simply wanted to get a fair proportion of the ruling price. Many farmers were now selling at summer prices for six months, and at the same time were compelled to feed for seven months. The dealers ought to try for buy for a five months' term, but many of them refused to. The only way of compelling them to do so was for the farmers to organise and refuse in a body to sell except on that understanding. Then he thought there ought to be a central milk depot in the city, because it was wrong that the milk should be handled twice before reaching the consumer. And milk should be sold by farmers by the gallon and not by the can.

Mr. Pellatt, Somerville, remarked that he had agreed to sell to a dealer milk at 82 cents for a can not exceeding eight and half gallons.

Mr. Wood, York Mills, expressed surprise that any farmer would sell milk at two and a half cents a quart, when people in the city were paying ten cents for it. He said it was against the constitution of the Milk Producers' Association to sell by the can to dealers.

The chairman calmed the discussion by explaining that the meeting was not concerned with the price, but with the enforcement of a five months' summer term.

After some further discussion it was decided to hear two representatives of the Milk Dealers' Association, Messrs. Ward and Benson. They said they were in sympathy with the producers, but in the course of many years' experience they never had such difficulties with bad debts, etc., as at present. One difficulty in the way of agreement was the disposal of surplus milk. He urged the producers to help the dealers in getting legislation to make Municipal Councils to charge milk sellers a license fee not exceeding \$20, pointing out that it would be mutually advantageous to producer and dealer. In return the dealers would concede something to the producers.

After the delegates withdrew the meeting considered at length the form of an agreement and forwarded it to the dealers for approval. A resolution was adopted pledging those at the meeting to refuse to sell milk unless the dealers accepted their terms. The principal difference between the two parties was over the five months' summer term, and the producers insist upon this. A resolution was also passed in favor of establishing in the city a central milk depot and a creamery for the disposal of surplus milk, and it was decided that two delegates should be appointed by each local association to draw up a scheme for this purpose. The chairman pointed out that unless the producers themselves took up the establishment of a central depot some one else would.