MIDDLEMEN HELD BEHIND MILK WAR

Profiteering Tactics Charged by Head of Oregon Dairymen's League.

U. S. OFFICER APPEALED TO

Portland Damascus Milk Company Refuses to Buy From 33 Members of League—Commission May Act.

In appealing to the Federal Food Administration to conduct an investigation and bring the controversy which has arisen between milk producers and distributors to an end, Alma D. Katz, president of the Oregon Dairymen's League, announced yesterday that the controversy is nothing more than "the age-long fight on the part of the middlemen to continue their profiteering tactics."

Notice was served yesterday upon 33 members of the league by the Portland Damascus Milk Company that milk from their dairies would be accepted no longer, because another milk supply had been found. Other distributors, it was said, had gone to distant points and effected arrangements to secure milk from non-league members.

Commission May Act.

In the absence of W. B. Ayer, Federal food officials in Portland were inclined to allow the milk commission to act in the controversy and probably will take no action in reference to a letter received from the league yesterday. A meeting of the milk commission will be held this morning in County Assessor Reed's office, when members of that body will confer with the county agriculturists of Multnomah, Washington and Columbia counties in Oregon and Clarke County in Washington. The purpose of this meeting is to obtain an insight into the conditions of the milk supply at present in each of these counties.

Further meetings of the milk commission are planned, according to Henry E. Reed, chairman of the commission, when facts in connection with the controversy will be considered and an effort made to bring the entire matter to adjustment.

Yesterday's developments prove that the distributors are not inclined to await July 1, the date when the proposed increase in the price of wholesale milk is effective, before taking steps to arrange a new supply of milk for Portland consumers.

Counter Accusations Made.

Accusations made against the Oregon Dairymen's League by A. M. Work, manager of the Portland Damascus Milk Company, spokesman for the majority of Portland milk distributors, were answered yesterday by Mr. Katz by accusations against the distributors. The league, Mr. Katz maintains, supplies 90 per cent of the milk consumed in Portland. This supply, he asserts, is pure, properly prepared, adequate and continuous.

Written notice to the distributors of the proposed increase of the price of wholesale milk, originally effective on June 20, was sent, according to Mr. Katz, because the distributors failed to follow a recommendation of the Milk Commission to increase the wholesale price of milk to the hotels and restaurants delivered in cans.

The distributors failed to make this increase, because they would be forced to give the farmers a portion of the increase and could not see any reason why they should increase the price for the benefit of the farmer, Mr. Katz charges.

One-Man Control Denied.

The charge that the Oregon Dairymen's League is a one-man organization was refuted by Mr. Katz, who explained that the league has an executive board of five members, which meets on every Tuesday morning and sometimes oftener.

"After we sent written notice to the distributors that the price of milk would be increased by league members from $3 a hundred pounds to $3.50 a hundred pounds f. o. b. Portland, several responsible distributors called on us and asked that we waive the increase until July 1, because they could not put an increase into effect in the middle of the month.

"We gladly consented to postpone our increase and on June 18, the day of this conference, we addressed a letter to the Milk Commission advising them that the League would not increase the price of milk until the milk commission acted, but requested the milk commission get action if possible before July 1."

Prompt Action Desired.

The letter referred to by Mr. Katz, addressed to the commission, announced a postponement of the date on which the increase was to go into effect, from June 20 to July 1. In addition the league in this letter expressed a hope that the commission would reach findings before the date of the increase and determine the price to be paid the producer for his product in keeping with the cost of production, and also a price to be paid the distributor for the product delivered to the homes, restaurants and hotels, that would cover the cost of preparing the milk for use and distribution.

While the battle rages between producer and distributor of milk for Portland's consumption, the Milk Commission is busy making a complete investigation into all phases of the milk business from both a production and distribution standpoint.

If the milk distributers have not carried recommendations made by the commission into effect, this fact is unknown by Mr. Reed, chairman of the commission. No notice has been sent to the commission by league officials or others to the effect that the recommendations were being ignored, Mr. Reed said yesterday.

Dr. D. W. Mack, chief milk inspector for Portland, has taken a neutral stand in the controversy, holding that he will recognize neither side, but insist upon pure milk, regardless of whether it comes from league members or non-league members.

City Commissioner Mann, in charge of the Health Bureau, also held that the Health Bureau is not interested in any fight that has developed or is likely to develop between milk producers and distributors, but that the bureau was determined that milk brought into Portland for human consumption must be of highest grade in purity and cleanliness.

Notice was directed to the milk distributors Wednesday by Dr. Mack that any change in the milk supply must be registered in the milk division, with the names and addresses of the new milk producers supplying the distributors.

The milk division will await a reasonable period for the carrying out of this provision of the milk ordinance, but should distributors change this milk supply and fail to notify the Health Bureau as required by ordinance, legal action will follow.

Pure Milk Insisted On.

"The milk division of the health bureau, since its inception, has recognized no man nor organization, but has insisted upon pure milk," said Dr. Mack. "This same policy will continue regardless of controversies which may arise."

Milk consumers throughout the city fear that the present war which is now being waged between producer and distributor may result in ultimate hardships on the consuming public. Mr. Katz maintains that the new supply of milk comes from a district uneducated to supply a city with milk, and is a supply that cannot be permanent. He also insists that should the distributors refuse to use the milk formerly used to supply Portland consumers the dairy herds must go dry and be sent to slaughter houses.

The distributors, on the other hand, insist that the outside milk supply is as pure as is the milk produced near Portland and that the supply is unlimited. Milk sold to the condensery plants must pass a high inspection now because many of these plants are canning milk for the Government and the fluid must pass rigid Government tests.

Early Decision Unlikely.

Should the Federal Food Administration decide that the controversy be settled by the milk commission, no action can be expected for several days until the members of this body have had sufficient time to collect data necessary to come to some definite conclusions.

In the meantime the distributors seem to be losing no time to effect a new supply, and what action the producers affiliated with the Oregon Dairymen's League will take will not be determined until after the league meeting, called for tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, has been held.

Distributors have indicated their willingness to treat with individual producers, but the majority seem determined to have no further dealings with the Oregon Dairymen's League.

BOYS WILL BE TRAINED

MILITARY DRILL IS PROPOSED FOR CITY PLAYGROUNDS.

Portland Recreating Centers Ready to Receive Children at Formal Openings Set for Tomorrow.

Preliminary military training for boys will be taught in the playgrounds of the city parks if a plan proposed by City Park Superintendent Keyser and C. S. Botsford, new playground director, are successful. A veteran Army officer will be selected to take charge of the training, which will be in the form of the first rudiments of military drills and practices, which will be of benefit to the boys when they are older.

Portland playgrounds in city parks throughout the city will formally open tomorrow. Instructors have been assigned to the parks and will be ready to take up their duties with the opening of the recreation centers.

Miss Carin H. Dagermark, playground supervisor, will not be in charge of the work during the coming season. Miss Dagermark has been granted a leave of absence by the City Council, so that she might take up a course in reconstruction work in a Government school in Washington, D. C.

In connection with the playground opening two large swimming tanks will also be opened. One is located in Sellwood Park and the other in Peninsula Park.

Playground apparatus will be installed in Forestry Park for the benefit of the children living in the vicinity and also for the benefit of the children who will accompany automobile tourists to Portland. An automobile tourist park has been arranged for directly in the rear of Foresty building, where tourists traveling through the city may erect their tents and camp. Cooking ovens and free water and wood have been provided for the tourists who care to utilize this park.

FOURTH TO BE OBSERVED

VANCOUVER, TRUE TO TRADITION, WILL HAVE BIG CELEBRATION.

Plans Include Civic, Fraternal, Industrial, Patriotic and Military Parade and Field Sports.

VANCOUVER, Wash., June 20.—(Special.)—True to tradition, Vancouver will again celebrate the Fourth of July this year. This was decided at a meeting of business and professional men held in the club rooms of the Vancouver Commercial Club last night, when an organization was perfected.

There will be a great civic, fraternal, patriotic, industrial and military parade in the morning, and there will be prizes awarded for the best floats and the greatest number of members of lodges in line. There will also be military and other field sports in the post athletic field in the morning, with suitable prizes for the winners, and two baseball games in the afternoon. In the post, the spruce production workers will play a team from the cantonment, and at Standifer Park, the Standifer team will play the Foundation team, of Portland. The day will be closed with a big dance on the streets in the business section downtown.

James J. Padden is general chairman, with William McPhaden as secretary-treasurer. Other committees are, industrial and fraternal, J. P. Kiggins, D. H. McCosh; publicity and speaker, M. S. Cohen, E. Curran, Elmer E. Beard, Gordon Stuart, Edward Boddy, and E. R. McKay; sports, E. G. Ditlevsen, C. E. McCall, E. C. Johnson, and Frank Weigel; finance, Robert Dunbar, C. C. Stumberg, O. H. Smith and Louis Shattuck; decoration, James McSparren, Rufus Detrick, H. G. Claassen and Forest H. Gay; concessions, Arthur W. Calder; program, S. S. Bowman.

Fisher Grange Not in Politics.

VANCOUVER, Wash., June 20.—(Special.)—The Fisher Grange, east of this city, has gone on record as opposed to affiliating with any political league or party, whatsoever. Resolutions to this end were adopted at the last meeting of the Grange, and have been sent to the press for publication. This is taken to mean that this Grange will not affiliate with the Non-Partisan League, which is active more or less in this state.

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133

Made Milwaukee Famous

SERBS ENLIST MEN

Battle-Scarred Veteran Here to Recruit Countrymen.

25 ALREADY ENROLLED

Mass Meeting Called for Monday, July 1, at Alisky Hall, to Which All Former Subjects of Jugo-Slav Nations Are Invited.

Danilo Mandic, scarred by the battles of two wars, one the Balkan conflict and the other the Great War, and Svetislav Radulovich, authorized representatives of the Serbian government and of the Jugoslav nations, National Defense League, have arrived in Portland with a two-fold mission of recruiting men to re-establish the Serbian army and to crystallize sentiment and support of the Jugoslav cause.

Both veterans are recruiting officers of the Jugoslav nations, and while in Portland they will make their headquarters with M. R. Mitrovich, 511½ North Third street, where they will make appointments personally or by telephone, Broadway 2414. Although they have been in Portland less than a week, having arrived last Tuesday morning, 25 recruits for the Serbian or Jugoslav army have been enrolled, and will be sent in good time to Serbia, or whereven the army is being marshaled.

100 Recruits Expected Here.

In all about 100 Serbians are expected from Portland and to create wider interest and call out the Serbian residents of Portland to an understanding of the situation, a mass meeting for Monday, July 1, has been arranged. It will be held in Alisky Hall, probably at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Mandic and Radulovich are at the Imperial Hotel.

Mr. Mandic speaks both English and the Slavic languages. He was thrice wounded in the second Balkan war, and laid low again in 1915 in the present war, when he was stricken with black typhus. He had also fought in the first Balkan war, when Serbia and Turkey clashed, but escaped sound.

Born an Austrian subject in Croatia, Mr. Mandic early resented the despotic government, and in 1905 came to America, and with his brother finally settled at Spokane, Wash., where he worked as a contractor.

Arms Taken Against Turkey.

In 1912, when Serbia took up arms against Turkey, he was in San Francisco, and with 180 fellow countrymen he sailed for the mother country to join a volunteer regiment. In the second Balkan war, which followed, he was wounded and at the close of the conflict became a postmaster and later was given a government office, from which he was called to the colors in 1914, when the big war broke.

He was in the famous fighting on the Bulgarian front, and in the great Serbian retreat when a million perished from starvation and hardships. It was at that time he was stricken with the black typhus, losing his reason, and, he says, but for the heroic work of the doctors and nurses sent from the United States, thousands more would have perished. However, two months later he was again in the trenches.

Radulovich was a Serbian, born in Hungary and forced into arms against Russia, and when General Brussiloff by his now celebrated strike captured 60,000 Austrians and Hungarians he was enabled later to take up arms against Austria as part of the army of 60,000 prisoners captured by the famous Russian General and put to work against their former ruler.

Mr. Mandic and Mr. Radulovich invite all former residents of Croatia and the Slavic countries to attend the meeting July 1.

SUPREME COURT IS SHORT

Six-Cent Fare Case May Be Argued Before Four.

SALEM, Or., June 20.—(Special.)—Arguments to be made before the Supreme Court tomorrow on the appeal from Multnomah County in the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company 6-cent fare case may possibly be before a court of but four members.

Justice Moores is at the seashore for a brief rest. Justice Benson is in California, where he was called by the death of his brother. Justice Johns publicly expressed himself before he became a candidate for the Supreme Court on the 6-cent fare question and may be disqualified from sitting. It is possible that Justice Benson may be home in time to participate in the hearing.

Assistant Attorney-General Bailey will appear for the state, ill health preventing Attorney-General Brown from appearing in court.

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