

## DAIRY LEAGUE IS DEBATING MOTION TO QUIT BUSINESS

That the directors of the dairyman's league would recommend liquidation of the organization, but would call a mass meeting of members to be held in Portland as soon as possible in order to pass definitely on the question, was forecast late today.

A motion to liquidate the affairs of the Oregon Dairyman's Cooperative league and go out of business was being debated by the board of directors of the organization at noon today with the prospect of speedy settlement. Opinion seemed to be about equally divided. "We have definitely decided not to accept the proposal of the Hillsboro petition and resign as a body," said A. E. Westcott, president of the league.

"The prospect is rather gloomy," Westcott said, "yet we are going ahead if we can. There is no doubt but that the sentiment of the dairymen who attended the meeting Tuesday was to go ahead, and not liquidate."

The Tuesday meeting at the library was a stormy, lunchless, all-day session. It began at the league's offices at Third and Gilman, but the board of directors and the dairymen who had gathered around the doors moved to Library hall in order that all league members might listen to the deliberations. More and more dairymen came in during the day, until, at the hour of adjournment, the room was practically filled.

**ANNOUNCEMENT SURPRISES**  
A surprising announcement just before adjournment came from Jared Wenger, publicity agent of the league, that he, in a Hillsboro garage, had written the petition adopted at a meeting in Hillsboro last Saturday which asked the directors of the league to resign. He said, however, that he had written it, he thought, to conform to the desires of dairymen and others of that vicinity. There was no evidence of any desire on the part of the league members in attendance to liquidate the league. There were many applauded proposals to continue. This sentiment is expected to have influence with the directorate in its final deliberations. The impromptu mass meeting was Tuesday's first surprise.

The second was an unanticipated announcement from Director Jenkins of Coos county that the Coos-Curry division had already voted to stay in the league, on condition that the services of K. C. Eldridge as manager be retained.

**HILLSBORO PETITION IN**  
The same sentiment was voiced in a lengthy and acrid petition brought from last Saturday's Hillsboro meeting of dairymen and business men. Chester Bridges of Washington county, who led the Washington county forces, was reinforced in presenting the petition by E. J. Brock, also of Washington county, who declared that the poor management and failure to produce full accounting the league's difficulties now are due. The latter sharply censured P. J. Mackie, secretary-treasurer of the league, for his failure to offer a financial statement and for his inability to state exactly the condition of the league's finances.

No action was taken on the petition, which asked the resignation of all the officers and directors. Dr. Hector McPherson of Oregon, a critic of the league, suggesting that it must have been written in the "heat of anger" and that it would be far better to wait until the annual election in January, to renew the personnel of the board.

The last act of the directors Tuesday was, by rising vote at the instance of the dairymen present, to pledge their support to General Manager Eldridge, "as long as he is right." By a vote of 11 to 7 the board voted to sustain its executive committee in the Clatsop settlement.

**MIGHT YET AGREE**  
This action in respect to Eldridge introduced a cross current against a movement which, it was said, had objective the resignation of the general manager. It was, indeed, suggested that the league's directors and its general manager might yet agree upon the plan which would save the organization.

Manager Eldridge proposed that unclosed pools be set aside for two to three years; that payment for the October product be omitted; that preferred stock, amounting to \$117,000, be January 1, be paid, and added that he believed, starting out of a new basis, the league could pay its members regularly at market quotations every 60 days after November 15. He also proposed that the league establish its own milk distributing system in Portland. At the present time, of 12 cents paid for the consumer for a quart of milk, the producer gets 4.8 cents, less the freight to Portland, and the dealer gets 7.2 cents.

F. A. Baker, director from Umatilla county, suggested that the members accept preferred stock in lieu of amounts due from unclosed pools, this stock to be retired automatically from current proceeds.

Director Johnson of Clatsop county ex-

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To provide funds it is suggested they be raised through reduced expenditures for the army and navy and through a federal estate tax.

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