

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

MILK CONTROL

Last week our attention was called to an article we had printed asking certain questions regarding the Milk Control law. It seems that our attitude was not accepted with the best of grace by some of the milk distributors of the county. We promised to look more fully into the matter before making any further remarks.

We freely admit that we have not had time to do much investigating, but we have talked to quite a number of private citizens and asked them what they thought of the matter. We find that a majority of the ordinary consumers of milk seem to think that the present law should be amended or repealed. The opinion was almost unanimous that the price-control feature of the law should be repealed, even if nothing else is done.

As far as we are concerned we have always been, and always will be opposed to price-fixing by government. We find no fault with laws compelling proper sanitation and cleanliness in the handling of such foods as milk. That is a proper function of government. But when it comes to saying what price shall be charged for milk; who shall sell it and to whom, we are opposed to such a program.

And to our mind the idea of limiting the butterfat content of milk to any certain amount is silly, to say the least. We believe that any producer of any product should be allowed to sell that product for whatever price he pleases and to whomsoever he pleases, so long as he complies with proper sanitary regulations. And we believe there is something "cockeyed" with a law which provides that a man who owns a cow which gives more milk than that person requires for his own use shall not be allowed to sell or give the surplus to his neighbor whose family needs the milk.

We were told that there is now a surplus of milk in Medford. How come? Does every child in that city have all the milk he should have

every day? Not! Everybody with a grain of sense knows that at the present outrageous price of 11 cents a quart no working man with a family can afford to buy anywhere near as much milk as his children need. It may be true that there is more milk brought into the city daily than there is a sale for at such a price. But just let the law be changed so the old milk depots where milk was obtainable at about 25c a gallon (bring your own container) could be opened once more and it is our bet that the said surplus would disappear over night.

The Legislature is now considering the milk control proposition and if any of our readers think the law is wrong now is the time to let your representatives at Salem know what you think. You may be sure the big milk distributors and creamery-men of the state will be there with bells on, telling their side of the question. So if you are not satisfied with the law as it now stands and want it either repealed entirely, or amended, WRITE TO EITHER REPRESENTATIVE NEWBRY OR McALLISTER OR TO SENATOR DUNN TODAY.

COMMUNICATED

To The Editor:

I would like to ask your readers a few questions on the milk control law. First, what is the difference in the price to the producer now and before the law went into effect.

As I understand it, the producers is getting 22 cents a gallon for his milk. This is 5 1/2 cents a quart. 22c a gallon is a good price to the producer for milk. The producer can make good money at this price. But what of the price of milk to the consumer? 44c a gallon! 11c a quart! According to this it costs as much to bottle and distribute the milk as it does to produce it. I would like to know why this is so? The production of milk requires much labor and a good amount of capital investment. For every cow that is milked there must be a certain amount of land farmed to produce the feed for that cow. The milk producer must raise or buy the feed, raise or buy his cows, pay for the labor for their care and milking, invest much money in barns, milk sheds, milk houses, etc. Then he must provide means of transporting the milk to the distributor. All of this he must do for the 5 1/2 cent a

quart that he gets for his milk. And I don't believe there is a producer of milk out west who admits that he could make good money producing milk at 20 cent a gallon. We believe this is about the price the producer received before the milk control law went into effect.

Now, what about the distributor? What are his costs and investments? The milk is delivered at his door. I don't know what his costs and investments are. But I certainly don't believe that it should cost as much to pasteurize, bottle and deliver milk as it does to produce it. If it does I wish some of your readers could tell me why.

Also why should two of the largest milk producers in Portland say that they can make more money with milk at 9 cent a quart than they can with milk at 11 cent.

To The Editor:

Just a few words in regards to the milk situation in this locality. I am not going to write this communication about how this subject affects the big distributors or the large producers, but about how it affects just you and I and the rest of the poor working class (who are in a large majority) who are trying to feed their families.

I wonder what could have been wrong with the system that made it possible for us to buy a gallon of milk at a milk depot for about 25 cents? Now if you want a gallon of milk it will cost you 44 cents, or almost twice what it cost then.

I know that the doctors recommend one quart of milk per day for each growing child. I have three little girls and when it was possible to get this 25 cent per gallon milk they had all the milk they needed but now they only get about one-half enough.

I wouldn't be kicking if this raise in price helped the farmers themselves but it don't. They still get the same price for their milk that they got in the good old days.

Of course some people will maintain that higher prices for commodities such as this is what we need to

prosper. I can't see this at all. The price which the producer receives from the dairies is about one half the amount the milk costs the consumer. Is it possible that it costs as much to bottle and deliver the milk as it does to produce it on the farm?

I would like to see everybody who is interested in fighting against this menace to our children's health gather together in protest to our law-makers in an endeavor to abolish the Milk Control Board.

Yours for the return of freedom in sale and exchange.
(Name on File.)

News-O-Grains WHAT—WHERE—WHEN & WHY By Archie Parker

Again I note with interest the letter of Communication. I admire your spirit (name on file) for coming right back at me. I especially like the way you closed your letter with—"Yours for the betterment of our youth". Congratulations, and I too believe just that. For the sake of a good-old-Irish-argument, let us look the situation squarely in the face.

I will grant that we need a recreational building—after we get the building what will we need? We will need a City Marshal that will enforce a few of our city laws. A

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marshal that is a testotal stranger and as hard as nails. An officer that will stop the kids from using the side-walks for bicycle-boulevards, from riding double, cutting figure-eights in the middle of the streets and riding without headlights on their wheels, from tearing down signs, shooting out street-lights, window-panes and causing trouble in general. A marshal that will ring the Curfew bell and go out after the kids and make them go home or the Recreational building that you speak of. Yes, my friend, that is what we will need. But—should we get that kind of an officer, the parents of our fair city would raise up in a body like the approach of a Florida hurricane, go to the city council and demand his dismissal. Yes—my friend, that is just what would happen—I know, for I tried it, and it did happen. It will take more than a recreational center and a good officer to make anything out of Central Point. It will take Cooperation, Consideration, Discipline and Good Will—find that, (in any town), and you will have a chance.

The calcium craze has started the wide-spread opening up of imbibing-bars where the thirsty drinker may drink his fill. You may step up to the bar and call for a Calcium-cocktail, or a White-wash-high-ball, an alfalfa-fizz, a drink of pasture-punch, bovine brandy, jersey julep,

or udder-rum, and you will promptly be served with a tall glass of nice rich milk.

Well—the merry-go-round on the school ground has claimed its first victim, (not fatally, but seriously injured) and it is surprising that it has not happened sooner. It is now proven that the merry-go-round is a dangerous play-thing.

Our seven-year-old girl came home one evening quite sick, and it was some time before we could get it out of her what was the matter—finally she told us that she had been riding on the merry-go-round. She was sick all night. We have forbidden her to go on the contraption. If others would do likewise it would be better for the children.

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