

Seventeenth Annual Report of South Australian Dairymen's Association 30th June 1951.

Membership: The financial membership this year has received a severe set-back as it has decreased by 20.4%. The comparative figures are as follows;

1949/50	2064
<u>1950/51</u>	<u>1643</u>
A loss of	421

The members register shows total 1892 members, thus revealing 82.89 % financial. The decreased membership is due to the following reasons:

- (1) Owing to a long dry season and comparatively low prices for manufactured (surplus milk) products, which combined with fantastic prices for wool resulting in many dairymen having either (a) sold their dairy farm or (b) sold their herd and gone over to sheep.
- (2) A number of Members have been lost through the October changeover. Prior to the changeover they had signed a Procuration Order with the firm to which they were supplying milk and in changing over to a new farm, the original procuration order became null and void.
- (3) Although we have a parti-time organiser Viz., Mr. F. E. Hannaford, who has done splendid work in enrolling a number of members, it would appear from this years figure's that much more time should be given to organising.

Milk Prices. During the year several changes have taken place in regard to while milk and manufactured milk prices. These prices are quite distinct and have no relation to each other, and for that reason have been dealt with seperately, as follows:

- (a) Whole milk: At the commencement of the financial year the city milk price was 1/10½d. (one shilling & tenpence -halfpenny) per gallon. With repeatedly rising costs an approach was made by the Association to the Metropolitan Milk Board for an increase in the city milk price. Costs were taken out for the 12-months ending June 1950, and revealed that it took 23.92d. (23.92 pence) to produce a gallon of milk. The Milk Board, therefore, on the 10th December, 1950 increased the producers price to 2/-¾ d. (two shillings & three quarters of a penny) per gallon.

Although the costs as shown were taken out for the 12 months ended June, it will be seen that a period of 6-months elapsed before the increase was granted. By December therefore, production costs had so spiralled with the excessively dry season that a further request was made by the Association for a price for whole milk that would cover the extra cost involved in its production.

In the early part of 1951, it was realised that the dairying industry was in a precarious position, as dairymen, one after another, sold their herds and turned to other endeavours of primary production much more remunerative. The Association then made another urgent request to the Board that a further increase be expedited, and on 17th March, 1951, the producers price was increased to 2/5½d. (two shillings & five pence half-penny) per gallon. Since that date no further changes have taken place in the whole milk price.

From the foregoing it will be seen that both these increases were due to the efforts of this Association.

- (b) **Manufactured Milk Products:** In regard to manufactured milk products i.e. butter, cheese, etc., dairymen throughout Australia are operating under the Commonwealth Guaranteed cost of production plan. IN 1947 THE Chifley Government gave a five years ' cost of production guaranteed price to producers , with the change of government the industry was re-assured that the guarantee would continue for its full five years, viz., 30th June 1952 . In fact, the Present Commonwealth Government said they would a ten years guarantee.

Since the plan commenced to operate, costs have been taken out by the special Committee set up under this plan. This special Committee is termed the " Joint Dairying Industry Advisory Committee."

In December, 1950 when the arbitration Court awarded £ 1 per week increase in the basic wage, it was realized that this would have an immediate effect on the dairying industry. In January therefore, the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation called an urgent meeting at which representatives from this Association attended. In addition to meetings of the Federation, a combined Conference was held with the Australian Dairy Produce Board and Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee Ltd.

At the present ti, the Commonwealth Government is paying £ 16,800, 000 in subsidy to the dairying industry and appears to be loath to increase this amount. With this in view, it had asked the State Prices Ministers to increase the price of Butter by 1/- per lb.

Up to the present States have not agreed and, and in the meantime , whilst haggling goes on between the Commonwealth and the States , the dairying Industry is still further deteriorating.

The public of Australia has now seen that a continued low price to the dairy farmer has resulted in a shortage of butter, and it can be forecast that unless a substantial increase in price is immediately granted to the dairy farmers of Australia , that next year, particularly during Autumn, there will be a much greater shortage of butte, than was experienced this year.

District	On Roll 1950/51	Financial	% Financial
Bolivar	74	61	81%
Finiss	44	36	82%
Gawler	51	41	80%
Hills River	36	22	61%
Jervois	68	64	94%
Meadows	281	252	90%
Milang	71	61	86%
Mt. Barker	154	134	87%
Mypomga Co-operative	195	195	100%
One Tree Hill	44	44	100%
Onkaparinga	112	112	100%
River Murray	156	156	100%
South Coast	161	111	69%
Two Wells	40	33	82%
Upper Torrens Valley	408	248	61%
Willunga	84	71	84%
Miscellaneous	2	2	100%
Total	1982	1643	83%
Last year	2200	2064	94%