

COMPETITIVE ESSAYS ON THE MILK SUPPLY IN MY CITY

SIXTY essays were submitted this year for the prize offered annually by the National Municipal League for the best essay written by a high school student on some municipal topic selected by the League. The subject for 1913 was "The Milk Supply in My City." The first prize was awarded to David Barton, of the Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, High School and the second to J. G. Mitchell MacCartney of the Altoona, Pa., High School. The judges were John Spargo, the well-known author of *Yonkers, N. Y.*, who wrote "The Common Sense of the Milk Question" and Prof. Selskar M. Gunn, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ecstn, Mass., and lately health officer of Orange, N. J.

The announcement of the subject of the competition of 1913 was accompanied by an outline designed to direct the competitors to an understanding (1) of the essential elements of a public milk supply and (2) to an investigation of their local milk supply with a view of learning and setting forth its character as compared with a reasonable standard. As the outline was prepared with considerable care and in the light of the experience of a board of health which has long given careful attention to the control of the milk supply under its jurisdiction it is reprinted here as of interest and of possible use to the readers of the REVIEW:

THE MILK SUPPLY IN MY CITY

- (I) Essentials of a Public Milk Supply:
 - (1) Hygienic quality or healthfulness, including freedom from disease germs.
 - (2) Food value or nutritious qualities.
 - (3) Reliability of service.
 - (4) Price, which includes both (a) availability to those of limited means and (b) a fair return to the producer and milk dealer.
- (II) The source of the Milk Supply in My City as regards:
 - (1) Locality, within or outside city; farm dairies scattered or close together, large or small, few or many.
 - (2) How handled at the farm dairy to keep it free from (a) dirt, (b) infection by disease germs and (c) to ensure proper temperature.
 - (3) Relation of producer to consumer: does the dairy farmer deliver milk to the consumer, to a retail milk dealer, to a middleman in (a) the city or (b) the country?
- (III) How Our Milk Supply is Conveyed from the Dairy Farm to the City:
 - (1) By wagon, trolley or steam railway.
 - (2) Sanitary conditions of transportation, to keep milk (a) free from dirt, (b) from infection, (c) to keep it cool.
- (IV) How Our Milk Supply Gets to the Consumer:

- (1) By delivery at the door, and if so, (a) by what means and (b) under what sanitary precautions.
 - (2) By purchaser going to store for milk and if so, what sanitary precautions are taken, including (a) in the storage and handling of milk in the store and (b) in getting the milk from the store to the home.
- (V) What Our City Government Does to Safeguard the Milk Supply:
- (1) As to purity at (a) the farm; (b) at central collecting, bottling and shipping points in the country; (c) at the central distributing points in the city, including wholesale and retail stores or distributing stations; (d) actual distribution from house to house; (e) care of milk by consumer; from time of delivery to consumption by him.
 - (2) As to economic or food value, including fats and solids standards, freedom from water adulteration, etc.
- (VI) The Milk Consumer's Part;
- (1) As to choice of his milk supply.
 - (2) Checks on purity.
 - (3) Checks on food value.
 - (4) Proper care of milk after received by him.
- (VII) The Broader Economic and Social Aspects of Our Public Milk Supply:
- (1) Is there available to all an ample supply of safe, wholesome, nutritious milk, at a price on parity with that of other foods of equal nutritive value?
 - (2) Is there available to all, at a reasonable price, high-grade milk, particularly suitable for infant feeding?
 - (3) What are the retail prices of the various grades of milk available in my city (a) at the home, (b) at the milk or grocery stores? In case the dairy farmers who produce the milk do not deliver it direct to the consumers, what are the prices received by the farmers, what is paid for freight and what do the intermediate jobbers, middlemen or wholesalers receive, all expressed in cents per quart.
 - (4) What is the average per capita consumption of milk for the whole city? What does this indicate as to quantity and price of available supply, economic condition of the population and general intelligence as to the value of milk as a food in comparison with other foods?
- (VIII) Suggestions for Improvements in Sanitary or Hygienic Quality of Our Milk Supply:
- (1) In production and in preparation for shipment;
 - (2) In transportation to city;
 - (3) In city wholesale depots and stores;
 - (4) In retail stores;
 - (5) In the delivery by wagons, etc.,
 - (6) By consumers;
 - (7) In supervision by Health or other City Departments.
- (IX) Suggestions for Improvements in Food or Nutritive Quality of Our Milk Supply.

- (X) Suggestions for Reductions in Cost to Consumer through the adoption of improved methods of Production, Transportation to City and Delivery to Consumers.

The sixty competitors for the prize were distributed from Connecticut to Wyoming and Texas. In a number of cities—notable Baltimore, Johnstown and York, Pa., and Marshall, Texas, special effort was apparently made by some one to enlist the pupils in the competition.

A careful reading of many of the essays and a casual examination of each of the others leads the present writer to believe that the educational value of the competition must have been considerable in the aggregate. Most of the essays give evidence of such a grasp of the essentials of a public milk supply as is likely to make the writers alert and critical on the subject hereafter. Many of the essays also showed that a careful analytical study of the local milk supply was made—with the result that more generally than not its character and public control was found to be seriously at fault. At the same time, the essays, coming as they do from all sorts of widely scattered cities, afford gratifying evidence of recent progress in improving the milk supplies of our cities and towns.

The winners of the two prizes (\$30 and \$20 respectively) have already been named. In addition the judges gave honorable mention to the following: Miss Jessie M. Webb, Miss Ida Fowler Mealy, Miss Marie A. McCann, Western High School, Baltimore, Md.; Miss Althea Oyster, Alliance, (Ohio) High School; Mr. Howard H. Weber, York, (Pa.) High School; Miss Ethel E. Tomb, Johnstown (Pa.) High School; Miss Eleanor Turner, Marshall (Texas) High School.

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MINNESOTA AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

MINNESOTA has made some advance in liquor legislation during the last twenty years, but we are still far behind many of the states in legislation which is effective in controlling the traffic and enforcing the law.

Under the laws of the state it is legal to sell intoxicating liquor in quantities of five gallons or over without a license, except in territory which has been voted dry. It is illegal to sell in quantities less than five gallons unless the person so selling has obtained a license. The law provides that in cities of the first, second and third classes the license shall be not less than \$1000 a year. All other licenses shall be not less than \$500. These licenses are granted by the council in municipalities, and by the board

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