

Farmers' Plan Co-operative Creamery.

If present plans do not miscarry, Asheville will have in operation by March 1 a \$5,000 creamery plant. The name of the creamery will likely be the Farmers Co-operative Creamery and it will be established for the benefit of the farmers of the county and the surrounding country, owned and operated by them. The object will be to manufacture the dairy products of this section into butter and cheese sufficient to supply the local trade and compete in many of the Southern markets with the creameries of the North and East.

About 30 farmers of the county have already evidenced their interest in the undertaking and something like \$1,000 or \$1,200 has already been pledged. The movement has been on foot for about a month and there seem to be no obstacles in the way of its establishment. The biggest consideration now is to get the farmers of the Weaverville section to come in on the proposition. These men have been considering the establishment of such a plant for some time and a number have already pledged about \$600 for the establishment of a plant in Weaverville. It is argued that if the creamery should be established in Weaverville, it would be practically inaccessible to the greater part of the section around Asheville, while if it were established here it would be perfectly accessible to them and the Weaverville people would not be inconvenienced in sending their products here as they have the benefit of the street car service to Asheville.

The Farmers' Union of Weaverville is to hold a meeting on Saturday, January 20th, to consider the proposition of coming into the movement of the other farmers of the county in a plant here and at that time those who are interested in the matter will go to Weaverville and present their claims. It is believed that the claims of the latter will be admitted and that the union will co-operate in the establishment of the plant here. It is certainly a popular movement and not a single farmer has been approached on the subject who has not expressed his willingness to take stock in the company.

It is understood that it will not be a difficult task to fit up the plant and as soon as the organization is effected work will begin immediately. Several sites are under consideration for the plant but if none of these prove favorable a building will be erected. A \$5,000 plant can be quickly put in shape and it is said will be large enough to fill the needs of the community for the next 20 years. Its capacity would be about 3,000 pounds of butter a day.

The Southern Railway has expressed its willingness to co-operate with the farmers of the entire western section of the state in this undertaking by establishing a baggage rate on the products for miles around. For instance a parcel of 100 pounds will be carried a distance of 50 miles for the sum of 25 cents. This would put the plant in a position to be as useful and as cheap to the people living that distance from the city as those living only a few miles in the country. The state department of agriculture will also co-operate in the undertaking and will send a man here to help open the plant. The state is doing all in its power to encourage the dairying business in this section now and would be more than willing to aid in such a proposition as this.

The present idea is to manufacture first class creamery butter and cheese, which can complete successfully with the products that are now shipped south from eastern cities and from the west as far as Illinois. There will be side lines developed, however, that will prove very profitable. There will necessarily be a cold storage in connection and this could be used for eggs, thus bringing into the market a much larger supply of fresh country eggs during the summer season.

Another side line which would probably prove the most remunerative of any, would be the raising of chickens on the skimmed milk, another by-product of the plant. Skimmed milk is one of the best fatteners known for chickens and a milk fattened fowl is worth from three to four cents a pound more than any other. All of which seems to prove conclusively that such a plant would be a very paying proposition to the farmers. It will all go to their general welfare too, for no one will be allowed to buy a controlling interest in the business and its business will be conducted by a majority vote.

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