

**A MUNICIPAL MILK PLANT**  
*a saving to the consumers*

"In considering the proposal for a Municipal Central Sanitary Milk Plant," said Mr. Carlson, "it is important to keep in mind the fact that under existing conditions two elements enter into most enterprises . . . service and exploitation. The consumer is ordinarily able to pass judgement upon articles supplied by competitive methods, but in the matter of milk supply and delivery he is absolutely helpless, because he does not as a rule know what he is buying, and the producer does not know all the ingredients contained in what he is selling. Therefor exploitation should be eliminated in the milk supply and delivery, and the supply should be a matter of public service, precisely as putting out fires, educating children, maintaining public streets, and furnishing pure water which are now a matter of public service. And I might add that State authorities have declared milk distribution to be a public utility service.

The element of health enters into this milk handling more than any other thing, for the reason that milk attracts all disease germs to which it is exposed, and in turn the same are transmitted to the human body. This is a source of illness which is conceded by the foremost authorities in the field of science and sanitation.

On the other hand, looking at this proposal from a purely economic or cost standpoint, there is just as much ground in support of the argument for the public delivery of milk through municipal channels as there is in support of public delivery of mail and the supply of water by sanitary means. The waste of time and energy, and duplicate equipment, under the old method, is much greater than is generally known. At the present time half of what the consumers pay for milk is required to maintain this wasteful system of distribution.

In the city of Rochester an experiment was undertaken a few years ago, to demonstrate the economy that could be effected by a systematized method of milk distribution. It was shown that in one average route, covered by 27 dealers reaching 275 homes and traveling a total of 25 miles, could be served by one man traveling only one-half mile and performing this service at a cost of only one-half cent per quart.

The objection raised against municipalization of milk distribution, on the ground that it carries paternalism too far, is answered by the fact that in all matters in which the public health is involved, the agency of a democratically chosen government must assume full and complete control.

The proposition to municipalize the milk plant is not a socialistic measure in the commonly accepted term, but a common-sense and business-like method by which the citizens cooperate in the employment of the agency of the city government, their servant, to do in an economical and sanitary manner for public gain, that which a superfluous number of dealers are unable to do properly, under competitive conditions for private gain.

Competition is proper in the field of milk production, but in the field of distribution it is useless, costly and dangerous. The price of milk under the present system is continually going up, while under municipal control the price of water and electricity has never gone up, and I might add that running a municipal water and electric system is far more intricate and complicated than operating a municipal milk distribution system could ever be.

According to present prices for the 20,000 quarts of milk and 1500 quarts of cream consumed daily in Jamestown, the total sum paid annually by the people here is about \$2,353,000.00

Under a municipal system a reduction of 25% in the price of milk could be made and still leave a surplus sufficient to construct a modern \$300,000 plant with equipment and at the same time provide additional funds with which to buy out, on a fair basis, all competing milk distributing concerns. The initial steps in this undertaking

could be financed by bonds payable from revenues derived from the sale of milk.

Under a municipal system the producing dairy farmer would get more for a high quality of milk, while the consumer would pay less for this quality of milk.

Municipal control of milk, as planned, would enable the city authorities to prevent the sale of milk that did not come up to the health regulations and pass inspection at the central plant. City control would provide daily fresh milk with a full cream content at low prices."

Present day estimate of cost of a City Milk Plant	\$350,000
Allowance to present dealers for their investments	350,000

Total \$700,000

Revenue: 20,000 qts. milk daily sold @ 16cts.	
1500 qts. of cream @ 1.00	
200,000 lbs butter @ 75cts.	
100,000 lbs cheese @ 50cts.	

Total revenue \$2,077,840

Expense: purchase of milk from dairy farmers	
30,000 qts. of milk daily @ 10cts. ....	\$1,092,000
Other expenses: Office Force, Milk Delivery, Depreciation, Rent, etc. ....	400,000

Total annual expenses \$1,492,000

Total Municipal Gain with reduction in milk prices and by-products .....	\$585,840
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This profit will pay for plant in less than 2 years.



Samuel A. Carlson — latest photo — 1948