

# Farm Dairy Instruction Service

By M. J. McFETRIDGE,  
Supervisor of Farm Dairy Instruction,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Hamilton

**T**HE farm dairy instruction service of the Department of Agriculture has now been established 21 years. Fundamentally the aim of the service is to assist dairy farmers, through advice and guidance, in the production of the highest-quality milk and cream. Instruction and advice are given on correct methods of cleaning milking machines and dairy equipment and on the siting and layout of new dairy premises.

**I**N the early days of the industry dairy instructors were employed by the Department of Agriculture primarily to instruct at manufacturing dairies. With the growth of the industry, however, these officers were unable to meet the increasing demand for their services, and dairy companies appointed their own instructors to provide a service for their suppliers. Small companies formed groups with an instructor to a group. These officers combined the duties of instruction and herd testing.

## Voluntary System

In 1918 a voluntary system was introduced involving agreement between the dairy companies and the Department of Agriculture that officers would be appointed by the Department and have the powers of inspectors under the Dairy Industry Act. By their resourcefulness and tact the officers appointed under this scheme laid the foundations for the present service.

The system did not supply a Dominion coverage of instruction, but applied only to those dairy companies which because of their size and location could give an economical service to their suppliers.

Though limited, the service provided was found to be essential in improving the quality of the raw material and industry leaders considered that for the overall benefit of the industry



Close cooperation between the farmer and the Farm Dairy Instructor is effecting improvement in quality of dairy produce through attention to hygiene in the shed.

it should be broadened to include the whole of the Dominion.

## Service Reorganised

In 1938 the scheme on this basis became operative under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. The new personnel were all men with long experience in dairy factories and many of them had also had practical experience on dairy farms.

The Second World War years thoroughly tested the reorganised service at its inception. The difficulties were many but the service gave valuable assistance.

With the emphasis on increased production for Great Britain and the Forces the instructors were fully occupied.

Farm Dairy Instructors at this time proved particularly helpful on many new dairy units established by inexperienced farmers. After the war, with labour and materials in short supply, instructors continued to give