

Notes
ON
Agricultural
Co-operation
IN THE
Netherlands

BY

S. C. ADAMS and JAMES FANT

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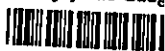
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FINDLATER PLACE, DUBLIN

• PREFATORY NOTE.

Co-operating dairy farmers in Ireland will do well to study these very interesting "Notes on Agricultural Co-operation in the Netherlands," by Messrs. Adams and Fant. The writers set forth in simple language the steps taken by the Dutch farmers to increase the productiveness of their dairy herds and to establish the reputation of their butter in our markets. By two agencies mainly they have been enabled to accomplish this, viz. :—Cow Testing Associations or Milk Control Societies, and by their system of Butter Control. To us in Ireland, who are beginning to move in these directions, it will be of great interest to note that both these agencies were of spontaneous growth, and that they were encouraged from the start by the State Department of Agriculture, and now enjoy its protection and patronage. The I.A.O.S. has modelled its Butter Control Scheme on lines very similar to that adopted in Holland, and the Cow Testing Associations which it is advocating will follow closely on those of our Dutch competitors. But the great lesson which these Notes teach is the supreme importance of self-help. It is chiefly on self-help that the Dutch farmers have relied for their success rather than upon State aid, and it is upon co-operation, the practical expression of self-help, that Irish farmers also must rely.

R. A. ANDERSON,
Secretary, I.A.O.S.

INTRODUCTION.

In submitting these notes on a very brief visit, we desire at the outset to acknowledge our indebtedness to the several gentlemen who provided us with the necessary introductions, and particularly to—

Mr. O. Reitsma, Secretary of the General Netherlands Dairy Association.

Mr. G. J. Bieleman, Government Dairy Inspector, Utrecht.

Mr. U. Koostra, Secretary, Association of Co-operative Creameries in Friesland.

Mr. R. M. Veeman, Manager of Marssum Co-operative Creamery, and Chairman of Friesland Provincial Association.

who, in addition to many other services, kindly undertook the correction of our proofs.

We must also acknowledge our indebtedness to the following gentlemen for all the information and help which they so readily gave :—

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Mr. J. Mesdag, Director of the Control Station for the Province of Friesland.

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Mr. A. Bos, Secretary of the Control Station for South Holland.

Mr. S. Hepkema, Technical Instructor in Dairying for the Friesland Association.

F. A. R. Baron Van Ittersum, Director of the Co-operative Central Bank, Utrecht.

Mr. F. B. Löhmis, Government Inspector of Agriculture.

Mr. J. L. Van Ryn, the Netherlands Commissioner in Great Britain.

JAMES C. ADAMS and JAMES FANT.

December, 1910.