



# LIMERICK MEAT PLANT IN PERIL

Clover to declare £1.3m loss on year's trading

BY LEADER REPORTER

**A LOSS OF £1,300,000 on the year's trading is to be declared by the giant Clover Meats Co-operative Society in the annual report to shareholders to be released within two weeks.**

The general manager of the society, Mr. Dermot

It has also been revealed that the I.D.A. has withheld a grant of £1,000,000 promised to the society, until the outcome of the current drive to raise at least £1,000,000 from farmers and suppliers in share capital or loan stock to the society is known.

Mr. McDermott said that the campaign had met with a lot of goodwill from farmers and he was confident that the society would get the required capital. The loss of the society to farmer control could mean an annual loss of £9 million to farmers because of lower prices in a less competitive, privately-owned operation.

## Stock shortage

On the Limerick factory, Mr. McDermott said that "there

make investments in the share drive.

He was, however, adamant that if the problems at Limerick were not sorted out, there would have to be a definite decision to close the plant, which would result in a loss both to employees at Limerick and farmers in the region.

## Agreement

"We have a signed agreement now, but we cannot give any commitment until we see it working," he declared.

He admitted that "bad restrictive practices have built up over the year," adding to the difficulties of the society to operate.

The turnabout in trading of the Clover Group has come does not seem to be enough stock available to operate profitably". With the resumption of T.B. testing the number of reactor animals is expected to increase and as soon as there is sufficient supply they would "certainly open the line and start killing".

He revealed that a productivity agreement with the trade unions had been "signed" and he was very hopeful that the difficulties at Limerick "which were only being caused by a minority of the workers" had been resolved.

The majority of the workers were dedicated people and some of the employees in the Clover group had offered to

McDermott, has also revealed that unless difficulties on the supply of stock and operation of the Limerick plant "are sorted out," there will be no alternative but to close the factory, which employs over 300.

In the bleakest year in the history of Clover Meats Ltd., on a turnover of £45,000,000 there has been a trading loss of £1,300,000 and borrowings have rocketed from £5,000,000 to £8,500,000 over a period of eighteen months.

after two years in business when profits of £1.7m. and £1.1m. were returned. In the current year the turnover of the society is expected to be £50,000,000.

A meeting in the fund raising campaign was held at Newcastle West on Monday and a further meeting is planned for Limerick on Wednesday night next.

'A match appeared and lit the fire

BY LEADER REPC

AT LISTOWEL Courmen were each fined unlawfully burning got out permission on April 1976. They Patrick Cúlhané and Walsh, both of 22 Cha Listowel. Maurice Scantled in evidence that on in question he went to with both defendants turf. A fire was sta cook a bit of dinner make tea. Witness did the fire being lit and not know who lit it. Justice Maguire: "D and cod me".

Witness: "I am no to cod men". Garda Michael Coot that he arrived at 11 at 3.40 p.m. and there with the two defend they pointed out who had prepared a fire tea. Walsh would n who lit the fire. Wa him that the bog cu and it spread rapid tried to quench it, b out of control. Cúlhané went to notify the gu the fire brigade.

Cúlhané, said witne not say who lit the fi. In reply to Mr. Piersé, solr., for Cúlhané said he was u establish who started Supt. Frank Hanly : evidence to Insp. Jo ing, who prosecuted, did not give permissi defendants to burn g Piersé asked for a for Cúlhané, but Jus ure refused to, sayi was circumstantial e Cúlhané, in eviê: that a match appe it lit the fire. The m up from under the Justice Maguire: "I hard to have patiê A match came up fr the heather and lit t He convicted as s

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