

FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE 20/2/1920

Greybridge Creamery Dispute Discussed

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the County Limerick Farmers' Association was held at Geary's Hotel on last Saturday, the 14th inst. Mr J K Hogan, Chairman, presided. The following were present:—Messrs B Laffan, V P, L F A; J Ryan, J P, V P, I F A; T Nunan, General Treasurer; P Foley, P K Hogan, D R De Barch, E D L'iston, D C; D Murnane, W Ahern, M Ryan, J M'Cormack, J Halpin, W Parcell, J Long, M R Woulfe, W O'Sullivan, etc.

Mr Riddall, Organiser I A O S, was present on the invitation of the committee to discuss the Greybridge Creamery dispute. Mr Riddall pointed out that he was invited by the committee of the Greybridge Co-operative Creamery to inquire into the causes of this dispute with a view to a settlement that would be reasonable to all parties. He got into touch with the workers, and their contention was that the workers employed in the creamery should be paid their wages during the time they were on strike, and the creamery closed.

Mr John Boohan, representing the Greybridge Creamery Committee, showed the dispute arose not between his committee and the workers in the creamery directly, but the action of those workers in refusing to handle the milk of farmers who had refused to pay a bonus to their agricultural workers. This was no mere or less than a sympathetic strike, and by this action of the workers the suppliers to this creamery lost a sum of £600. Mr Riddall favoured arbitration, but Mr Boohan contended that any Arbitration Board appointed should first consider the loss sustained by the farmers of £600 through no fault of theirs (the farmers), but through the direct action of the creamery workers and their advisers at Liberty Hall. Mr Boohan mentioned that if Liberty Hall would make good the £600 lost by the farmers the workers would receive wages for the time the creamery was closed.

Mr Riddall mentioned that the I A O S was in operation for a period of over 30 years and in cases where disputes arose arbitration was resorted to with advantage to all concerned.

Mr Boohan stated that the Greybridge creamery was now opened and working effectively. Any further steps that ought to be taken the farmers' loss should be first consideration.

Mr Riddall then considered that it was no longer the business of the I A O S and that their society would withdraw as the Irish Farmers' Union had taken the matter in hands. He said that the policy of the I A O S had been to foster and develop agricultural co operation