

**MR. WOODS REPLIES TO
Brightness / Contrast AVES' LETTER**

**Proprietor of Woodstead Dairy
Objects to Statements and
Phrases in Communication
from Former Health Officer**

Harry M. Woods, proprietor of Woodstead Dairy at Salisbury Cove, writes the following letter to THE TIMES in reply to one written by Dr. L. Sherman Cleaves and printed in last Wednesday's TIMES:

Woodstead Dairy
Salisbury Cove
Feb. 21, 1931

To the Editor of the Times
Dear Mr. Sherman:

The motives behind my statements in recent milk advertisements in your paper were entirely innocent. Certainly it was a great surprise to learn from his letter in your last issue, that they struck my friend, Dr. Cleaves, as discourteous, vindictive and particularly as "containing low indecency or abuse" which is Webster's definition of "scurrilous."

While Dr. Cleaves speaks of "other misleading statements" which he feels it his duty to correct, my remark that "Bar Harbor has for the first time had an adequate and thorough milk inspection" appears to be the one to which he particularly objects and which he classifies as a "discourteous and vindictive attitude toward former milk inspectors."

When I made that statement, no reflection upon former officials entered my mind; in fact, former officials were not in my mind at all. It is common knowledge that before 1930, Bar Harbor's health officers and milk inspectors were part-time officials, snatching what time they could for that work from the demands of their

regular vocations. It is more surprising to do what they did under the circumstances than that they were unable to do more. But in ten years prior to July 1, 1930, Woodstead Dairy was officially visited by a milk inspector only once and no samples of Woodstead products were taken for examination. Since July 1, 1930, Woodstead Dairy has been visited five or six times and twenty-odd samples of Woodstead milk have been examined. This is no more a reflection upon former part-time officials than it is particularly to the credit of the present health officer to have done the work for which he was hired and for which he has the requisite time. But in view of these facts, I feel that the statement that "Bar Harbor has for the first time had an adequate and thorough milk inspection" is correct without being any reflection upon anybody.

The only "other misleading statement" cited by Dr. Cleaves is that "a low bacteria count indicates clean milk, carefully handled." Dr. Cleaves points out that milk analysts use the terms "clean" and "dirty" in a specialized and technical sense to measure the amount of visible sediment as determined by a filtration test. As a layman writing for laymen, I used "clean" in the common dictionary sense of "free from what is unwholesome or offensive." For instance, cow manure is quite soluble and might be present in milk in fairly large amounts without showing up seriously in a sediment test, especially in milk that had been strained through one of the cotton disk filters in common use among dairymen. Yet I feel sure that Dr. Cleaves would not claim that such a milk is clean. And it would, by

such a milk is clean. And it would, by the way, undoubtedly show a very high bacteria count. Using "clean" in the common and non-technical sense, it seems to me that Dr. Cleaves' own statement that "the count * * * is an index of the keeping quality of the milk under test and of the method of handling by the producer" is almost exactly parallel with my statement that "a low count indicates clean milk carefully handled."

If any of my statements were discourteous, I can only say that I am very sorry and that certainly no discourtesy was intended. But as it must be obvious to the most casual reader that my advertisements contained no low indecencies; as Dr. Cleaves repeats in strikingly similar language and cites proof of the one statement of mine which he singles out to criticize; and as there is certainly no reason for me to seek vengeance from Dr. Cleaves, I feel that the terms "scurrilous," "misleading statements" and "vindictive" in his letter should be withdrawn.

Yours truly
Harry M. Woods.