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MANORS AND THE REGULATIONS ON MILK TRADE IN TAMPERE AT THE END OF THE NINETEENTH AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

At the turn of the twentieth century there were still several manors in the immediate surroundings of Tampere, the largest industrial town in Finland at the time (about 30,000 inhabitants). These manors were specialized in milk production and in their modern brick cowsheds there were 100 – 300 cows, the milk of which was sold to Tampere. The milk consumed by the factory workers and other town-dwellers was sold in dairies, marketplaces, harbours and courtyards. Furthermore, large quantities of milk were delivered directly ‘to the door’. The latter was favoured by neighbouring manors, which sold most of their milk in this way. I study the role and the significance of manors concerning the milk trade and food control in Tampere in the late 1800s and early 1900s. I ask, how the owners of manor houses influenced on the food control and dairy trade rules of the town and how they reacted to bovine tuberculosis, which was believed to be passed on to humans by milk.

In the 1890's many significant changes concerning the milk trade in Tampere took place. The Food Control Station began to operate in 1894. All kinds of foodstuff and other products were analysed there, but the most frequently analysed product was milk. The proportion of tested milk samples increased year by year. The municipal regulations concerning the trade of groceries came into force in 1896 and milk trade rules, which set out how and where milk was allowed to be sold in the town, were reformed in 1922.

The owners of manor houses influenced on the food control and dairy trade rules of Tampere mainly through their organizations. Farmers in the surrounding area of Tampere established a milk trade company in 1908 to improve the profitability of milk production. The company bought, transported, processed and sold shareholders' milk, and it had a modern dairy and many dairy shops in Tampere. The owners of the manor houses had the most power in the company. Nearly all

members of the board were large landowners. Large stockbreeders also had more votes in general meetings than smaller livestock owners. When the reformation of the regulations concerning the milk trade started in Tampere at the beginning of 2000th century, the milk trade company supported the reform and made proposals to the Health Care Board. In these proposals the company required, that the cowsheds from which the milk is transported to a town must be checked. In the regulations from year 1896 there were no orders about controlling the cowsheds of dairy farms beyond the administrative borders of the town. But in the new regulations, which came into force in 1922, the sanitary policemen of Tampere were given license to check also the cowsheds in rural areas, if necessary.

As members of agricultural, commercial and technical clubs of Tampere, owners of manor houses influenced on the food control and dairy trade rules of the town. In these clubs many issues concerning agriculture, trade of groceries and food control were dealt with before they were under discussion in the Town Council. In addition, the clubs gave expert advices to the Health Care Board and Town Council, at their request, in the issues concerning agriculture, trade or technical projects. One of these clubs was Satakunnan Maanviljelijäin Klubi, which was an exclusive club for educated farmers. At the meetings of the club it was dealt with the issues concerning the trade of groceries and the proposals and opinions were made to the Health Care Board and Town Council.

The owners of the manor houses also co-operated with the authorities of the town concerning the war against adulteration. For example, some cows of Hatanpää manor house were used test animals in 1910, when the director of Tampere town laboratory researched into the adulteration of butter. Cows of large farms were also under regular monitoring. The owners of the manor houses established the first association for livestock monitoring surroundings of Tampere in 1908. In this monitoring the amount of milk, milk fat content and cows' feed consumption were measured and the profitability of production was calculated. In addition, special attention was paid to the purity of milk.

In the 1896 milk trade rules there were no regulations concerning bovine tuberculosis, which was first and foremost a problem for the manors. However, the Health Care Board of Tampere prohibited from selling milk to the town, if there was bovine tuberculosis on the farm. The first prohibition of selling milk was imposed in 1900, and the farms which got prohibitions were all large farms. Nevertheless, manor houses near Tampere have tested their cattle voluntarily and regularly for bovine tuberculosis since 1897. Negative test results were a selling point, and they

were published in newspapers and put out in dairies. It is evident that concerning the bovine tuberculosis municipal authorities were trying to extend their control to the cowsheds of large dairy farms, far beyond the administrative borders of the town. However, the interests of big producers and town authorities were much the same when it came to adulteration and the quality of milk. Norms and rules on quality, classification and trade of milk were created largely as a result of negotiation between the different parties.