Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence, Board of Regents

Section 3, Pages 61 - 65

This file includes subject correspondence relating to the Board of Regents. Topics in the correspondence cover but is not limited to meeting minutes, expenses for public education based on class size, and post-secondary educational institutions. This file is part of a bigger collection of Governor Clyde M. Reed correspondence.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1929-1931 : Reed)

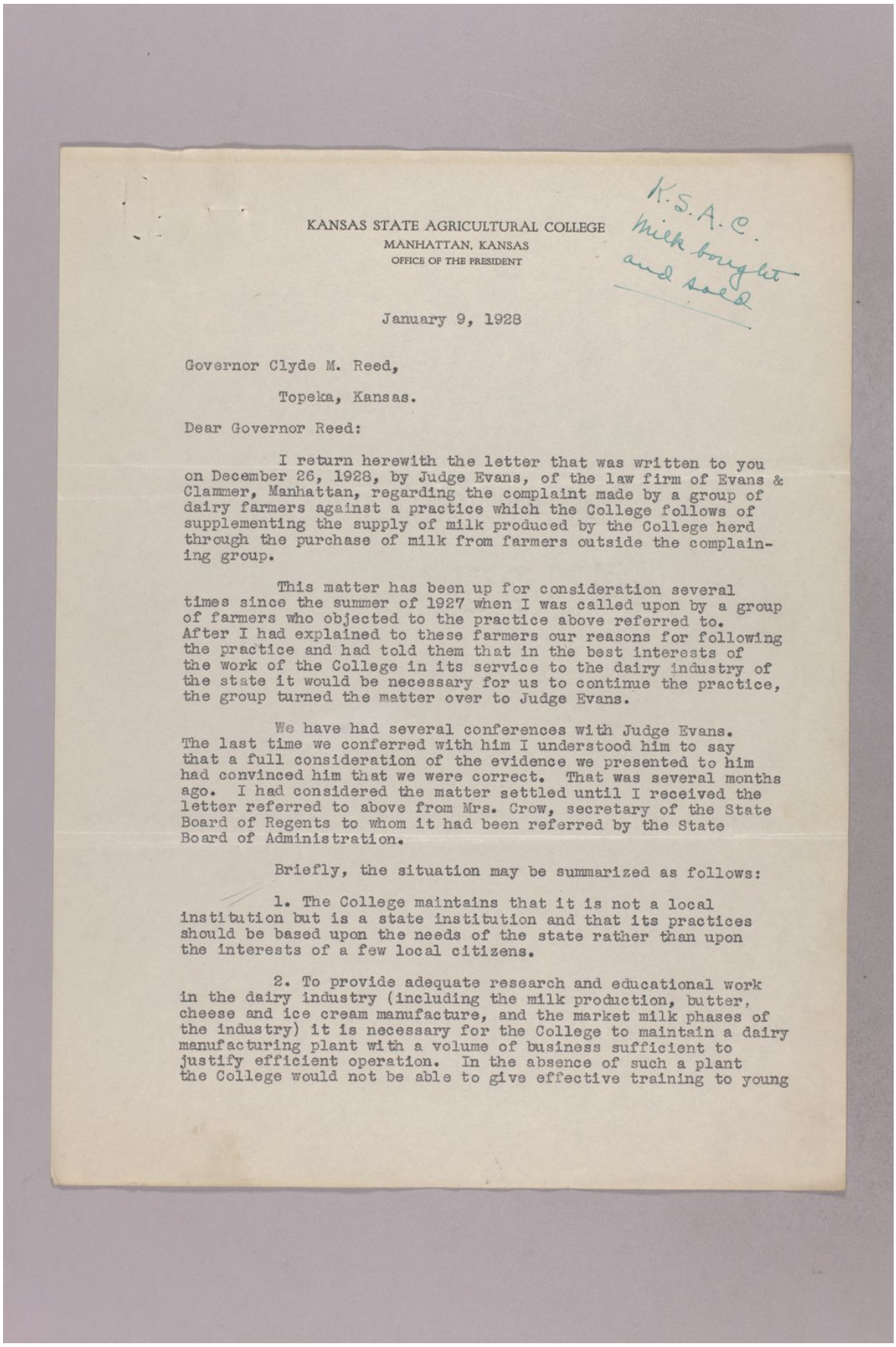
Date: 1929-1931

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K.S.A.C.
Milk bought and sold

KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 9, 1928

Governor Clyde M. Reed,

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Governor Reed:

I return herewith the letter that was written to you on December 26, 1928, by Judge Evans, of the law firm of Evans & Clammer, Manhattan, regarding the complaint made by a group of dairy farmers against a practice which the College follows of supplementing the supply of milk produced by the College herd through the purchase of milk from farmers outside the complaining group.

This matter has been up for consideration several times since the summer of 1927 when I was called upon by a group of farmers who objected to the practice above referred to. After I had explained to these farmers our reasons for following the practice and had told them that in the best interests of the work of the College in its service to the dairy industry of the state it would be necessary for us to continue the practice, the group turned the matter over to Judge Evans.

We have had several conferences with Judge Evans. The last time we conferred with him I understood him to say that a full consideration of the evidence we presented to him had convinced him that we were correct. That was several months ago. I had considered the matter settled until I received the letter referred to above from Mrs. Crow, secretary of the State Board of Regents to whom it had been referred by the State Board of Administration.

Briefly, the situation may be summarized as follows:

1. The College maintains that it is not a local institution but is a state institution and that its practices should be based upon the needs of the state rather than upon the interests of a few local citizens.

2. To provide adequate research and educational work in the dairy industry (including the milk production, butter, cheese and ice cream manufacture, and the market milk phases of the industry) it is necessary for the College to maintain a dairy manufacturing plant with a volume of business sufficient to justify efficient operation. In the absence of such a plant the College would not be able to give effective training to young

men who come here to prepare themselves for service in the dairy industry as managers of market milk plants, ice cream plants, creameries, etc. The College contends that it should be free to operate an efficient dairy manufacturing plant of sufficient size to provide this training even though the operation of the plant impinges somewhat upon the interests of a few local farmers who wish to sell their milk to Manhattan consumers. The same principle applies and is followed with reference to the operation of the College flour mill, the operation of the College farms, livestock feeding enterprises, and numerous other activities that are essential to the proper conduct of the College work in the service of the state as a whole.

3. The College has not found it necessary to expand its dairy manufacturing activities indefinitely. It endeavors to keep those activities within the limits required for reasonably efficient operation and instruction. The College has found that it is efficient to purchase a certain but irregular quantity of milk from local producers and to process this milk in substantially the same way as would any high-class commercial market milk plant. The number of farmers from whom the College purchases milk is approximately equal to the number in the group that complains against the College practice of purchasing the milk.

4. If the College were deprived of the right to purchase a limited quantity of milk from one group of farmers the milk produced by those farmers would automatically be thrown onto the market in direct competition with that produced by the group of farmers who complain.

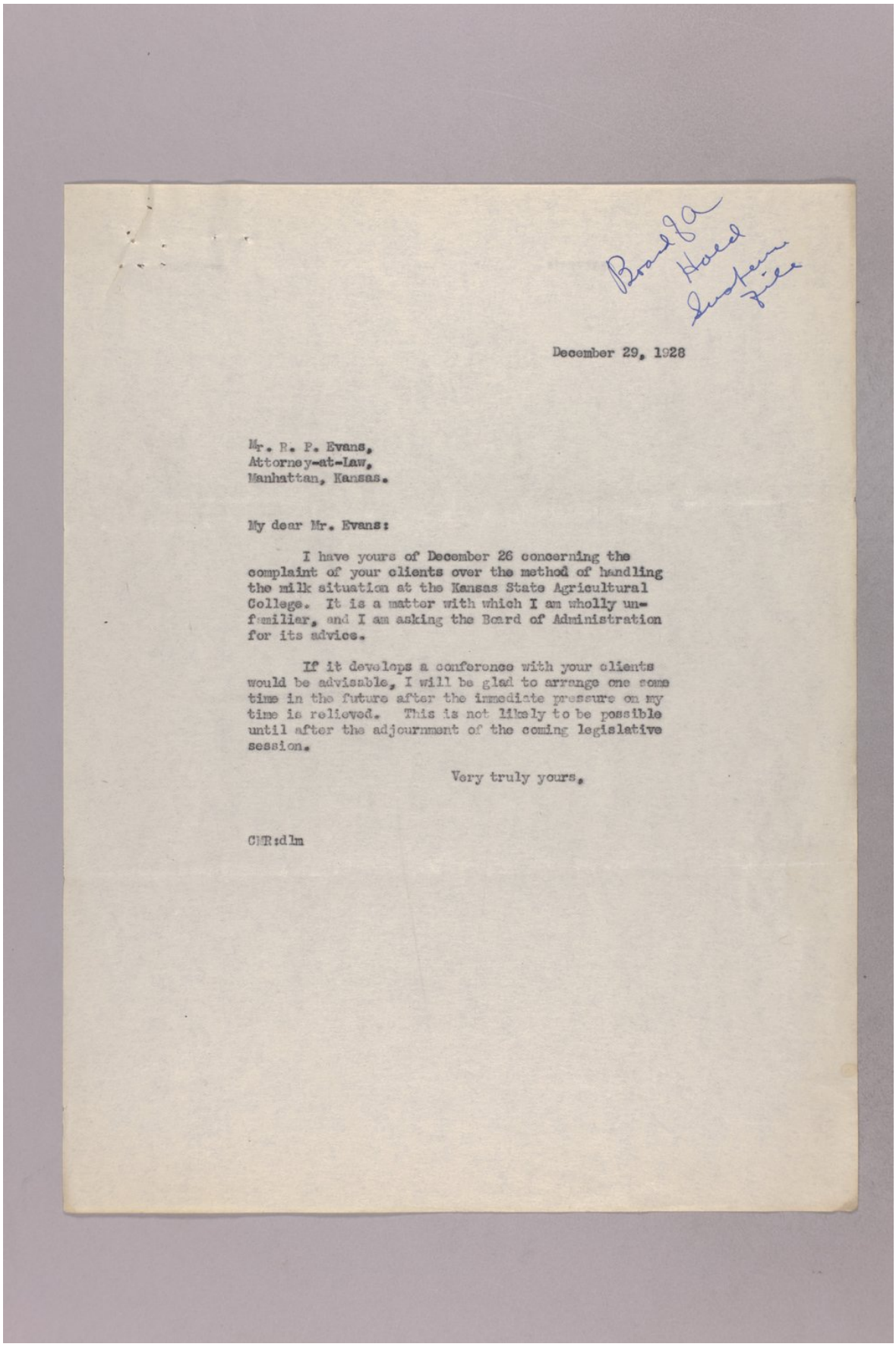
I am sending you this information in the hope that if you are called upon by the group represented by Judge Evans you will be informed of the College's position.

Virtually every agricultural college in the United States has had to meet the same problem. I am convinced that complaints of the kind represented in this instance are based upon a purely localized and rather shortsighted view of the mission of an agricultural college. We have had similar complaints here in the past regarding virtually all of our activities that involve the sale of materials whether it be pure seed, purebred poultry, flour mill products, or nursery stock. Other agricultural colleges have had similar experiences.

If you wish to have additional information on this subject I should be very glad to supply it. It is a pleasure to us to defend what we regard as a necessary principle in the proper conduct of agricultural instruction and research.

Very truly yours,

F. D. Farrell.
President.



Board of Hoard Instate Fire

December 29, 1928

Mr. R. P. Evans,
Attorney-at-Law,
Manhattan, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Evans:

I have yours of December 26 concerning the complaint of your clients over the method of handling the milk situation at the Kansas State Agricultural College. It is a matter with which I am wholly unfamiliar, and I am asking the Board of Administration for its advice.

If it develops a conference with your clients would be advisable, I will be glad to arrange one some time in the future after the immediate pressure on my time is relieved. This is not likely to be possible until after the adjournment of the coming legislative session.

Very truly yours,

CMR:dlm

December 29, 1928

Board of Administration,
Topeka, Kansas.

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from Mr. R. P. Evans, of Manhattan, Kansas, for your advice in the matter.

I have written Mr. Evans that this is a matter with which I am totally unfamiliar and that I am taking it up with the Board.

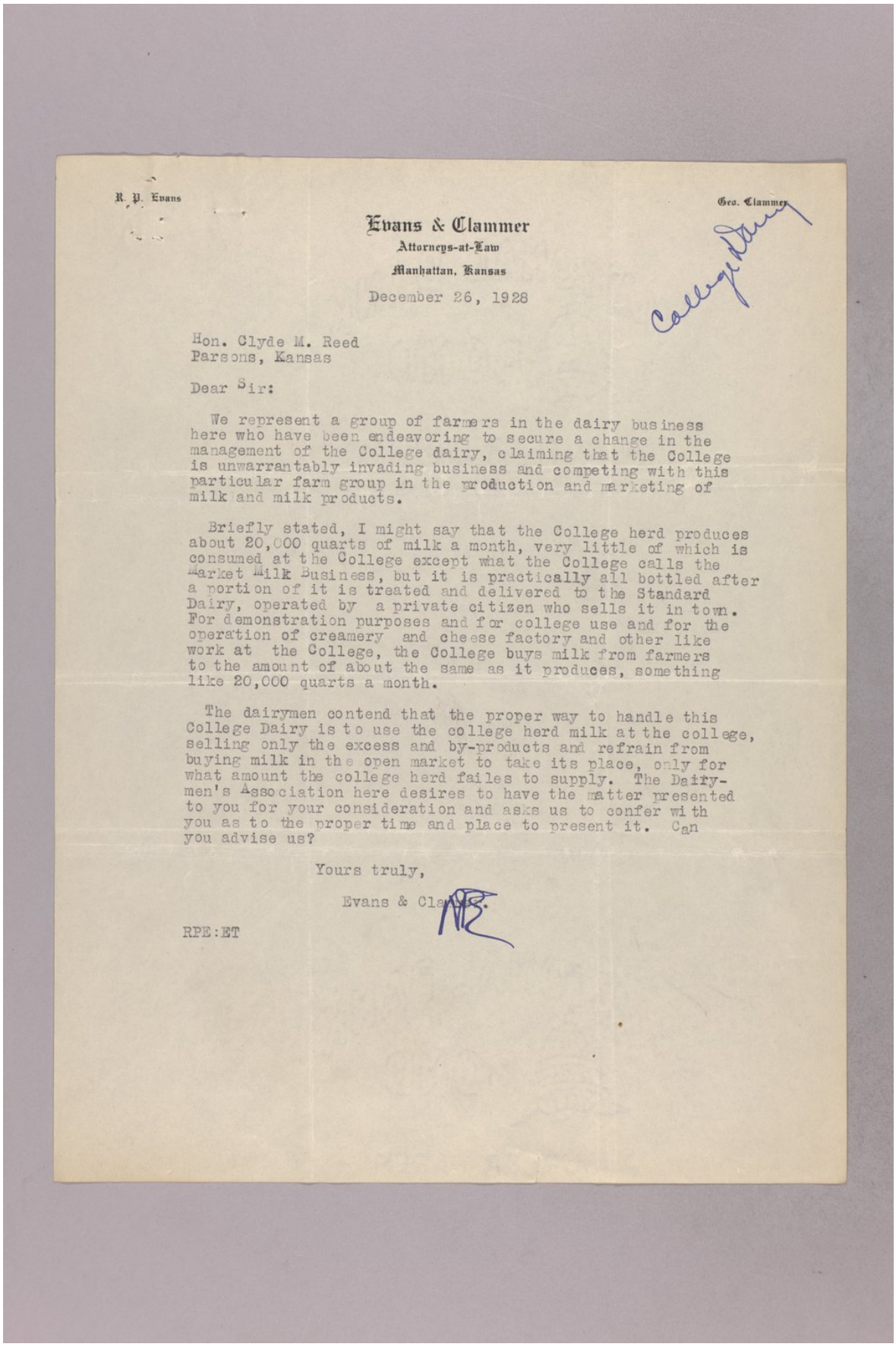
Kindly return the enclosed with any information or suggestions you may have on the subject.

Thanking you, I am

Cordially yours,

Encl.

CMR:dlm



R. P. Evans

Geo. Clammer

Evans & Clammer
Attorneys-at-Law
Manhattan, Kansas

December 26, 1928

College Dairy

Hon. Clyde M. Reed
Parsons, Kansas

Dear Sir:

We represent a group of farmers in the dairy business here who have been endeavoring to secure a change in the management of the College dairy, claiming that the College is unwarrantably invading business and competing with this particular farm group in the production and marketing of milk and milk products.

Briefly stated, I might say that the College herd produces about 20,000 quarts of milk a month, very little of which is consumed at the College except what the College calls the Market Milk Business, but it is practically all bottled after a portion of it is treated and delivered to the Standard Dairy, operated by a private citizen who sells it in town. For demonstration purposes and for college use and for the operation of creamery and cheese factory and other like work at the College, the College buys milk from farmers to the amount of about the same as it produces, something like 20,000 quarts a month.

The dairymen contend that the proper way to handle this College Dairy is to use the college herd milk at the college, selling only the excess and by-products and refrain from buying milk in the open market to take its place, only for what amount the college herd failes to supply. The Dairymen's Association here desires to have the matter presented to you for your consideration and asks us to confer with you as to the proper time and place to present it. Can you advise us?

Yours truly,

Evans & Clammer

RPE:ET