Alberta Creameries.

C. Marker, manager of the Alberta creameries under government control, arrived on Monday's train on a tour of inspection. Mr. Marker reports the creameries all running satisfactorily and turning out a first class quality of butter. Two shipments of 5,000 pounds each have been made to the government cold storage warehouse at Revelstoke, B. C., from where it will be distributed to consuming points in that province. It is expected that the season's butter will be worth about 20c a pound at the factories, netting the Patrons about 16c a pound. Of course the figure cannot be stated accurately until the season's make has been sold. Butter and eggs for private parties will be stored at either Calgary or Revelstoke in the government creameries. For butter the charge at both warehouses is 10c per 100 pounds per month or less, and for eggs 5c a case or 15c a barrel per month or less. Butter made at the several creameries is held in the cold storage compartments constructed in connection until the fortnightly trip of the refrigerator car. The cold storage compartments connected with the several creameries are kept at a temperature from 34 to 38 degrees in which temperature butter will keep without beginning to spoil for several weks.

The Calgary creamery began operations in the latter part of May. The Springbank separating station began operations in connection early in June and on the 12th inst. the Dewdney creamery was added as a second separating station. This creamery which has been run during two seasons was started this spring as an independent enterprise, but the recent high water washed away the flume which supplied power and the proprietor applied to have the plant operated as a separating station in connection with the Calgary creamery which was done.

Besides being used for the eggs and butter going from Alberta to British Columbia the Calgary cold storage will be used for the safe keeping of British Columbia fruit being sent east for the Territorial trade.

The Rosebud creamery at Olds is being operated as a private enterprise on the cream gathering plan and is turning out about 700 to 800 pounds of butter per week. Last month the proprietor paid the patrons 12c a pound cash in full for their butter, and hauled the cream, while the government creameries do not haul the cream, or if they do the cost is deducted from the patron's return.

The Innisfail creamery is under the management of John R. Moore. There are separating stations in connection at Bowden, Knee Hill Valley and Penhold, the latter just started, and cream receiving stations at Little Red Deer and Lacombe. The weekly output is about 2,200 pounds with good prospects of a considerable increase this season.

At Tindastoll, an Icelandic settlement west of Innisfail and on the west bank of the Red Deer, a co-operative cheese factory is being handled by the people, independent of government control or supervision. Last year this settlement had a cream separating station in connection with the Innisfail creamery, but this year, notwithstanding the possibility of securing government aid, they decided to strike out for themselves, and it is all are quite successful.

Near Bowden a private company of farmers operate the White Swan creamery on the co-operative plan, independent of government assistance or control, and are quite successful.

Red Deer creamery began operations for the season on May 31st, under the management of Samuel Flack, and is now turning out about 800 pounds of butter a week, chiefly from gathered cream. There is a separating station in connection with this creamery at Swan Lake which handles about 1,200 pounds of milk a week.

The Wetaskiwin creamery is the only entirely new building and plant being operated in Alberta, all the rest having been in operation during one or more preceding years. As the building was erected according to government plans it is very complete and convenient. John Kincaid is manager.

Edmonton creamery began operations about June 15th under the management of Geo. R. Taylor. Most of the cream supplied direct to the factory is gathered, not separated. There are three separating stations in connection, at Poplar lake, Sturgeon and Beaver Hills. Butter made during June was 4,508 pounds, of which 1,659 pounds was made from gathered and 2,849 pounds from separated cream. During June 23.3 pounds of separated milk was required to make a pound of butter. The make of butter last week was 1,803 pounds and this is expected to increase.

The five Alberta creameries under government control are turning out 3 1-2 tons of butter per week for which the patrons will, from present appearances, probably receive about 15c a pound cash, or between $1,000 and $1,200 a week for at least the three months from June 15th to Sept. 15th. The fact that creameries under private control are being run at no great distance from the government establishments shows that private enterprise is not being smothered by the action of the government. Indeed there is very little doubt that the opening up of markets by the government, and the establishment of a reputation for Alberta butter, as well as the cold storage facilities provided, will help rather than hinder private enterprise, which is really the ultimate object of the government in taking hold of the matter.

In working out the government scheme the same difficulty is found as was met by the pioneers in the co-operative system, namely the sparse settlement makes the cost of hauling milk to the separator so great as to take very much from the other advatnages of the creamery. The only way out of this difficulty is the general use of individual separators, whereby the hauling of the milk would be altogether avoided and the calves would get the skimmed milk in much better condition than when it is hauled from a separating station. Arrangements are made with the patrons whereby their order in favor of the dealer in separators will be honored by the government in payments made for milk. In this way farmers who have any considerable number of cows can supply themselves with separators. When only the cream has to be gathered the bulk is so small and the gathering so comparatively infrequent that the expense is reduced to a very low figure. There is no doubt that when the farmers see that the returns are sure and satisfactory, ways and means will be devised to reduce the cost and increase the convenience, which again will no doubt cause the dairy industry to assume a leading place in the agriculture of Northern Alberta.—Edmonton Bulletin.

OPINION ON WHEAT.

Chas. E. Lewis & Co., brokers, Minneapolis, write as follows on July 26: We have had a very strong market all week, and although there has been a slight recession from the highest price on taking of profits by the outsiders, yet it is very noticeable that none of the large lines of wheat that are known to be held by strong people have been for sale, and this fact has made the shorts very nervous. They run quickly, whenever there is more than the usual demand for wheat, resulting in sharp upturns and quick reactions and advances. The undertone of the market is very strong, cables continue to advance, and what is better still, they bring buying orders for wheat and flour. Receipts of wheat are light in the northwest, while at winter wheat points they continue to be below those of a year ago. Crop reports this week have been rather unfavorable in many sections owing to the continued heavy rains, and considerable damage is feared from this cause, and from rust. Especially is this true of the Red River valley and the weather in that section will have to be more favorable from now on or there will be a considerable falling off from the present prospects. Foreign news has been decidedly bullish in tone. Threshing returns from France are reported as being very unsatisfactory. The Hungarian crop is estimated to be 27 per cent. less than that of last year, while yesterday's telegrams say that the Russian crop is officially estimated to be 224,000,000 bushels less than last year's. These are very bullish items, and if fully verified will result in another sharp advance in prices here. We feel that wheat is a purchase on every reaction, and believe that higher prices are sure to follow these little slumps that take place from time to time.

LOW RATES FOR MONEY.

The continued fall in the rates for money is a problem that is facing both bankers and investment companies alike. Bonds of first class character bring only a small rate of interest as compared with only a few years ago, and the tendency appears to be to a still further decline. We hear of the manager of an English Insurance Co. who has recently paid a visit to Montreal, not for insurance purposes, but to invest money held by his Company. And he was so anxious to secure some investment that he took up a large loan that had been refused by a local company because of the low rate of interest. Even among local companies there is competition, for one manager, hearing that a friendly rival had a loan of $300,000 under offer at 3 3-4 per cent., went and offered to take the loan at 3 1-2 per cent. When good, solid companies go round cutting prices on loans like this, it shows the position of the market to be a very peculiar one.—Commercial Gazette.

U. S. WHEAT CROPS.

The past week has for the most part been a favorable one for agricultural interests. Harvesting operations have become far advanced in the winter grain regions, and the grain has mostly been secured in good order. Threshing has progressed actively, and wheat has been sold with a fair degree of freedom, but the lateness of the harvest and the calls of nearby milling concerns have prevented anything like liberal quantities getting into the commercial channels, these mills absorbing the bulk of current offerings. —Cincinnati Price Current, July 22.