

Dairying in British Columbia.

J. A. Ruddick, member of the Dominion Dairy Commission, "s staff in charge of the travelling dairy, now about completed its work in this province, on being asked by The Commercial correspondent at Vancouver for his impressions of British Columbia, after visiting most of the agricultural sections of the province as a dairy country, said: "I think I can safely say that the possibilities for successful dairying in this country are very encouraging from a farmer's standpoint. The climate is favorable, both for the cheap production of milk, and the manufacture of fine butter and cheese. I find many farmers complaining of their being crowded out of the market for dairy products, by that which is being sent in from outside. While it is true that those who manufacture only medium or inferior goods do meet with strong competition, from outside, the fact is, that those who are making the finest article are meeting with no competition whatever. As an instance, the butter that is being made at the Delta Creamery is retailed readily at 35 cents per pound, and the manager informed me the other day, that they could not supply one quarter of the demand. This is first-class butter, put up in nice dainty shape, and is supplied fresh every day, so that the Delta Creamery have the market for this class of goods almost to themselves, as it is impossible to import butter from distant points, and place it upon the market, in the same attractive shape. The butter which is brought in comes into direct competition with the second grade of butter which is made in the province. I wish to be understood that the butter brought in here from Manitoba, is of good quality, but the trouble is, that owing to the distance it is impossible to place it on the market in the same condition as local creameries are able to do.

There is plenty of room for more of these creameries, and from information obtained it appears that at an early date there will be several new creameries started. Farmers cannot avoid the competition. That they are bound to meet, and the only sensible thing to do is to manufacture the class of goods that will meet with the least competition.

Many farmers do not consider that the present prices in British Columbia for coarse products of the farm are sufficiently remunerative, but it seems to me there is a good outlet for disposing of these products by feeding to cows, producing milk, and making butter of fine quality, which will always be in good demand.

To the suggestion of your representative that the butter trade might be overdone in British Columbia. "In that event," Mr. Ruddick said, "I do not see any probability of this for a long time, to come at any rate. There is a large importation of butter at the present time. The available land for agricultural purposes is somewhat limited, and the consuming class of the population appears to be increasing faster than the producing class. I found in this country a larger proportion of consumers who are willing to pay a good price for a fine article than in any other part of Canada."

To the query, would cheese manufacturing pay in British Columbia? Mr. Ruddick stated that cheese makers would meet with much stronger competition than butter makers, for the simple reason that cheese made in Ontario, Manitoba, and the Territories can be placed on this market in just as prime condition as any local production. Cheese does not deteriorate by holding or shipment, as quickly as butter does.

"My work in the province," said Mr. Ruddick, "has been very pleasant, and all with whom we have come in contact have treated us courteously and kindly. I shall remember my trip to British Columbia with pleasure."

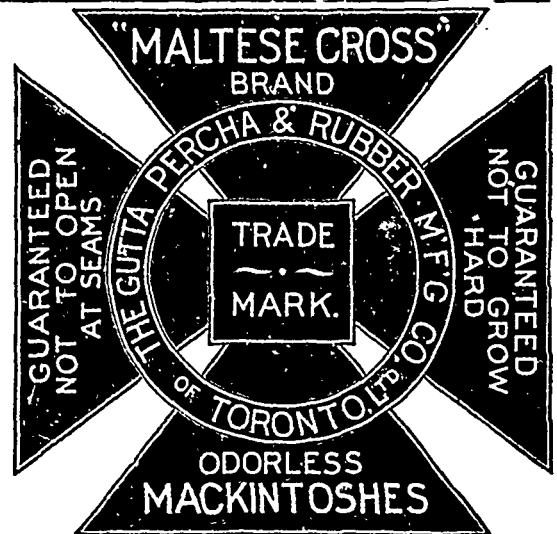
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An Ottawa despatch says:—It is practically settled that the government will send an exploratory expedition to Hudson Bay next summer. It will be under the joint auspices of the fisheries, interior and customs departments. The idea is to obtain as full a report as possible on the resources of the bay and country immediately adjacent to it.

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