

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

The Honourable
The Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—I beg leave to submit Bulletin No. 17, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner's series, entitled 'Buttermaking on the Farm,' which has been prepared under my direction by Mr. Geo. H. Barr of the Dairy staff.

Buttermaking on the farm is almost a thing of the past in some sections of the country, where 'Dairy' buttermaking has been superseded by the cheese factory and the creamery. The evolution of the creamery is a natural outcome of the tendency towards division of labour and co-operation, and the creamery system has many advantages which recommend it to the dairy farmer. Greater uniformity of product, a higher average quality, ease of marketing on account of the larger quantity to be sold as one lot, and better average prices are some of the points which have made the creamery system popular.

'Dairy' butter as defined by 'The Butter Act, 1903' is butter made from the milk of less than 50 cows. The total quantity of 'dairy' butter manufactured in Canada is estimated to be greater in quantity and value than the product of the creameries. The creamery man is inclined to oppose any effort to improve the condition of the dairy butter trade, on the assumption that poor results from the making of dairy butter encourage the spread of the factory system, and that it is in the real interest of the milk producer that the creamery or cheese factory should become general.

There is a certain amount of truth in the foregoing contention, and the farmer who is within reach of a well managed creamery will do well to patronize it, but the fact remains that there are many hundreds of dairy farmers in Canada who cannot avail themselves of the advantages of a creamery, or of a cheese factory, and it is in the interest of the producers of creamery butter that the quality of the dairy butter should be made as fine as possible. A large quantity of inferior dairy butter helps to lower the general average of the whole Canadian output and also acts as a serious check to consumption. If all the dairy butter was of finest quality, the increase in consumption would be enormous, and better average prices would prevail for all butter. The annual loss to the farmers of Canada, as represented by the difference in the value of dairy and creamery butter, amounts to several million dollars a year.

It will hardly be denied by any one at all familiar with the Canadian butter trade, that there is great room for improvement in the quality of a large proportion of the dairy butter; that there is a wide margin between the average price of dairy and creamery butter; and that creamery butter is much more popular with the general public than dairy butter. Dairy buttermakers who desire to improve would do well therefore to take into consideration the means that have been employed in the creamery to raise the standard of quality to a higher level.