

Canada as a Probable Source of Supply for the Imported Dairy Produce of Great Britain.

BY J. A. RUDDICK, DAIRY COMMISSIONER.

ASSUMING that Great Britain is prepared to take all the dairy produce that Canada may have to offer in the years to come, we may proceed at once to consider the Canadian end of the question.

As the quantity of any product which will be available for export will be determined by the two factors of production and home consumption, any discussion of this question will very properly include a consideration of the conditions which are likely to affect either of the factors mentioned.

That the greater part of Canada is well suited by nature for the production of large quantities of butter and cheese of a superior quality, is a fact so well established that it need not be enlarged upon here. The dairy industry has been extensively developed in Ontario and Quebec, and these two provinces have led all the others to such an extent as to practically make them the only ones worth considering in connection with the export trade. While it is true that the industry has been established in every Province of the Dominion, the Provinces outside of Ontario and Quebec do not, on the whole, produce enough butter and cheese to supply the needs of the people within their borders. There are particular districts to which this statement does not apply, such as Northern Alberta and Prince Edward

Island, where the local production is largely in excess of consumption.

The manufacture of butter and cheese may yet be further extended in every Province, and very largely increased in several. Northern Alberta is fast becoming one of the principal dairying districts of Canada, and there is every reason to believe that the prairie provinces will some day produce a surplus in excess of what will be required for the people of Western Canada. At present the butter and cheese produced west of Lake Superior does not supply the needs of that country.

There are several conditions which may have an influence on the amount of milk produced in Canada. The prices which may prevail for butter and cheese are highly important, from the farmer's standpoint, and it goes without saying that if we should have, in the near future, a succession of years in which the prices should be as low as they have been at times during the last decade, there would immediately be a pronounced decrease in the business of dairying.

It is claimed that when farmers become more well-to-do and free from the necessity for exerting themselves in every possible way to meet payments on mortgages, or to effect the necessary improvements on their farms, there is a tendency to give up