

DAIRYING IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The forty creameries and factories in Prince Edward Island last year manufactured butter and cheese to the value of \$531,000, according to statistics made public at the annual meeting of the Provincial Dairymen's Association held recently. This figure is the highest reached in the history of co-operative dairying. The value of butter was \$180,000, an increase of \$29,000; the value of cheese \$351,000, compared with \$265,000 in 1915. There was a falling off in milk manufactured into cheese of one million pounds and an increase in milk for butter of 600,000 pounds, making a net increase in milk of 400,000 lbs. The unusually high prices for butter and cheese, the former reaching 45c and the latter 22½¢, offset the shortage in the output.

At the annual meeting the shortage in the milk supply was discussed. It was said to be due to the shortage of labor, owing to so many farmers enlisting and also to the abnormally high prices of raw materials, such as potatoes and oats, which led a number of farmers to follow the line of least resistance and give attention to dairying.

BUY YOUR COAL EARLY.

Local coal dealers heartily endorse the advice of the Conservation Commission urging people to lay in their winter's supply of coal during the summer months. Discussing the coal situation here in the city and particularly in the North End where the trouble was most acute, a prominent coal dealer gave some interesting information:

"There was never a coal shortage here," he said, "although there was a coal scarcity in the North End of the city. We had down at the docks coal enough to supply all our customers and many others as well, the only difficulty being delivery. Carting facilities were at a premium, a man wanting as high as \$6.00 per day for the services of himself and his horse. People who could arrange for the delivery of their purchases never suffered any inconvenience. Naturally some of the smaller dealers took advantage of the scare and refused to sell more than five or six hundred pounds of coal at a time with a corresponding increase in price for small quantities. It all comes down to preparedness, and summer is the best time to put the doctrine in effect. Filling the coal bins in the summer months ensures securing coal at lowest prices, in a better prepared state and, perhaps most important of all, with satisfactory delivery arrangements. It may be said that few people can afford to tie up the money represented by the coal supply for five months, but it would be a profitable investment to borrow money to purchase coal during the summer. The subsequent saving in actual money outside the bother and possibility of shortage would more than repay the outlay."

It may be interesting to note that the anthracite coal producers of the U. S. were notified last week by the Federal Trade Commission that any failure to grant the usual spring price reductions cannot be justified by the claims of increased cost of production.

"Judging from the tonnage produced in January, 1917," says the notice of the commission, "there is no reason to believe that costs thus far in 1917 will materially change the average shown by the figures compiled from September to December, 1916. Therefore, it is the opinion of the commission that further increase in circular prices this spring, by failure to grant the customary discounts, cannot be justified on the basis of increased cost."

TEA EMBARGO REMAINS.

Canada's chief source of supply for tea has been cut off as that commodity is one of those which can only be exported from Great Britain under license. Negotiations of dealers here through the Department of Trade and Commerce with the view of securing supplies from the United Kingdom have practically failed and we will be forced to look elsewhere. Canada has been importing about three-quarters of her tea from Great Britain, and it is inconvenient now to have to look for a new market. In 1916, 15,000,000 pounds, valued at \$3,270,000, were brought into Canada from England. In the same year tea was imported from Japan to the value of \$752,000, from China to the value of \$300,000, from Hong Kong to the amount of \$40,000, from Ceylon to the value of \$20,000 and from the United States to the amount of \$42,000. A relatively small quantity came from Great Britain, which has been the center of the tea blending and exporting business, than from the countries where the tea is grown.

ONTARIO BULK SALES ACT.

Ontario apparently is going to fall in line with the other provinces of the Dominion (with the exception of a small portion of the Maritime provinces) for, to all intents, the legislature will pass a Bulk Sales Act at present before the House. The bill makes it compulsory on any one who is bargaining for or purchasing any stock in bulk, whether for cash or on credit, before paying the vendor any part of the purchase price (save \$50 to bind the agreement) to receive from him a sworn statement containing the names and addresses of all creditors, together with the amounts owing in each case. The bill compels the vendor on his part, to furnish this complete list.

Formerly this list of creditors was to include only those to whom \$50 or more was owing; now all are included.

In case no such statement is made, and any money is paid over, the sale shall be deemed fraudulent and shall be void, unless all the creditors are paid in full out of the proceeds.

Unless the creditors give a written waiver, the purchase money must be delivered to a trustee to be distributed among the creditors pro rata. The trustee's fee shall not exceed 3 per cent, and this must be paid out of the proceeds.

The present bill—an improvement over former ones which have been repeatedly voted down—has been approved by the Retail Merchants' Association, Credit Men's Association and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. From present indications the Bill will become law in the very near future.

QUEBEC TAX ON FURS.

By order of the Executive Council the following fees are to be paid on skins of fur-bearing animals taken or killed within the limits of the province, except in the case of the resident hunter, who actually hunts and sells his furs to a person domiciled in the province:

On each otter skin	\$ 1.00
On each beaver skin . . . . .	.50
On each bear skin . . . . .	.75
On each lynx skin . . . . .	.50
On each marten skin	1.00
On each pekan skin	1.00
On each carcajou skin . . . . .	.50
On each wolf skin . . . . .	.25
On each skunk skin . . . . .	.25
On each mink skin . . . . .	.25
On each black or silver fox skin	15.00
On each crossed fox skin	3.00
On each blue fox skin	3.00
On each white fox skin	1.50
On each grey fox skin . . . . .	.10
On each raccoon skin . . . . .	.10
On each badger skin . . . . .	.25
On each musk rat skin . . . . .	.01
On each weasel skin . . . . .	.02
On each caribou skin . . . . .	.25
On each red deer skin . . . . .	.25
On each moose skin . . . . .	.50

On each other fur-pelt or skin not mentioned above, a royalty representing one-twentieth of its commercial value will be collected.

ENGLAND'S FOOD PRICES.

According to a report issued by Commissioner Harrison Watson of London, Eng., and received by the Trade and Commerce Department, food prices have advanced 87 per cent in England, since the war began. Of this increase, 6 per cent, is due to additional taxation of tea and sugar only.

In the past year alone, beef has advanced from 35 to 64; mutton, from 28 to 59; bacon, from 31 to 56 cents; fish, from 97 to 131; flour, from 49 to 88; bread, from 42 to 73; tea, from 48 to 51; sugar, from 93 to 170; milk, from 29 to 57; butter, from 34 to 73; cheese, from 32 to 75; and eggs, from 105 to 175.

GRAIN RUST PROBE.

W. P. Fraser, M.A., professor of biology at MacDonald College has been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture to conduct special investigation in grain rust at the recently erected field laboratories at Brandon and Indian Head.

The average annual loss from the cause throughout the world is one hundred million dollars but in years of epidemic it goes as high as 230 millions. In Canada and the United States alone. This country's share is computed at 100 millions.

SMART WOODS
LIMITED CANADA

Manufacturers of

**Jute and Cotton
Bags, Tents,
Clothing, Etc.**

FACTORIES IN

**MONTREAL, TORONTO,
OTTAWA, WINNIPEG**

THE WORLD'S SUGAR BOWL.

Among the dramatic business effects of world war, a prominent place on the list must be given to sugar. The American Sugar Refining Co's annual report reflects this not only handsome earnings, but in its observations upon radically new factors affecting world trade conditions. And of these not least is the degree to which Yankee refineries have been drafted into service to supply dislocated foreign markets.

Pres. Babst notes that about a third of the world's normal supply before the war came from within present battle lines. A map of European beet factories reveals the vast majority of plants thus circumscribed in the central empires, Belgium and northern France, with most of the remainder almost equally locked up within Russia. The allies have had to turn to new sources of supply, and to set up powerful governmental agencies of purchase and transportation to make sure of getting that supply.

England, alone, for example, has had to import three billion pounds in each of the past two years, against nearly four billions in peace times; and, with European beet reliance cut off from her and her allies, has had to eke the most from her colonies, but particularly to look to Cuba for raw and to the United States for refined sugar. From Cuba last year the allies took the great bulk of 1,637,000,000 pounds of raws sent to Europe, and likewise the great preponderance of the 1,576,000,00 pounds of refined exported by us last year.

The consequence is that we have suddenly risen from a trifling to a very substantial role as purveyor of the finished product. The following export figures embody a trade transformation rivaling that in many staples of direct military use:

	Pounds	Value	Per lb.
1916	1,576,652,297	\$90,675,773	5.75c
1915	963,574,977	42,762,432	4.44
1914	390,409,054	18,233,455	4.67
1913	51,772,125	1,873,923	3.62
Av. 1905-'12	53,333,440	2,184,500	4.09

Our refiners have had a double duty, in supplying this demand—with its consequent profit and stability imparted to domestic prices, —and at the same time safeguarding our home supply in world competition among refiners, especially in view of reduced size of the world crop. We have had to import somewhat more largely, and, to an incidental degree, our imports have also reflected the cessation of foreign beet supplies, as the following figures make evident:

	Cane		Beet
Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1916—			
5,529,643,619	\$227,318,738	959	\$79
1915—			
5,283,775,870	179,051,637	727,584	24,343
1914—			
5,414,627,909	127,019,294	1,496,259	45,899
1913—			
4,721,851,905	96,126,601	35,928,676	760,578
1905-12—			
3,841,100,000	93,625,000	126,400,000	2,848,000

Two factors in the domestic trade stand out from this new situation. One is the ease with which the large marginal refining capacity in this country has met the sudden great call upon its resources. The other, linked with this, is the demonstration of the effectiveness of large business units in the industry in not only meeting this production test but also keeping prices lower here than governmentally fixed abroad.

A manufacturing profit of only 4½ per cent, on gross sales goes far to explain this trade triumph.