

Sugar for Naething.

Last Saturday, Betty and me were oot getting oor provisions, and in ga'ing along a street in the Sooth-side, Betty grippit me by the arm, and, pommung tao a shop window, says: "Guid keep us, Jeems! d'ye see that? Sugar for naething!" "Eh! what's that?" I says, getting oot my spees. "That's extraornar; trade must be dull atweel when they've tae gie awa' the goods for naething. My certy, it's a new gemm this. Puir bodies! hoo can they afford a' that gas and a big rent? Betty," I cries, "ye ken I've never ganged tae pay a fair price for onything I buy; but when folk offer ye a thing for naething, I wid be stannin' my ain licht if I didna tak' it. Gie me the basket, and I'll go in and get eight pun', and, after I come oot, ye can slip in and get anither eight pun'; it'll no look sae greedy like. Jist wait a wee." And in I goes. "I'll tak' eight pun, o' that sugar!" I says. "Certainly, sir" And in a jiffy I got the sugar in a paper poke, and, putting it in the basket, I shut doon the lid, and says, "I'm sure I'm vera much obleeged tae ye tae be sae kind tae me—me a perfect stranger. I really canna fin' words tae express my thanks. Sugar's no vera dear, but it's aye something; it maun be a sair loss tae you. Hooever, I must jist thank ye," and, wi' that I made tae come oot.

"Hey," cries the lad at the back o' the coonter, "ye've forgot tea! there's two pun o' tea goes along wi' that!"

"Lod save us, tea!—tea, did ye say? Betty," I cries, "it's no only sugar they're are gieing awa', but tea. Great criftens, this bates all! Tea! Certainly I'll tak' the tea," and I held up the lid o' the basket, and he popped in a package o' tea, a ready made up. I thoct it wis vera fortunato I had seen the shop before the unemployed got word o' it, or they wid hae haen it a' rookit oot afore I got near't.

"Is there naethin' else—coffee, or onything," I says.

"No!" he says, "it's jist the tea and sugar go the gither."

"Weel, I'm share we ocht tae be thankfu' for that same; altho', if there wis a bit pun o' coffee I widna object. Weel, guid day tae ye! guid day!" and I cam' oot. Lod, he jumpit ower the coonter, and grippit me at the door, and shook me, and says, "The money, sir!"

"Money!" says I, perfectly dumfounded, "ye ne'er said there wis ony money; but it's no ower late yet! Hoo' much dae ye gie? Ye're a perfect angel in thae bad times. I hope the money's no spurious."

"Ye've tae gie me the money," he says. "Me!" I says; "money for what?" "For the tea," he says. "Did ye no say it went along wi' the sugar?" "Certainly." "And didna ye say ye gie'd the sugar for naethin'?" "Yes." "And what's the money for, then?" "For the tea," he says, getting angry. "Noo, look here," I says, pull'ng him intae a close oot o' the crood, "let us understann' each ither. Noo, jist listen! Betty, haud the basket a wee! Tae begin at the beginning, did ye no say ye gie'd sugar for naethin'?" "We do." "Weel, so faur, so good; ye gie'd me my sugar for naethin', and, when I wis coming oot, ye cried after me that ye gie'd tea along wi' the sugar."

"But ye're tae pay for the tea."

"Tut, tut! will I hao tae begin again? Noo, look here, and pay attention! We'll tak' it backwards this time! Are ye listening? Didna ye ca' me back when I wis gaun oot weel enough pleased wi' the sugar, and no askin' for tea—didna ye cry me back and said ye gie'd tea along wi' the sugar?" "I did."

"Weel, and hadna ye gion me the sugar for naething?"

"Weel, and what hao ye tae say for yoursel', eh? It's no the worth o't, min' ye; but I am no man tae be made a fule o'; hooever, there's my card—ye can summon me, but I'm thinking ye'll get the warst o't. No, no! I wisna horn-pockry about it. Come awa', Betty, here's oor cair," and the crood "hoorahed," and the policeman threatened tae tak him up for obstructin' the pavement, and we cam' awa'.—*Glasgow Gaitic.*

Dairy Products.

The scarcity of grain for export, due to the short crop in Ontario last year, has caused increased attention to be paid in that province to dairy products. Indications accordingly seem to point to a largely increased production, and on every side we see a determination to make dairy products fill up as far as possible the deficiency caused by the failure of the crops.

Now that the cheese buyers are returning to this country from Great Britain, we can learn how disastrous the past season has been to the English cheese houses. Many of these houses bought at the top price for cheese last fall, when the efforts of speculators had enabled the farmers to boom up the value of Canadian fall cheese to an unprofitable height, and consequently were only able to dispose of it at a considerable loss. Naturally these houses will be careful not to fall into such an error again, and as New Zealand cheese will arrive just at the period when Canadian fall cheese realizes its best market, we may fairly expect that its presence will be used as a lever whereby prices can be kept down at reasonable limits. In fact it is to New Zealand dairy products and the increasing use of margarine that the British public look now for cheap butter and cheese, and therefore it behooves us to take both of them into our careful consideration.

Now that the refrigerating chambers have become a recognized institution upon ocean-going steamers' is no longer an impossibility to place butter and cheese in good condition in London after a long sea voyage through a tropical climate. New Zealand cheese is packed in boxes of 40 to 50 lbs. each, and these in turn packed in crates. The butter is carefully wrapped in linen and deposited in well-made firkins, hooped with iron, and containing about 100 lbs. each. Both of these products are of very fair quality and sell far cheaper than Canadian, but we are informed that, in the case of butter at all events, they require to be used quickly when opened, as after their long detention on board ship they deteriorate very rapidly on exposure to the air.

The outlook in England is not over bright. Stocks of cheese, it is true are comparatively light, but the Scotch market is represented as crowded with homemade cheese and there is

every prospect of a large make of Cheshire. With this to meet the English demand and the certainty of increasing supplies from the Antipodes, it does not look as if very high prices could be reasonably looked for, but we must remember that there is every prospect that ocean freights will rule unusually low. Inland freight rates, thanks to growing competition, are more likely to recede than to advance and consequently cheese handlers can afford to accept profitably a lower rate than was the case in former years when both these factors were considerably higher.

For butter we cannot safely say the outlook is encouraging. The poor and uncertain quality of much Canadian butter has caused it to be regarded with disfavor, and it is evident that only the finest quality of creamery butter will be readily saleable in England. Margarine and New Zealand butter have effectually killed the chances of average farm or store-packed butter, and the days when the English housewife would purchase a keg of butter of as many different colors as Joseph's coat, and with a distinct flavor to every couple of pounds, are long since gone by. Margarine has killed the sale of cheap stale butter, and the sooner the Canadian farmer recognizes this fact, the better it will be for his interests. If Canadian butter is to be a profitable investment for export it must be of the very best quality. Nothing else is saleable except at a sacrifice, and therefore the Canadian dairyman must make up his mind to excel his competitors or else drop quietly out of the business.—*Journal of Commerce.*

United States Government Crop Report.

There was some reduction in seeding the winter wheat in some states, though the average breadth of all was but slightly reduced. In the east and south there was no material loss of area from freezing, but in several western states it was considerable. The apparent reduction of breadth of winter wheat as compared with that of last year is about 1,750,000 acres. The percentage of reduction for the entire winter wheat region is placed as 7.2 per cent. It is 18 in Illinois, 14 in Ohio, 10 in Michigan, and 9 in Indiana. This is in comparison with the reduced area harvested last year. There has been an increase of area of spring wheat in Dakota and in the territories further west, but a decrease in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, making an average decrease for the spring wheat region of one per cent. The area in spring wheat is apparently slightly below 36,000,000 acres. Some improvement in New York and Pennsylvania, and marked decline in Missouri and minor changes of States elsewhere, making the average 73.3, against 73 in May. The loss by over-flow of the Mississippi in Illinois off-sets the part improvement of other counties. In Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kansas the average condition is nearly the same as in May. The acreage of barley is nearly the same as last year, New York and Wisconsin are credited with an increase of 1 per cent., Minnesota 2, Dakota 10, Iowa, Missouri and California report a small reduction. Condition of barley averages 88.8.

The detailed report of the Department of Agriculture makes the total acreage of winter wheat 22,507,172 acres, and the estimated yield 237,300,000.