

Canada's Dairy Production Valued at \$55,587,796

The dairy industry of Canada has netted the farmers over fifty-five and a half million dollars during the past season.

It is difficult to get statistics of the exact number of boxes of United States cheese which has passed through Canada, and which are included in the Montreal receipts, but the quantity is variously estimated between 150,000 and 200,000 boxes, which, deducted, leaves the production in Canada 10 per cent greater than in 1914.

The season commenced with high prices, and mounted to still higher ones, then took a sudden drop to the loss of all engaged in the trade. It has been a very profitable year to the farmer, but as a whole a lean one to the trader. The quality of cheese, in general, has been excellent, but there have been many exceptions to this rule, and the quantity of seconds and thirds in this province, as exhibited in public sales, shows there is a fault somewhere. Judging from reports made by milk inspectors of milk coming into Montreal, the fault is largely that of the farmer. The opinion is expressed in some quarters that inspectors in this province should be moved from the factory to the dairy, as no factory can make finest cheese or butter unless they have the very best conditioned milk to make from. The opinion has been frequently expressed that production of dairy products have declined in Canada more the past year than in former years, but this opinion has been put forth without taking into consideration or calculation the immense increase in consumption of cheese, butter, milk, cream and ice cream throughout the whole Dominion.

Eastern farmers have received \$24,117,617 for their cheese this year, which is \$6,977,617 more than was estimated for the make a year ago. The average price per box has been \$12.45, or \$1.25 per box over that of last year on the country boards. The total paid for cheese on the boards last year is estimated at \$17,140,000. The receipts from Jan. 1st, 1915, to November 27, 1915, in Montreal, according to figures compiled on the Board of Trade, were 1,937,158 boxes, as compared with 1,506,189 boxes during the same period in 1914, an increase of 430,969 boxes.

The past season has been far different than during any preceding year, due for the most part to the European war, which made changes in the trade from every standpoint. Farmers, instead of selling their milk or putting their cream into butter, delivered it at the cheese factories in greater quantities, owing to the extremely high prices which prevailed during most of the season. In fact, the demand for cheese has been so great and the prices so high that many factories will remain open for some time to come, and maybe the year round, if they can obtain the milk, which is more difficult when prices are so much higher in winter, and the volume so much smaller. Prices on the country boards opened at 16 cents, and advanced during the season to 18½ cents, with buyers paying 16 cents at the last Brockville board. Prices for export account were higher than a year ago, owing to the large demand of Great Britain for supplies to be used as food for the British and French troops. Despite this fact, however, the exports during the season of navigation were only 369,193 boxes over last year for the same period, the total exports being 1,851,731 boxes, as compared with 1,482,538 boxes in 1914.

The production of cheese in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec until the past year has decreased steadily every year of late, which is attributed to the fact that the farmers have been attracted to the high prices being paid by Canadian Northwest and United States buyers for milch cows, especially during the past three years, until this year. The result has been that the west is now making its own supplies of dairy products, but the export demand has been heavy enough the past year to take all the cheese and butter offering. A notable feature of the Quebec trade has been that no cheese has been exported from that port during the season, as against 10,042 boxes last year.

Manitoba will have raised during 1915 about 38,324,000 pounds of butter, which will have a value exceeding \$2,215,000. This is an increase of 25 per cent over the 1910 production, the figures for that year showing the Manitoba production of butter at 30,659,633 lbs, with a value of \$2,571,053.

The cheese production in this province for the year will total about 410,000 pounds, valued at about \$42,000. This shows an increase of about 82,000 pounds over 1910, the cheese production of that year being valued at \$33,364.

This makes the total cheese and butter production of the province worth around \$3,300,000.

The dairy industry of the three prairie provinces is a very important industry, and will be worth to the dairy farmers this year between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The total butter production five years ago in the three provinces was 30,659,000 pounds, with a value of \$7,146,970, while at that time the whole cheese production for the three provinces was 914,913 pounds, with a value of \$108,272,000. The figures of 1910 have been increased every year, until the 1915 production shows from 25 to 35 per cent more than 1910.

The butter market conditions during the past season or from May 1, 1915, to November 27, 1915, showed many changes. The high prices obtained for cheese caused a smaller make of butter than would have been the case otherwise, as farmers turned their attention toward where the higher prices were to be had. Despite this, however, Montreal receipts showed an increase of 9,322 packages over the same period in 1914. Prices have been much higher this year than last, both on country boards and for export account.

Up to 1915 the Canadian Northwest has made such a heavy demand on the eastern butter market that exports declined. This year mixed farming has developed to such an extent in that territory that the production there has been more than sufficient to supply the western demand, and in August western shipments were received and sold here at the same price as local receipts. This allowed a chance for export, and as the high prices were tempting, 54,495 packages were exported during the open navigation. This was an increase of 47,195 packages over the same period last year. This heavy export, however, has left the local supply very low, and stock on hand and to come forward until the new make begins to arrive are not expected to be enough to supply the local demand. The average price paid on the country boards has been 29½ cents, the first sale in May opening at Cornwall at 28½ cents and advancing up to 31½ cents in September.

Eastern farmers received approximately \$6,170,179 for their butter this year as against \$5,651,069 last year, an increase of \$419,110.

Adding 8 per cent to the prices paid on country dairy boards for freight, buying expenses, carrying, cartage, port and storage charges and for profits the approximate amount received by traders for cheese sold by them has been \$25,247,026, and for butter \$6,766,799.

The receipts of butter by months for the season of 1915 as compared with a year ago were:

	1915 butter pkgs.	1914 butter pkgs.
May	39,025	44,820
June	62,375	80,434
July	69,918	82,313
August	58,013	58,591
September	55,533	46,905
October	54,770	37,504
November	35,403	15,198

The exports of butter and its respective value during the past five years have been:

	Quantity pkgs.	Price per pkg.	Value.
1915	54,495	\$18.03	\$ 982,555
1914	7,300	15.45	115,792
1913	1,723	15.90	27,475
1912	70	16.20	1,134
1911	134,503	12.88	1,732,398

The fluctuations of butter prices by months during the last two years has been as follows:

	1915		1914	
	high.	low.	high.	low.
May	32	27½	23½	22½
June	29	26½	24½	23½
July	29	26	25	23
August	28½	26½	28½	24½
September	31½	31½	29½	26½
October	33	30	28	26½
November	32½	31	27	26

Receipts of cheese in Montreal by months this year compared with last were as follows:

	1915 boxes.	1914 boxes.
May	179,424	71,290
June	336,963	278,127
July	381,846	333,242
August	299,539	254,243
September	204,349	225,113
October	239,398	231,088
November	136,599	112,083

The cheese exports from Montreal during a period of five years, the average price per box and the approximate value are as follows:

	Quantity, boxes.	Price per box.	Value.
1915	1,851,731	\$13.44	\$24,887,264
1914	1,482,538	11.07	16,493,179
1913	1,571,165	10.25	16,104,441
1912	1,723,021	10.04	17,299,130
1911	1,810,666	9.84	17,816,953

The fluctuations of cheese prices in Montreal by months during the season of open navigation for the past two years were:

	1915.		1914.	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
May	19½	16½	12½	11½
June	19½	15½	13 1-16	11½
July	17½	12½	12 7-16	11½
August	14½	11½	14 15-16	12½
September	15½	13½	15½	13 9-16
October	16½	13½	15 5-16	13 15-16
November	17½	15½	14½	13½

The fluctuations in Liverpool for Canadian cheese by months during the season 1915, as compared with the same period last year, were as follows:

	1915.		1914.	
	high	low	high	low
May	s.d. 98.0	s.d. 94.0	s.d. 66.6	s.d. 65.0
June	98.0	90.0	63.0	59.0
July	90.0	84.0	63.0	61.6
August	76.0	70.0	80.0	69.0
September	78.0	72.0	74.0	72.6
October	86.0	76.0	76.6	73.6
November	90.0	80.0	77.6	75.0

DYEWOODS RELEASED FOR CANADA.

The announcement last week that the British authorities had released some 4,700 tons of dye-woods for exportation from Jamaica to the United States on the assumption that United States extract concerns would resume their exports to Canada, is the direct result of negotiations undertaken by the Canadian Textile Association in conjunction with Canadian dealers. Several carloads of dyewoods have already come through, and prices are comparatively reasonable. The supply, of course, is very limited, but will serve in some degree until suitable arrangements can be made with British concerns for further supplies. In several cases such arrangements have already been completed, one concern, Messrs. McArthur, Irwin, Limited, of Montreal, having a considerable shipment of dyestuffs and chemicals held up in England awaiting permit for shipping from the British Government.

The release of the dyewood is not considered in the United States as any modification of the embargo, and United States firms are ready to give the Canadian Textile Association credit for the move. Since the supply of dyestuffs has been so greatly reduced, dyewoods have again come into wide use, and Canadian mills have relied on United States extract manufacturers for a large portion of their supply. The embargo, therefore, hit the textile mills and other users in this country very hard. Advice from the British Embassy at Washington states that further shipments to the United States will be allowed provided the shortage in Canada is taken care of by the United States consignees.

EMBARGO ON GRAIN SHIPMENTS.

The Calgary office of the C. N. R. announced on Dec. 30 that the railway company would place an embargo on all grain shipments to Fort William and Port Arthur, commencing January 1. That means that no grain shipment for the big Canadian terminals will be accepted after the end of this year at any point in the West.

The Calgary superintendent's office, when questioned about the embargo, stated that it would not apply to shipments to Duluth, Minneapolis, and American grain centres. It was to take effect the first of the year, and was to be placed on the western lines of the big corporation because of the congestion at Fort William and Port Arthur.