

The Makers' Corner

Butter and Cheese Makers are invited to send contributions to this department, to ask questions on matters relating to cheese making, and to suggest subjects for discussion.

Light on the Cheese Situation
SPEAKING in the House of Commons last week on the cheese situation, another article concerning which appears in this issue, Hon. Martin Durrell, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, gave the following information. His remarks, in part, were as follows:

Last autumn the British authorities communicated with the Canadian Government with the idea of seeing whether it would be possible for them, in some manner or other, to secure the whole exportable surplus of Canadian cheese. We pointed out that as it was the close of the season it would be practically impossible to do anything, and that if they did wish to achieve anything in that way another season. It would be very desirable to commence in January or February, when the Government here felt it would be quite feasible to make some arrangement which would be satisfactory all round.

Nothing of that kind, however, was done in January and February, and meanwhile the British authorities had commandeered, through the New Zealand Government, the whole of the New Zealand cheese output at a price of 19 cents, f.o.b. In March, through the Prime Minister, who was then in England, there was a suggestion that we should secure the whole of the Canadian cheese output for this year by a process of commandeering. The Government, after thoroughly considering the matter, advised the Prime Minister, and through him, the Imperial Government, that we did not consider a process of commandeering cheese would be a very satisfactory method in regard to Canada, whose conditions were entirely different from those in New Zealand. We pointed out that New Zealand operated through a limited number of factories which were all not only manufacturing agencies, but selling agencies as well, and that this system was an entire contrast to that in this country, where we have 2,000 factories and where the whole trade is done through cheese buyers and an organized trade. Therefore we said it would not be practicable to commandeer the cheese. Some correspondence went on by cable, and it was then suggested that a commission should be appointed, on which the British authorities would have one representative, with the idea of carrying out the suggestion we had made, namely, that in any arrangement to secure the whole cheese production of Canada on satisfactory terms, it would be desirable to operate through all the existing trade channels that had carried on their business from time immemorial here. As a result of that, a commission of three was finally appointed. The British authorities appointed Mr. James McGowan, and informed us by cable that he was sailing for Canada. It was quite obvious that nothing could be done until that commissioner arrived from England. Speaking from memory, I think he did not arrive until the middle or end of April. Meantime the cheese market in Canada had opened, and though there was no heavy demand, as not much cheese was being manufactured, yet the maximum price that had been fixed in England permitted a condition to exist which allowed competitive bidding on this side for the small business that was offered, at a price even in excess of that at last fall, and far in



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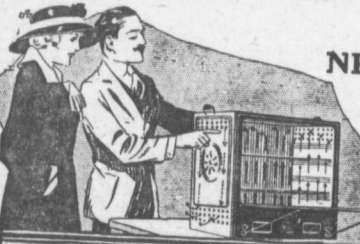
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