

Meanwhile, the American farmer and dealer are having their eyes opened to the advantages of this overseas market formerly despised by them, except as an occasional outlet for some surplus stuff not saleable on Home Markets. The Yankee, always shrewd on a deal has recently wakened up to the fact that he can dispose of considerable cheese and butter in the British market at prices considerably above home prices. Consequently, we have had, during the past year, the unusual condition of American cheese selling for a higher price in the wholesale markets than the price allowed by the Cheese Commission of Canada. This has caused some dissatisfaction among those interested in maintaining the Canadian Cheese trade at its maximum. The explanation, said to be of higher prices for American food products as compared with those paid for similar Canadian goods, is the better terms of credit obtained in the United States as compared with those offered in Canada. Canada is rich in everything except money, hence Americans, who have almost unlimited sources of wealth have a distinct advantage over Canadians in this respect. We may expect keener competition in the future than has been the case in the past from United States competitors in farm produce, especially in dairy products.

Were it not for the difficulty of shipping, we may also expect keen competition from the Argentine Republic, New Zealand, Australia and Siberia. It is claimed that large stores of food in these countries are awaiting the conclusion of the war and normal transportation conditions. Owing to their perishable nature, dairy products can be kept, even in cold storage, for but a reasonable length of time. This, together with the great expense for holding foods for a long period in cold

store, makes it necessary to dispose of perishable goods in a comparatively short time after they are made. We may expect a drop in prices at the close of the present struggle and the resumption of shipping, but not so much for dairy articles as in other lines, for the reason that the dairy herds of Europe have been very much depleted to furnish meat for the army and people, and because of the increasing scarcity of labor and feed on the dairy farms of Europe. It requires from three to five years to develop a cow, and this length of time will be needed to restore European dairy herds to their former level of production.

Taking it on the whole, Canada has not much to fear from its dairy competitors at present, except those in the United States, and there also the question of transportation is an exceedingly difficult one, for even a country of such great resources and commercial energy as are to be found in the American nation.

#### WHAT CANADA MAY DO TO STRENGTHEN HER POSITION.

An English press report of recent date says: "Hitherto Canada has done well in providing credits for our purchases in the Dominion, but the increasing demands are proving a source of embarrassment to the Minister of Finance. Canada, unfortunately, has built up no reserve during the past three years of large war profits, and if she is to compete with the United States in getting a full share of further orders she must be prepared to finance them."

It would seem from the foregoing extract that one of the things which Canada must do, is to provide a means of financing food purchases by Great Britain. This is a matter for our financiers to consider. There is also gentle reproof to Canadians for not saving the wealth which has come to us in an