

Introduction

The development of the principle of the marketing of Alberta creamery butter upon a quality (grade) basis has been recorded in the Annual Reports of the Department of Agriculture and need not be referred to here at any length. It is sufficient to state that in initiating this movement the Department had the benefit of the co-operation of the progressive creamery operators of the Province and of the men who are engaged in the wholesale produce trade.

When the butter grading service was instituted, apart from the marketing service, it was deemed expedient to base the grades and to issue the grade certificates upon "representative samples" of butter. Otherwise, only a few creameries were able to take advantage of it.

The Department maintains butter grading stations, with good cold storage facilities, at Edmonton and at Calgary. The grading service is made generally available and any creamery operator in the Province who wishes to take advantage of it may enter into a formal agreement with the Dairy Commissioner, acting for the Department of Agriculture, in that behalf.

On the following pages the terms of the "Grading Agreement" are given, also the Grade Standards and the system of records, with explanatory notes. The Department realizes that a thorough understanding of the nature of the service, and of the conditions upon which it is rendered, is important not only to the creamery operators who avail themselves of it, but also to the men in the produce trade who buy their butter on the basis of the Department's grade certificates.

The utility, and the continuance, of the grading service will, in each case, depend upon the proper branding of all packages of butter by the creameries concerned and the rendering of accurate information on the shipping reports as to the identity of each lot.

It is but fair to state in this connection that nearly 12,000 churnings of butter have been scored and classified by the Department's graders during the past two years, under the "Grading Agreement," and that in no case has the Department been called upon to assist in the settlement of any disputes in the manner provided for in Sec. 2 of the Agreement.
