

## THE PROGRESS OF DAIRYING IN CANADA

HOUSE OF COMMONS,  
COMMITTEE ROOM No. 105,  
WEDNESDAY, April 23, 1913.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at eleven o'clock a.m., the chairman, Mr. Sexsmith, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are glad to have Mr. Ruddick again with us to-day for a talk on the dairying industry in Canada. I will now ask Mr. Ruddick to speak.

Mr. J. A. RUDDICK, called and examined.

The WITNESS.—I am glad to have another opportunity of submitting to the committee some information respecting the progress of the dairying industry in Canada. Conditions affecting that industry, and especially the market end of it, have been changing so rapidly during the last few years that unless one had some special reason for studying it, it is very likely that his information will have lagged behind the march of events in connection with the industry.

We have been in the habit of estimating the growth of the dairying industry in Canada on the export trade and that was a fairly satisfactory basis, so long as our population was increasing but slowly, but with the new order of things we must find a new basis by which to estimate the progress and status of the industry. As everyone knows our exports of butter and cheese have decreased since 1903, which was the record year. The past season will be notable for being the first year since 1850—and I do not know how many years before that, because I have not been able to get any earlier records—in which Canada has exported no butter to Great Britain. There has been a steady export since 1850 and the record was reached in 1903, with an export of thirty-four million pounds.

Our cheese exports have also decreased, as I shall show you more fully later on, but I would like to say just here that it is entirely wrong to assume that, because there has been a decrease in the export trade, there has been a corresponding decline in the dairying industry; and I make this assertion, which I hope to prove before I finish, that there has been as much increase in milk production during the years of decreasing export, as there ever was in any similar period in the history of the industry. I find it necessary to emphasize that point from time to time because I see every once in a while in the commercial pages of leading journals, statements with reference to the export of dairy produce to the effect that the industry is declining. Now the industry is not declining, nothing like it, and I think it is a mistake to allow that impression to go abroad, because it would have a very bad influence on the producers of milk if it were generally believed that that industry was a declining one. It would have just the same effect on the industry as you produce in a man by continually telling him that he looks sick and that he is sick. Eventually he will believe he is sick and, in rare cases, die.

It will not be out of place to look for a moment at the figures of the export trade. Having an export trade implies that we have a foreign market. If you will look at this chart, showing the record of the imports of butter and cheese into the United