

The direct importation of butter from foreign countries or from the colonies by private firms is prohibited. This prohibitive measure was passed to insure an equal distribution of the available supplies to all persons throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The Government has resorted to a comprehensive rationing scheme whereby distribution is made to retailers on a basis of 1 oz. per capita per week calculated on the number of their registered customers.

The British Ministry of Food has not only allowed large quantities of foreign butter to drift into new channels of sale, but it has actually taken steps to prevent private importations in its effort to buy at less than the world's market price. It is difficult to understand why the Ministry of Food permits this discrimination against butter in view of the fact that for this article, alone among foodstuffs, an acceptable substitute is available—margarine.

#### MARGARINE DISPLACES BUTTER.

Margarine now represents 75 per cent. of the country's consumption of edible fats and might well be recognized as the public's main source of supply, according to Weddel's Dairy Produce Review for the year ended June 30, 1920. In 1914 the British margarine factories were producing 1,500 tons of margarine per week, while importations, principally from Holland, varied from 1,000 to 2,000 tons per week or about 82,000 tons per annum. Imports gradually fell off during the war until in 1918 they had stopped almost entirely. By 1917, however, British manufacturers were supplying the entire margarine requirements of the country, 5,000 tons weekly. The consumption has now increased to about 7,000 tons per week, of which nearly 6,000 are British made and only 750 to 1,000 tons are imported.

According to estimates in Weddel's Produce Review, the combined supplies of butter and margarine on hand during the year 1914-15 amounted to 437,000 tons, as compared with 490,000 tons for the year 1919-20. The increase is accounted for by the fact that the stocks of margarine on hand for the 1914-15 period amounted to only 197,000 tons, as compared with 360,000 tons for 1919-20.

These estimates not only reveal the extent to which the people of England are relying upon margarine to make up for the shortage in butter, but they also show that the people are actually consuming more edible fats than under pre-war conditions. Notwithstanding the increased demand for margarine, prices for that commodity have not advanced to the same extent as those of butter. Before the war margarine was selling from 6d. to 1s. (12 to 24 cents at par) per lb. retail, according to quality, while prices now range between 1s. and 2s. (24 and 48 cents at par) per lb. Danish butter, which was selling around 12s. 3d. per 112 lbs. (28 cents per lb. at par) before the war, is now selling at the controlled retail price of 3s. 4d. (81 cents per lb. at par). These price variations represent an increase of 100 per cent. in the case of margarine as compared with an increase of 189 per cent. in the case of butter.

#### Where is the Profit?

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Two things with regard to our small dairy bother me; first, that my cows now, October 30, are giving as much milk as at any time all summer though (spring-calved) six to seven months in October, and on pasture only, with no meal; and secondly that even with making milk so cheaply I am no more than breaking even in the sale of the butter. "Poor cows," you will say! By no means. For when milking this very morning they averaged 10 pounds each, and that's pretty good for cows six and seven months milking. They will probably average 7½ pounds this evening, or 17½ pounds of milk a day, which is about what they are doing. This is a lot better than any of our neighbors' cows are now doing, in all stages of lactation, and they cannot all be poor herds in this neighborhood. In actual practice, at the churn, I find that 17½ pounds of this milk yields .66 pounds of butter, or 2½ of a pound (10¾ ounces), worth 33 cents. That is to say, the average return from each cow is 33 cents per day. As there is no expense for feed or housing, one would imagine this all profit and the skim-milk to the good, but I find that the labor bill alone eats up most of the profits. The fact has not been given prominent distinction in these discussions that dairy labor is of a high order, and does not rank with ordinary farm labor. For instance, the regular man we now have at present big wages is not competent to care for the cows and milk. To secure a man competent to look after the cows and their milk, separate, etc., would cost, and does, at least twenty-five to thirty-three per cent. more wages than this man. Farm labor costs me about 30 cents an hour now; a competent man to care for cows, milk and separate in addition, is worth 40 cents an hour and cannot be obtained for less, at least not in these parts. I figure it takes an average of three-quarters of an hour of a man's time to look after the cows and care for milk and cream each day for one cow or in my small herd, 30 cents a day for the labor alone, not to mention the cost, if any, of pasture, interest, depreciation, use of

utensils, etc., which may, however, be offset by the value of the skim-milk. With a large herd the cost per cow would be less.

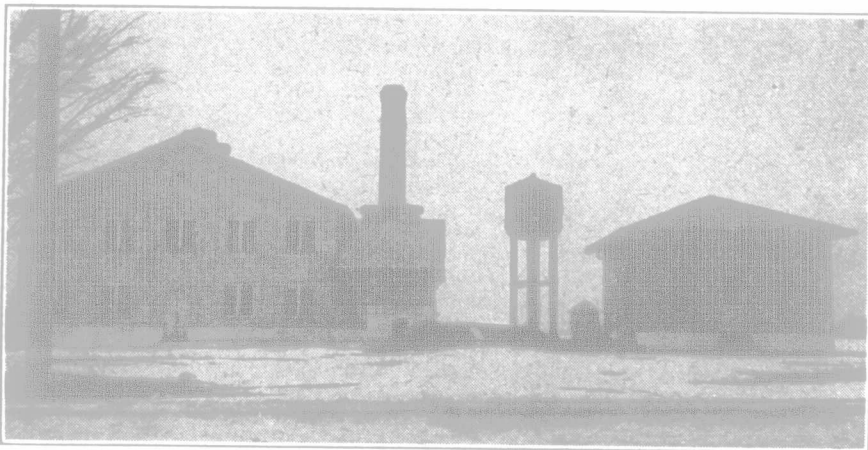
If my daily yield of butter per cow is worth 33 cents and if it costs me 30 cents per day per cow, my profit per cow per day is thus only 3 cents. So long, therefore, as our cows continue to yield 17½ pounds of milk a day, I make 3 cents a day per cow profit. It costs a dollar a day to feed oneself these times, three square meals a day and lodging, on the farm; as to the towns, I do not know, but one couldn't get a meal in town now for less than 75 cents, at a farmer's boarding house. To feed myself, then, I would need to keep thirty-three (33) cows. Here's a question: I only can clear 3 cents a day on a fairly good cow, in the pasture season; how much would my loss be per day in the winter season, seeing that at a farm sale here this week straw (oat) sold like hot cakes at \$20 a ton? I do not know that it is good policy to lay the truth bare in these matters, but it seems cow owners themselves appear to be camouflaged, let alone the consumer in the towns. Not even the producers of butter or milk appear to know where they are at. My cows are by no means poor cows. They get good attention and care, are fed grain every day in the stable and up to June on pasture, until they refuse to eat meal any longer. They have fair pasture and plenty of water, and are above the average.

Regarding query No. 1, that cows seven months after calving are giving as much milk as at any time all summer, on pasture alone, one answer is that there are no flies now, which pestered the cows so terribly all summer. It would appear, too, that fall calving and winter milking, so popular a few years ago, are about played out. One does not hear so much about "winter dairying" in the farm paper, nor from the farm bureau agent, as formerly. They are all easy on this point.

Kings Co., P. E. I.

J. A. M.

Editor's Note.—The queries of our correspondent are, no doubt, the same ones that are causing a great deal of concern to many other dairymen. We believe he is quite right when he says that cows milking 17½ pounds daily, after having been six or seven months milking,



The Borden Condensery at Norwich, Ont., Which Ceased Manufacture of Condensed Milk on November 1.

are doing much better than the average. He does not say anything as to the actual size of his herd except that it is small. Certainly if his calculations are correct, three cents daily profit per cow is nothing worth speaking of, and dairying must inevitably decline if there are many herds which return no more than this above the cost of production.

At the same time, however, we cannot exactly agree with J. A. M.'s reasoning. Take the matter of labor cost; we are much inclined to doubt whether it costs 30 cents per day to look after each individual cow in the herd. It would seem to us that 20 cents would be nearer the mark, while the idea, which is apparent in the above letter, that it is only the three-cent profit per cow which goes into the pocket of the owner, is certainly not correct, at least in most cases. Usually where a small dairy only is kept, the owner looks after the cows himself, and thus he himself earns the cost of labor which is charged against the cow. Let us suppose, for instance, that the owner does do the dairy work on the farm, in which case he would receive all of the 33 cents placed to the credit of the cows from the sale of butter. Of course, some hired help must be kept, and it is unusual for the owner to do all the work on the farm the year around, but the point we wish to make is that it is not logical to assume that profit is the only thing that can be credited to the owner at the end of the year. In the case of almost every farmer the labor income is a much more important item than his actual profits, because by the time a fair labor income has been deducted from the surplus shown by carefully kept books, the remainder, which may be fairly regarded as profits, is usually a negligible amount.

J. A. M. is probably a little high when he says that it costs a dollar a day to feed oneself these times, three square meals a day and lodging, on the farm. It must be remembered, however, that this amount should be sufficient to make due allowance not only for the cost of food, but also for the labor involved on the part of the women folk and for washing and lodging. During the past two years at Weldwood Farm we have had a splendid opportunity of estimating the cost of boarding hired help, and, as nearly as our figures show it, the cost of food alone, where a good table is set and where "three square meals a day" are given, has not averaged more than 50 cents per day. Under average farm conditions it is probably fair to estimate that the other factors

contingent upon board and lodging may be fairly valued at 25 cents per day.

We must express our strong disagreement with our correspondent on the question of winter dairying which he believes to be "about played out," and we must take issue with him when he says that the farm papers have not been emphasizing this matter. As a matter of fact, it is becoming more imperative than ever that a larger proportion of the milk supply be produced during the winter months. Not only is it more necessary but it is also more profitable under average conditions. We are not fully acquainted with the local conditions under which J. A. M. is operating, but certainly it is not untrue to say that the surplus milk produced when winter dairying is the exception rather than the rule is one of the greatest problems facing the dairy industry of Eastern Canada at the present time. Undoubtedly, it costs more to feed during the winter months than during the summer, but milk also sells for a higher price, and while we do not advise absolute winter dairying unless under certain peculiar conditions, it certainly is advisable that a good percentage of the total milk production be produced during the period from October to April.

As a matter of fact, the results obtained from a survey of 300 Oxford County dairy farms in 1918 clearly show that where winter dairying was practiced the labor income was decidedly greater than where the farmers were summer dairymen. For instance, on 14 farms where more than two-thirds of the year's milk was sold from April 1 to September 30 the milk sold per cows amounted to \$101, the feed per cow to \$77, and the income over feed per cow \$24. This method of dairying yielded a labor income on the average of \$1,111. On 102 other farms, where more than one-third but less than one-half of the year's milk production was sold from October 1 to March 31, the labor income on each farm was \$385. The milk sold per cow on these farms rose to \$121, the feed per cow rose to \$85, but the income over feed also rose to \$36. There were also 34 farms where more than 50 per cent. of the year's milk was sold from October 1 to March 31. On these 34 farms the labor income for the year averaged \$1,722. The milk sold per cow rose still further to \$132; the feed per cow amounted to \$84, while the income over feed per cow was exactly 100 per cent. greater than in the case of the summer dairyman, or \$48.

#### Among the Pure-Bred Record Cows.

A new world's senior four-year-old record for milk in the thirty-day division was recently announced by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, on behalf of Hollywood Lilith Palmyra Evelina. This cow produced 3,663.6 lbs. of milk, with a butter production of 141.316 lbs. Later she broke the seven-day milk record with a production of 870.1 lbs. of milk, and a butter production of 33.85 lbs. Earlier, however, she had in another seven days made 35.51 lbs. butter from 808.2 lbs. milk. This milk record in seven days displaces the Canadian heifer, Mildred Pietertje Abbecker, that had 865.9 lbs., and the American champion, O. K. L. Royal Beets with 802.9 lbs. During her first ninety days she produced 10,423.2 lbs. of milk, which is also claimed as a world's record.

The junior two-year-old heifer, Carnation Pioneer Segis, was also recently reported to have broken the record for fat production in her class of the seven-day division by producing 415.6 lbs. of milk containing 24.877 lbs. fat. This heifer freshened at the age of two years, five months and twenty days. The following note from the Holstein-Friesian Association of America is significant with regard to this record. "Three supervisors took part in the test, the last two taking over the cow from the first for verification. They report that this cow was always within sight of the supervisor on duty; that the milker was searched before beginning to milk; that the cow was quartered in a light, roomy box-stall; that the supervisors were always on the opposite side of the cow from the milker; and that the sample box was double locked, each supervisor retaining his own key. They add that the temperature of the cow rose to 106.2 degrees the day following the two-day verification, and that she went entirely off feed."

During a recent quarter of the Ayrshire Advanced Registry, 118 yearly records were completed that averaged 10,779 lbs. milk, 432.01 lbs. fat, and with an average test of 4.01 per cent. Forty-six were mature records, averaging 11,897 lbs. milk and 472.72 lbs. fat, the highest being the record of Voca 5th, of Avon, and in New York State, that made a yearly record of 21,123 lbs. milk and 741.91 lbs. of fat. This record put her in seventh place among the mature cows of the breed. It is interesting to note that among these Advanced Registry Records were 18 junior two-year-old records averaging 9,968 lbs. milk, 407.51 lbs. fat, and the butter-fat that was 4.09 per cent.

Another 20,000-lb. Ayrshire cow is claimed by the State of Massachusetts. Seven-year-old Nancy Whitehall was recently reported to have completed a 365-day mature record of 22,075 lbs. of milk and 858.77 lbs. of fat. This record places her in sixth place among the mature animals of the breed, both in milk and butter-fat. She finished in splendid condition and her two completed records, the first of which was made as a junior four-year-old, averaged 20,436 lbs. of milk, and 806.52 lbs. of fat. Her junior four-year-old record made her the junior four-year-old champion in milk production.