

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

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CANADIAN BUTTER—HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR EXPORT.

We have received a circular from the Montreal Board of Trade, containing some important suggestions on this very important subject. It is the intention of the Board to petition Parliament at its present sitting for an Act to establish an Inspection of Butter, by which it is hoped that uniformity will be secured both in the quality and in the mode of packing the article. Something of the kind is much needed. At present there is very little butter made in Canada that is fit for exportation. The subject is one of no great practical difficulty, if our dairy farmers would only turn their attention to it, and endeavor to adopt something like a system. Till this is done, our butter will never command a remunerative price in foreign markets. The Secretary of the Board says:—

"It is not contemplated to make the inspection of Butter compulsory, but optional, as in the case of Flour,—but no butter will be eligible for inspection, unless it be in packages of the description provided for in the Act. One of the intended provisions of the Act, I am directed to state, is, that Butter Kegs or Firkins, shall be made of White Ash Wood, that being in every respect the most suitable. Every Country Merchant, Dairy-man, or other person engaged or interested in the packing of butter, must therefore see the necessity of having a sufficient quantity of white ash staves prepared, and properly seasoned, ready for making into firkins as soon as the Act of Parliament (which will establish the size and form of the firkins to be used,) shall have been promulgated."

He further says:—

"I am directed to draw your attention to the importance of a careful observation of the various recommendations contained in Mr. McDonnell's Letter, not only because many of them will probably be required by the intended enactment, but because the obvious tendency of their general adoption is to increase the value of the article, and to establish for Canadian butter, a higher character in foreign markets than it could otherwise attain."

The following is the report of the Inspector temporarily appointed in October last:—

To the Chairman and Council of the Montreal Board of Trade.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg respectfully to submit the following Report of the progress made in the inspection of butter since my appointment as Inspector.

The quantity of butter inspected and branded from the 23rd October (the commencement of my operations,) to the 8th instant, (the close of the season,) is 4772 kegs of various qualities, as follows:—256 kegs first quality; 1920 do. second do.; 1813 do. third do.; 559 do. fourth do.; 136 do. fifth do.; 38 do. Grease.

The large proportion of inferior quality, I attribute principally to the short notice given of the intention to establish an Inspection, in consequence of which the trade was totally unprepared for the requirements of such a system.

Very little dairy-packed butter came under my notice, the quantity inspected being nearly all store-packed, and put up in a very slovenly manner. In some packages the butter was thrown in in rolls as received from the producer—in others, made of various colors and qualities mixed together, obliging me to give a low character to the whole package—others contained several pounds of salt on the top—others had large quantities of coarse salt mixed in with the butter, and I have seen some butter which was strongly flavored with *leak*, and thus rendered most unpalatable.

The irregular size and slovenly appearance of the packages in which butter is brought to this market, is also to be deprecated. This, as well as the other faults alluded to, may, by a little care, be so easily remedied, that I beg to submit the following suggestions for the future regulation of the trade, in this important article.

A uniform shape and size or sizes of firkin or cask, should be established. Say two sizes, one to contain 56 pounds of butter, and to weigh 12 pounds tare, and the other to contain 84 pounds of butter, and to weigh 16 pounds tare. The firkins or casks should be made of white ash, tight, and full-hooped, and the full weight or tare should be branded, with the cooper's or maker's name on each one. None but well-seasoned wood must be used in making the casks, and to ensure this important point, the store-keeper should have his supply of casks made in anticipation, and give them out as wanted to the farmer or dairy-man, to be filled and properly packed at the dairy before being brought to the store.

The firkin should be well scalded and soaked with strong brine or

pickle before the butter is put into them. Fine salt only should be used in packing, and that only in sufficient quantity to preserve the butter, and it should be distinctly understood, that whenever coarse salt is used, the butter, however good in other respects, shall not pass inspection as *first quality*. Butter should always be washed with pickle instead of water, as it improves its quality, and renders little or no salt, necessary to make it keep. Scalding should not be resorted to, to force churning, as it deteriorates the quality of the butter. Too much cannot be said or done to promote cleanliness in the vessels, hands, and everything that comes in contact with butter.

In connexion with this subject, I may mention the importance of good pasturage, and proper food for cows, without which good butter cannot be obtained. Of roots, carrots will impart the best color and flavor to butter, and together with fresh grass and hay, will be found the most nutritious and productive food. Milch cows cannot be too carefully kept from such herbs as impart an offensive taste or smell to butter. In autumn, butter will be found to be better, and of richer color, than that made in winter. Nevertheless, if properly made in winter, it will be found good in quality, although not so rich in color.

Being fully convinced of the beneficial effect which a well regulated system of inspection must ensure, by raising the character of Canadian butter in Foreign markets, and that both the producer and shipper will find their interest advanced by it, I would respectfully suggest, that any Legislative enactment, which the Council may recommend, should not make inspection compulsory, but leave the buyer and seller free to avail themselves of it, or not, at their own option.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) FRANCIS McDONNELL.

Montreal, 10th December, 1847.

THE SHORT HORN DISCUSSION.

Mr. L. F. Allen, author of the American Herd Book, has replied to the remarks in our second number, on his previous communication. It would appear from his letter, which follows, that the point at issue between us is narrowed down to very inconsiderable dimensions. We expressed disbelief in the theory that the improved breeds were in fact not improved, but originally better than others. That they owed little or none of their superiority to the management of skilful breeders taking advantage of certain well known laws which nature has established in the animal economy, but derived it mainly from an original, natural, and physiological difference of breed. We could not assent to this doctrine, and asked for something like proof. We looked in vain through the works within our reach, as well as Mr. A.'s Herd Book, in which he professes to give the history of one of these breeds. It seemed to our mind, that such a fact, if it were admitted to be one, would take away nearly all the credit we had supposed due, to the efforts of distinguished breeders, besides having the effect of preventing a proper attention to the breeding and improvement of the common kinds of cattle. We now find that Mr. A. repudiates his own book as an authority on this point, and also excuses himself for having "carelessly" used the word "improved," it being according to his theory an improper word. We are satisfied to leave the discussion for the present with our readers. Our friend has raised no new points in this communication, nor has he to our understanding, proved his position by any stronger evidence. We would not on any account hurt his feelings, or treat him with the least show of disrespect, for we regard Mr. Allen as one of the few men, that a lover of agriculture in its practice and theory, can look up to with a feeling of pride, confidence, and pleasure. We should rejoice to see among ourselves a greater number of such men;—well informed, public spirited, generous hearted, practical agriculturists, glorying in their noble profession, and devoting their talents and leisure time to the improvement and elevation of those who follow it. But though we are bound to listen to the opinions of such a man with attention, we must not omit to examine the grounds upon which they are based. There may be something wrong in the reasoning which supports them, and we certainly think Mr. A. has in this instance used the