

preparing an article suited to the English market, as has been done in respect to beef. The price of pork has been advancing in Ireland for some time past, with the prospect of continued high rates during the coming season, as the number of hogs fed there this year will fall considerably under the usual quantity, in consequence of the partial failure of the potato crop. The Government contract for 14,000 casks has been taken at 112s. per tierce of 336lbs., against 600 at 76s., in 1843, and 1,400 at 115s., in 1842. A high range of prices for Irish pork is, consequently, expected; which will leave a fair opening for American, with the prospect of paying rates for suitable qualities. Referring to our circular of 1st September, 1842, for a full detail of the Irish mode of curing and packing, we would here only repeat that the brand of "Prime Mess Pork" should consist of 50 pieces of 4lbs. each, from hogs weighing from 160 to 200lbs., every part being packed except the head and legs. It is most important, too, that the meat be firm and well fed, and free from the oily character which American pork generally possesses. The extreme softness of the fat no doubt arises principally from the nature of the feeding in the western country, but is also in part owing to the practice, which we believe generally prevails in America, of cutting up the meat and putting it in salt immediately on being killed; whereas it should be allowed to remain at least 36 hours, in order that it may become quite cold and firm, and thus better prepared for the action of the curing process. The remarks made as to the size of the casks for beef apply equally to those for pork.

HAMS—with the exception of a few parcels of very superior cure, for which a high price has been obtained, we have not had a satisfactory sale; and, as there is no probability of their ever coming extensively into use for home consumption under the present high duty, a limited quantity only will be wanted for export in bond.

LARD.—Of the various articles of modern import from the United States, lard took the lead from the first, and has continued to maintain its position as the item of most extensive import. It is bought most largely by shopkeepers, to retail for culinary uses; by chandlers; and by oil and soap manufacturers. For the first, the finest quality only is wanted, firm and of good colour, and as free as possible from the oily flavour which attaches, more or less, to all American lard. It should be put up in neat kegs, no variation of quality being allowed in the same parcel. For the other purposes, barrels are the preferable package, chandlers requiring strength of qualities and firmness of texture; while all descriptions, down to the most inferior grease, are suitable for the oil and soap manufacturers.

CHEESE.—The import of this article to Liverpool during the past twelve months was somewhat over 1,400 tons; while the steady and progressive increase in the trade gives promise of a much extended import in coming years. The general quality of American cheese shows that the soil of the United States is well suited for its production, and which makes it the more to be regretted that the very obvious defects of make, which have so long operated against its more extensive introduction into England, should not be remedied. This might easily be accomplished by the circulation of proper instructions on the subject among the farmers in the cheese-making districts in America. Of these defects, the principal arise from a too hurried manufacture, and insufficient pressing, which, by leaving the whey in the cheese, not only injures the flavour, but renders it more liable to decay, while the same cause makes it open and porous, a fault particularly objectionable. The make of English cheese has

never been equal to the demand of this country; and the home supplies have, consequently, been supplemented by large yearly imports of Dutch. There is now, however, every prospect of the required supplies being drawn largely, if not principally, from the United States instead of Holland; the diminishing import from the one, and the rapidly increasing import from the other, already indicating such a change. As regards the form of the cheese, it is desirable that they be made of less breadth and greater depth or thickness, which would both conform them nearly to the appearance of Cheshire, with which they have to compete, and would also fit them better for passing through the ordeal of a long sea voyage. These hints come too late to affect this season's make; but they may be availed of in leading shippers to make their selections for the English market with more judgment than has yet been shown. Of the various modes of packing cheese in casks, we incline to recommend that of separating them by thin boards, which should be greased, in order to prevent them from adhering to the cheese when much heated and soft. The remarks already made on the preference which should be given to the finest qualities of articles generally for shipment, are peculiarly applicable to cheese.

BUTTER and **BACON**, from the United States, are subject to such high duties as will generally be prohibitory, but they may come largely from Canada—the small duties imposed on Colonial produce being no serious obstacle. The production of butter in Canada is the more likely to be stimulated, in consequence of its being now seen that the country is almost quite excluded from participating in the trade of supplying England with beef and pork—not being able to compete with the United States in a trade which, so far as the demand for these articles for export and ship's stores is concerned, is virtually free.

TALLOW seems likely to rank for the future among the staple imports from the United States to this country, and deserves the attention of shippers. The better qualities of American that have been imported so far, have given much satisfaction to the consumers, and are now generally sought after, at 6d. to 1s. per cwt. below the price of Russian yellow candle. The qualities required in tallow, in order to reach our highest market rates, are—a bright pale or primrose colour—a strong dry body, free from any admixture of lard or grease, and uniformity both in quality and package. These are essential points to be attended to; and we would further recommend to large operators, to adopt some distinctive brand for their best quality, the character of which, when once established, would secure for it a ready and satisfactory sale. At present there is no American on market, and the stocks of Russian in Britain to the present time being 16,000 casks less than at the corresponding period of last year; and as the shipments from Russia now on the way will cost fully 48 s. duty paid here, no reduction from present rates is likely to take place.

LARD OIL.—The duty of 20 per cent *ad valorem*, imposed on this and other manufactured articles, will always prevent any extensive import of such, so long as they can be equally manufactured in this country. Candles will have a sale to a small extent, in bond, for export.

HIDES, **HORNS**, **ARCHES**, **BEECH WAX**, **WHALEBONE**, **SPERM OIL**, and some other articles, are likely to become of increasing importance, as items of import from the United States, but the trade in them possesses no feature that demands notice, the amount of which will be determined wholly by the relative rates of the two markets.

FLAX SEED and **CLOVER SEED**.—The quality of Am-