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The Makers' Corner

Butter and Cheese Makers are invited to send contributions to this department, to cast questions on matters relating to cheese making, and to suggest subjects for discussion.

Oppose Margarine in N.S.

N. S. Dept. of Agriculture.
A MOVEMENT which is receiving good notice of support in Canada to-day is that, which aims to get the Government to present restrictions which at present exist in regard to the importing, manufacturing and selling of oleomargarine in Canada. The movement has been prompted largely by the present high price of butter. Those who are behind the movement claim that, if it is consummated, it will result in giving the consumer cheaper butter. From this consumer's point of view, the movement might appear to be a good one. But such is not altogether the case, as will be shown in the latter part of this article. Naturally, dairymen all over Canada are opposed to this movement, which they believe will militate against the splendid development which has taken place in dairying all over Canada, and in no

part more than in the Maritime Provinces. It is our intention, however, not to deal with the matter from the dairymen's standpoint, but from the standpoint of the consumer.

An Army of Inspectors.

First, oleomargarine, butterine and other so-called imitations of butter are made from a combination of different

The Dairymen's Conventions

The annual convention of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario will be held at Napanee, on January 4th and 5th, and on January 6th and 7th, at Woodstock, on January 10th and 11th. The Effect of the War on the Dairying Industry: Grading Problems: Experiments with Rennet substitutes: The Problems of the Producer: Cow Co-partnership and many other topics of timely interest will be fully dealt with.

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fats, such as lard, tallow, the leaf fats of the intestines of animals, etc., compounded with vegetable fats, which rendered and skinned together result in a product somewhat similar in texture and flavor to butter itself. But this mixture, like all imitations, does not come up to the original article. It lacks the fascinating characteristics of the appetizing flavor and the aroma which are peculiar to good butter alone. In the United States, where oleomargarine is manufactured and sold to a large extent, it was found that the sale was reducing the sale and consumption of butter. This, however, was due not so much to the fact that so much oleo was the place of so much butter, but rather to the fact that consumers of butter, knowing that there were imitations on the market, lost pleasure in eating what was set before them for butter and often did without it, fearing lest the seeming genuine article were an imitation. For this and other reasons, legislation was enacted prohibiting the manufacture and sale except under certain restrictions, the manufacturer and seller having to pay license fees and comply with very stringent regulations. To carry out the provisions of this legislation, an army of inspectors was employed, but despite all the restrictions and the methods taken to enforce them, it is stated that the law is being constantly broken.

Nor has this manufacturing and selling of oleomargarine in the United States given the consumer any substantial relief. For the imitation article is held as close to the price of the genuine butter as it can be sold. However, since the imitation is manufactured from cheap fats, both the manufacturer and the seller realize handsome profits.

From the foregoing considerations, it should not be hard for the people of Canada to get at the real source of the agitation for the removal of these restrictions in regard to oleomargarine.

Coming apparently from the consumer, there is little doubt that the agitation can be traced to the manufacturer who has the greatest interest at stake in the matter.

The Situation in a Nutshell.

To sum up the situation: No permanent relief from the high price of butter would be obtained for oleomargarine would be held at as high a

price as possible. The fact that when eating so-called butter, a person would always be suspicious that it was the imitation and not the genuine article, would take away the zest from eating one of the most healthful and wholesome articles of diet. It may be claimed that legal restrictions would prevent this result, but such has not proven the case in the United States. To enforce the restrictions an additional tax would have to be levied on the people to pay for the necessary inspection.

For all these reasons, we appeal to the consumer just as strongly as to the dairymen to use his influence to prevent the authorities at Ottawa from changing the present law. And from urging both consumer and dairymen to move quickly in letting their objections be known. This can be readily done through the channels of the Trade Unions, County Farmers' Associations, Women's Institutes, Local Council of Women, and many other organizations whose interests are identical in matters of this kind. The whole question is worth the careful consideration of every consumer as well as every dairymen in Canada.

Margarine a Blow to Dairying

At the annual meeting of the Waterloo County Board of Agriculture a resolution was unanimously passed requesting the Government not to limit the importation of oleomargarine as substitute for butter into Canada. It was contended by Messrs. J. R. Wood and L. E. Snider that importation of this substitute for butter would strike at the dairying industry of the country. It was also maintained that the farmers were not to blame for the high price of butter, but the creameries, and the Government wanted to lower the price of butter the creameries should be taken over.

How the Margarine Interests Work

THE manner in which margarine interests endeavor to palm off their product as genuine butter, and the subterfuges they resort to in influencing public opinion, are well brought out in the following extract from an address before the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Butter-makers:

"There are several articles on the market imitating or supposed to take the place of butter, and chief among them is oleomargarine. Oleomargarine manufacturers do not always stop with selling their product in imitation where they have a chance to sell it colored, and in this way defraud the people, who are led to believe that they are buying butter. They also spend a lot of money advertising in magazines and daily papers or other places where the people can see it, and they have clever advertisers and they have money, when you read in the papers, for instance, that the Women's League in St. Paul opposes the reappointment of the present Dairy and Food Commissioner because he arranges for dealers selling colored oleomargarine, some one had made these women believe that he was trying to stop the sale of oleo, when, as a matter of fact, he was only trying to enforce a law he was under oath to enforce and protect them from being imposed upon by unscrupulous dealers."

The British Columbia Dairymen's Association will hold a milk cream and butter competition at Nanaimo, B.C., on Jan. 25 and 26. Prizes are offered for market milk and cream and approved milk class, while the butter competition includes prizes for solids and prints.