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For Farmers and Stockmen

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Better Prices for Apples

THE FARMING WORLD a few weeks ago strongly advised farmers to save the apple crop, as prices might improve later on. It turns out that this was pretty sound advice. It now seems clear that the Canadian apple crop has been over estimated, and dealers in the country are beginning to realize that farmers' orchards are not so overloaded with fruit as reports of a few weeks back indicated. The big wind storm may have had something to do with it, but it does not account for everything. There is no doubt a good crop, but not so large as to warrant a price of only 40c. or 50c. per barrel for good, sound, winter fruit. In our Market Review last week we quoted 60c. to 75c. as the price being freely paid in the country for apples (picked). It is now said to be difficult to buy choice winter varieties under 70c. to 75c. per barrel on the tree, some holders refusing to sell under 85c., while others are asking \$1 per barrel. In addition to this, some account sales recently received show net returns ranging from \$2 to \$2.75 per barrel, and in one instance \$3 per barrel is reported. These are good prices, and if anything like these figures can be realized by shippers who have secured the apples from the farmer at 40c. to 50c. per barrel, there must be a regular gold mine in the business. The quality is said to be better than last year, and the fruit is maturing well, being sound and firm.

Late Fall Cheese

The end of this month will mark the close of the cheese-making season of 1900. That it has been a very successful season cannot be doubted. Prices have been excellent, the supply of milk large, excepting in a few localities where severe drouths have prevailed during the summer months, and farmers have had the opportunity at least of making a good profit out of their cows.

While a large number of factories will be shut down at the end of the month a great many will continue to operate during most of November so long as prices keep up to their present level. Whether it will be wise to do so is another matter. There are many dairy authorities who claim that taking one season with another it would be better for the trade all round if the cheese-making season were limited to six months. In the early spring and late fall

conditions are not so suitable for making a first-class product as they are later and earlier in the season. However this may be, it is not likely that dairymen will be very willing to respond to an appeal of this kind under prevailing conditions and whatever may be said to the contrary the practice will be followed in which there is the most money.

In making late fall cheese, patrons should be careful in regard to the quality of the milk they supply to the factory. The milk should be taken as much care of as during the summer months in the way of aeration, etc. The greatest difficulty makers have to contend with at this season is bad flavors resulting chiefly from the feeding of turnips or turnip tops. There is hardly any flavor in cheese so objectionable as turnips, and patrons should guard against this by not feeding them when supplying the milk to the factory. With good milk and with a factory properly fitted up for making cheese during the cold weather, makers should be able to turn out a good quality during November. After the cheese season is over many factories change to the making of winter butter. Though the export butter trade this summer has not been as satisfactory as that of cheese, yet there are indications of an improvement in market conditions which may mean higher values later on. It is expected that the reduced exports from Canada and the United States will help matters. In fact the large speculative buying of the past week would seem to indicate better prices ahead. But Australia and New Zealand have to be taken into account. The exports of butter from these colonies show large increases this season, and, should they continue to do so, may help to moderate prices for our winter butter in Great Britain.

However, the experience of the past few years shows that profitable prices are likely to prevail during the coming winter for butter. Market conditions this fall are not such as would warrant us in looking for lower values than the past winter or two have given us. The make of summer creamery butter this season is much lower than a year ago and consequently there is not likely to be as large stocks held for speculative purposes as would be the case were the output large. Farmers would do well to bear these facts in mind and remember that the profits from the winter creamery are extras that they would not have if this milk supply were not forthcoming during the winter months. Taking a broad view of the situation we believe it will pay farmers as well to make butter instead of cheese as soon as the cold stormy weather sets in.