

The cheese trade has not been affected by the new conditions to the same extent as the butter trade has, for the reason that cheese is by no means the universal article of diet that butter is, and the great majority of Canadians will do without it and not miss it very much. Butter occupies a much different place in the estimation of the people generally, and is looked upon as a necessity. This makes it more subject to the laws of supply and demand.

IMPORTS OF BUTTER INTO CANADA.

The volume of our imports of butter during the past year or two, and especially during the past few months, has attracted a good deal of attention and has given rise to a good deal of comment. It certainly is rather surprising that a great dairying country like Canada should find it necessary to go to the opposite end of the earth for so large a proportion of its supply of butter. During the twelve months ended November 30th, which period we have taken as a basis for our comparisons, the total import was 6,694,722 pounds, and the indications are that for the fiscal year which will end on March 31 next the figures will approximate 7,000,000 pounds.

The bulk of this butter consists of direct shipments from New Zealand to Vancouver to supply the Pacific Coast trade. It may be of interest to Ontario producers to learn that thus New Zealand butter is finding so much favour with consumers at the Pacific Coast that they are paying a premium of 1 and 2 cents per pound above the price at which butter from Eastern Canada may be obtained.

There is, however, no serious reflection on Canadian butter makers in this fact. The New Zealand butter, as it arrives in Canada, is a freshly made grass product which is carried during the three weeks voyage from New Zealand at a very low temperature in the ship's refrigerator. In all probability it suffers less deterioration in transit than does the butter from Montreal or Western Ontario in going across the Continent in a refrigerator car. The preference thus shown however, indicates that the trade which is now so well started, may become a permanent one no matter whether Canadian butter is equal to the supply or not.

Before we leave this matter of the importation of butter by Canada, it may be well to point out that it is not by any means a new thing, as many seem to think it is. We have imported some butter regularly for over 20 years. In 1896 the quantity imported was 289,435 pounds; in 1903 it had risen to 539,711 pounds, and in 1908 to 738,200 pounds.

DAIRYING NOT ON THE DECLINE IN CANADA.

The decrease in our exports during recent years has led many people to think that the dairying industry in Canada is on the decline, or at best not making any progress. The farmers have been blamed in some quarters for their lack of enterprise. The governments have been urged to 'do something' to have this so-called reproach removed from Canadian agriculture and so on. These are superficial views of the situation, and opposed to them I make the assertion that *there has been as much increase in milk production, taking Canada as a whole, during the past decade as there was during any other similar period in the history of the industry.* Our estimate of the situation is often wrong, because we fail to realize the quantity it takes to provide an increased population of say two and a half million people with milk and milk products, nor have we taken into account some new demands which have lately arisen. In one way or another Canadians are consuming between thirty and forty million dollars worth a year more of dairy products than they did ten years ago. Let me give you an illustration of this increase. During the period when the creameries in Alberta and Saskatchewan were operated by the Dominion Government, it was a part of my duty to find a