

WORK OF THE CHEESE COMMISSION IN 1917.

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was therefore practically useless. As the cost of registration would be next to nothing, I am of the opinion that it is advisable to ask the Federal Parliament to pass a compulsory registration act.

TOTAL EXPORTS, SEASON 1917.

I have already stated that the total cheese handled by the Commission up to December 31 was 1,860,237 boxes, or 155,662,463 pounds. I have taken the trouble to ascertain the exact number of boxes and the weight of the cheese of the 1917 crop which were exported through the regular channels before the cheese commission began operations, and I find that they total 123,909 boxes, weighing 10,656,174 pounds. There are probably 10 to 15 thousand cheese yet to be delivered to the Commission of the crop of 1917, so that the total exportable surplus for the year will be very close to 2,000,000 boxes, or 172,620,000 pounds, with a value of \$37,544,850.00, an increase of over \$4,000,000.00 as compared with 1916. These figures cover only the cheese shipped to the United Kingdom. There have been small shipments as usual, probably amounting to 1,000,000 pounds, to other countries. The unrevised figures of Trade and Navigation published by the Customs Department show that the exports to the United Kingdom for the 12 months ending March 31, 1917, which represents approximately the crop of 1916, amounted to 179,000,000 pounds. It would appear, therefore, as though our exports of cheese for 1917 will show a slight decrease as compared with 1916. If it is true that the home consumption has increased, as I am inclined to think it has, it is probable that the total production of cheese in Canada for 1917 is just about the same as it was in the previous year. When we consider the large quantities of milk which have been diverted from cheese factories into other channels, the showing is a very good one indeed. Our exports to the United Kingdom for the season of 1914 were only 135,000,000 pounds, so that we have increased our exports since the beginning of the war by 35 to 40 million pounds; or, in other words, the value of the cheese output of 1917 was eight million dollars greater than it would have been if the production had been the same as in 1914.

Before concluding, I am glad to offer a word of encouragement for a continued increase in the production of milk in this country, whether it is manufactured into cheese, butter or condensed milk, or used for direct consumption. The conditions which prevail in the dairy world as a result of the great war promise high prices for many years to come. The neutral countries of Europe, comprising Scandinavia, Holland and Switzerland, through shortage of feed,

and induced by the high price being offered for live stock to be used as food in Germany and Austria, are rapidly depleting their herds, and it will be years before they will be built up again.

It seems to be generally conceded that the high price of animals and animal products will likely be maintained for a longer period after peace is declared than are the prices of other farm products. Of course, I know all the difficulties which go with shortage of labor on the farms, but the food situation is very grave, and we must do the best we can. As a farmer's son, I refuse to believe that the patriotism of the farmers of Canada is wholly a matter of dollars and cents, and for that reason I hope to see, with favorable conditions, a further increase in milk production during the coming season.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PRODUCE MERCHANTS.

The following is the report of the President of the Montreal Produce Merchants' Association for the year 1917:

The steady growth in the butter, cheese and egg business in this city, and the increasing need for the establishment of a market to facilitate the purchase and sale of these commodities, led to the consideration of the organization of an exchange which would hold daily or bi-weekly sessions for the sale of these goods. A special committee was appointed to look into the matter and to report thereon. I regret to say that the committee apparently did not receive sufficient support from the members generally to warrant its recommending the holding of such sales, but I earnestly hope that before long such an exchange will be organized as I am convinced that its results would be beneficial to the trade as a whole.

Towards the end of April the British Government, which was forced by the serious situation arising as a result of war conditions, to take most drastic steps to secure an equitable distribution of foodstuffs at reasonable prices in Britain, appointed a commission to purchase the exportable surplus of Canadian cheese, on which commission one of our members, Mr. Jas. Alexander, was appointed. A considerable time elapsed after the appointment of the commission before it had completed its organization, but on the 5th of June the commission asked for a meeting with the members of this association when a memorandum was presented setting forth the conditions which it had prepared as a basis for its purchases. The conditions were discussed at length, and, with a few suggested changes, approved of by this association. Since that time the commission has purchased at a fixed price all the exportable surplus of Canadian cheese, and I wish to take advantage of this occasion

to express the appreciation of the merchants of the manner in which purchases have been made, and of the fairness and consideration with which merchants have been treated, the commission's policy of making all its purchases through the regular channels being specially appreciated.

Whereas, there is an abnormal demand for dairy products, such as condensed milk, butter and cheese, which has lessened considerably the amount of milk and cream available for city consumption, and,

Whereas, the exports of milk and cream are enormous, amounting to thousands of gallons daily, and are for the most part sent for city consumption and to supply condensed milk factories in the United States, and in addition to these large quantities of condensed milk are also exported, and,

Whereas, there is every prospect that unless something is done the milk and butter supply for city consumption will fall far short of the requirements during the coming winter:

Therefore, resolved, that this association strongly urges upon the Hon. W. J. Hanna, Food Controller, the importance of at once applying for an Order-in-Council prohibiting the exportation of cream and milk and of condensed milk.

Respectfully submitted.

A. H. DALRYMPLE,

President.

BRITISH COMMODITY PRICES AT NEW HIGH RECORDS.

The index number of British commodity prices for the month of December has been announced by the "Economist" as 5845. This creates a new high record, being 77 points higher than 5,768, the former mark, attained November last. The December total is 937 points higher than that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

Cereals and meats registered a marked gain during the month, the figure being 1286½, compared with 1236½ for the previous month. Other foods, including sugar, tea, etc., rose from 679 in November to 686 for last month. Textiles increased during December from 1660½ to 1884½. Minerals lost 9 points in December, and a gain of 4½ points was noted in the miscellaneous group, including rubber, timber, oils and other heavy materials.

The basis of the index number arrived at by "The Economist" is established at 2200, representing the average for the first five-year period, 1901-05.

Interned Germans will be sent to the North Carolina watermelon belt, where they can keep a watch on the rind, remarks the Boston Transcript.

FOOD CONTROLLER'S ACTIVITIES HAVE BENEFITTED ALL PARTS OF CANADA.

FOOD IS BEING CONSERVED FOR THE SOLDIERS AND THE ALLIED PEOPLES

AND

Dealers in food are being brought under regulation by means of licensing system. Financial arrangements have been made to ensure steady market for hogs. Prices have been fixed for bran and shorts and preference in supply assured to Canadian farmers. Oleomargarine has been made available in Canada. Price of sugar has been kept down

by control over refineries. Trade in package cereals has been regulated to protect the public. Supplies of food and feed have been secured from the United States. Profits of millers and packers have been limited. Plan for regulation of cost of milk distribution worked out. Farmers have been assisted in greater hog production campaign. Equitable distribution of

essential food supplies has been ensured. Grain and other food substances have been saved from distillation for potable alcohol and made available for direct consumption. Exportation of foodstuff is being controlled so as to prevent the drain of supplies needed in Canada or for the Allied Nations. Assistance is being given in the organization, on a war basis, of production and consumption of food

