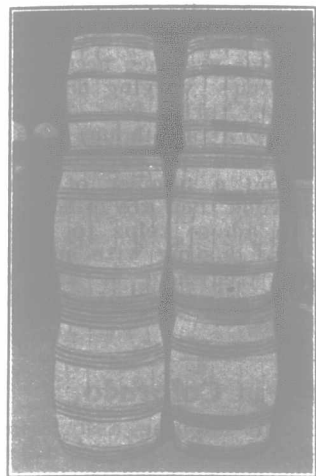


### The Packing of Butter.

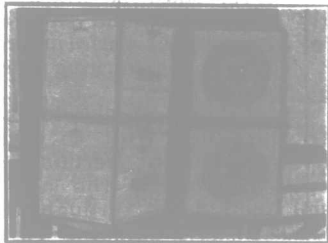
The important part that proper packing plays in the marketing of butter can hardly be exaggerated. This is a point to which the judges in the Department's Surprise Butter Competitions have frequently called attention; indeed, defective packing was one of the gravest faults they had to complain of in the parcels of butter submitted to them. Experience, too, has proved that in the present condition of English markets the packing of butter has a considerable influence on the price received. In this connection it may be noted that different markets require different methods of packing. Inquiry as to package desired should, therefore, be made before arranging for the despatch of butter.



The two kiel and the keg on the left have notched or locked hoops. Those on the right have twigged hoops.

dry, well-ventilated and well-lighted store be available for the materials used in the various packages. Damp and dirty stores frequently cause mouldy growths on the timber and parchment, and much injury may thus be done to the butter packed in such materials.

The wood used for butter packages should be thoroughly seasoned and free from odor. For this reason it is recommended that all packages should be made up and well aired some time before their use. If, after all precaution has been taken, the wood has a strong odor, the bad effects may be lessened by heating the package thoroughly, and painting the interior with a thin coating of melted paraffin wax, using a soft brush for the purpose.



On the left are two Canadian boxes, dovetailed at the corners. The lids are held by four bent nails, which turn into the grooves shown. They are thus easily taken off or put on. On the right are two New Zealand boxes, with the sides in one piece.

Each package should contain as nearly as possible the quantity required to fill it, as considerable inconvenience and frequent loss are occasioned by the use of insufficiently filled packages. A filled package travels better than one with room to spare. Kiel should weigh not less than 14 lbs. each, and kegs not less than 7 lbs. The grooves for the lid and bottom should be well sunk, and the ends of the staves around the lid suitably bevelled off. The heads and bottoms should be made of strong, well-seasoned timber.

There are two methods of finishing the hoops: (1) twiggling; (2) notching or locking. The "notched" hoops are preferred because of their neater appearance.

For "twiggling," straight half hoops can be conveniently used, but the rods of which they are made should be of three years' growth for kiel, and two years' growth for kegs. The binding should be finished off neatly.

The hoops used for the "notching" method must have been previously "coiled" or "curled"; straight materials for these hoops are unsuitable. For kiel the 6-ft. coiled half hoops or half hoops from rods of three years' growth, and for kegs 5-ft. coiled half hoops or half hoops from rods of two years' growth are recommended. The packages are quarter bound, and twelve hoops are recommended. Very strong "quarter" hoops are unsuitable, being, as a rule, badly "shaped," and they do not grip the staves securely.

The properly-made notched kiel or keg will stand a long journey and be suitable for re-coopering if necessary in the merchant's stores, and will preserve its neat and clean appearance. Short nails may be used to secure the top and bottom hoops in position. None are needed in the other hoops, provided they are properly

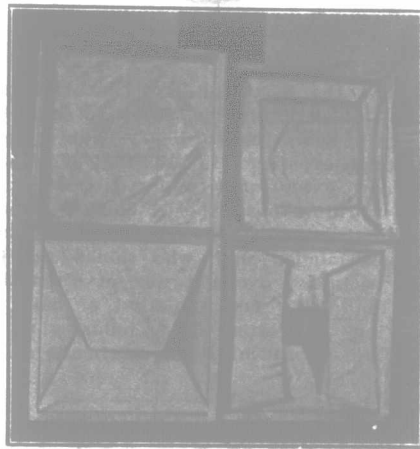
coopered on. Long nails tear the parchment and cause rust spots on the butter.

Timber for these should, as far as possible, be free from loose knots and resin; and the pieces tongued and grooved, planed both sides, five-eighths inch scantling for 56 lbs., and 1/2-inch for 28 lb. boxes. The boards



Two kiel turned so as to show the finish of the top. The one on the left is slovenly; that on the right is neatly done.

should be accurately cut, in order that the box when made shall be close in all joints, and without any portions of projecting wood at the angles, and as nearly water-tight as possible. Timber cut for making boxes at creameries should be supplied of specified scantling, and if the sides consist of more than one piece, it should be of such widths that when the box is made there shall be alternation in the sides of wide and narrow boards, thus preventing the weakening of the box



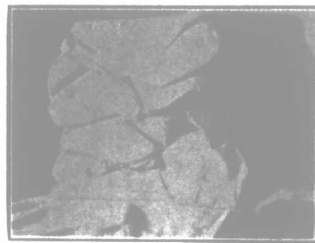
Four pyramids turned over to show finish of tops. Lower one on the left shows the proper finish.

by having the joints of the sides too near each other at the angles when the box is nailed. Inattention to this principle renders probable a liability of the upper portion of boxes being parted from the lower through the rough handling they receive in transit.

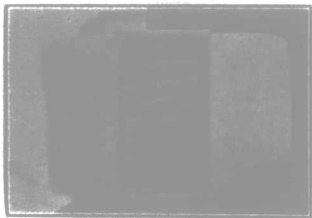
The most suitable nails for the sides of the 56-lb. pyramid box are cement-coated steel wire nails, 2 1/2-inch by 11 gauge. Eight nails at least should be used in each side, and of these at least two in the break.

For the bottom and top, 1 1/2 inch by 12 gauge nails are suitable, six in the ends, and in the case of the bottom two additional nails into each side. Boxes dovetailed at sides and without nails are recommended where suitable timber can be obtained at a reasonable cost.

Clips and handles are not necessary for the present system of carrying butter when the boxes are made of sufficient strength and stability. The box should be wrapped in a canvas cover in order to protect it from dirt in transit. A few buyers, however, have expressed a preference for uncovered boxes, giving as reasons: (1) That the carriers use the covers as a sling to throw the boxes in place of lifting them; (2) that when no covers are used the damaged boxes in a consignment are more readily seen and claims can be made at once. Covers, if used, should accordingly be wrapped tightly and closely onto the box, and so secured that the carriers cannot use



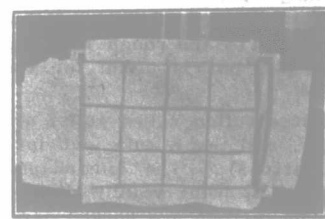
A very badly packed pyramid box of butter turned out, showing gaps and holes.



Box of 24 half-pound rolls, without the neat lace edging.

them as a sling. In order to reduce the liability of taint from the wood of packages, it is advisable to use a lining of strong, heavy parchment paper. This should be made from rags only, and should be pure white in color—all tints are objectionable; it should also be free from filling or weighting material. The texture should be even, and bright shining specks (due to holes in the paper) should not be visible when a sheet is held between the eyes and a moderate light. A suitable parchment paper should not show fiber on a torn edge. When wet it should be quite as tough as when dry, and should stretch on pulling. For kiel a parchment paper is required weighing not less than 35/40 lbs. per ream of 480 sheets, each measuring 80x20 inches; the same weight, but cut to 20x26 inches is necessary for 56 lb. pyramids.

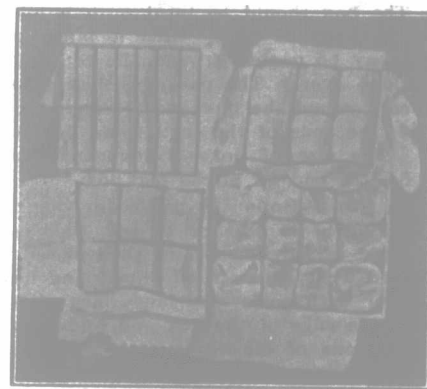
The kiel, keg, or box, should be thoroughly scalded over a steam jet, and afterwards scrubbed on the inside with clean cold salt and water.



Box of 12 two-pound rolls. Butter is made up in brick shape, and owing to the box being too large the butter has shaken together.

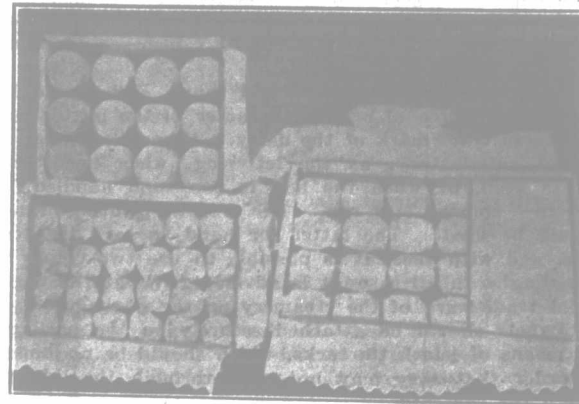
The parchment cut to a suitable size should be steeped in scalding brine the night before it is to be used, and allowed to remain in the brine till next morning, when it will be cold and ready for use. The package should be carefully lined with damp parchment paper, avoiding creases and bare spaces.

The quantity of butter to be put into the packages should be weighed out accurately, allowing 1 lb. extra for a 56-lb. package, and 1 lb. for a 112-lb. package. Small quantities only should be put in at a time, and should be well pressed against the sides, and



Top box on left contains 24 one-pound rolls; bottom box contains 4 lb. lumps wrapped in muslin. On the right the upper basket contains 8 lb. lumps wrapped in muslin, and the lower box 8 lb. lumps wrapped in muslin.

into the corners by a heavy packer. Great care should be taken against creasing the parchment. The butter,



Upper box on left contains 12 two-pound rolls. Lower on left 1 lb. rolls on end—this box a little large. On right is a box of prints. Note the perforated paper edging which gives a neat appearance to these packages.

when turned out on the shop counter, should be perfectly solid and smooth, without holes or crease marks;