

Consul Piatt, in referring to this butter, says:

In connection with the subject of canned butter, it may be well to direct the attention of those in the United States interested herein to the opportunity which I am told exists for a large development of American enterprise with respect to this class of butter. Within seven or eight years, France, Germany, and Denmark have, by the adoption of the system of packing butter in hermetically sealed cans, each containing 1, 2, 3, 7, 14, or 24 pounds of butter, secured the entire or about the entire trade of supplying the ships of the world. I believe that the American creamery butter is of eminently suitable for this particular branch of the export butter trade. If this butter were packed and sealed in cans similar to those exhibited by Mr. Clanchy, which preserve the butter fresh and sweet for a long period in any climate, immediately on reaching made at the creameries, nothing, so far as I can see, is to prevent its use in supplying the immense foreign shipping trade of our country. Whereas, all vessels going from Europe to America take with them a supply for the double voyage, it would be quite practicable, if this enterprise were introduced in the United States, to secure the entire trade for the American exporters. The United States ought to be able to compete most successfully with Europe for this trade, inasmuch as all dairy products can be produced so much cheaper with us than on this side of the Atlantic.

For the large passenger steamships the finest butter is utilized, and also for export to countries where the consuming population require and can afford to pay for it, such as India, Japan, China, Australia, and South America, and countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

For merchant shipping and for the poorer classes of the population in the above-named countries, a second and third quality of butter is good enough, and it is for the inferior qualities that the United States, as would appear from published market reports, require a greater outlet than for the products of the best dairies, inasmuch as the American markets are continually glutted with stock of this sort, chiefly owing to the inroads which the improved manufacture of butterine has made upon the markets hitherto available for the consumption of cheap genuine butter. Since merchant vessels use chiefly butter of the third quality, it will be seen that the markets for large quantities of this class of butter might be found if the canning system were adopted for the supply now furnished, for the most part, by European exporters.

From a statement, herewith submitted, showing our butter exports for eleven years, 1874 to 1884, both inclusive, it appears that this export has increased nearly fivefold in quantity during that period. The price per pound was, however, nearly 7 cents greater in 1874 than in 1884. On turning to the butter import into the United Kingdom for those two years it is found that the average price per pound in 1874 was 24.24 cents, and for 1884 (omitting the import from Holland wherein imitation butter predominated) the average price was 24.70 cents per pound. Thus the decline, in value in American butter during the eleven years under consideration must have been wholly due to deterioration in quality. In this connection it should be remembered, however, that our first-class butter finds as good a market at home as in any foreign country, and it may be assumed that this fact alone accounts for the decline in the price of American export butter in 1884, as compared with the year 1874.

Our exports of butter to Europe during the eleven years increased nearly ninefold in quantity, this increase being wholly dominated by our exports to the United Kingdom and to Germany.

The export in 1884 of American butter to Denmark and Sweden (421,377 and 370,371 pounds respectively) is worthy of attention, being our first recorded butter exports to these countries.

It would be interesting to ascertain whether this product was imported into those butter-exporting countries for consumption or to be worked over for the English market. As the latter was more than likely the real purpose of import, it becomes a question for our dairy farmers whether, if it pays the Danish and Swedish butter makers or assurers to import American butter, manipulate it over and re-export the same to England at profitable prices, it would not pay them to so

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