

BUTTER.

A good business was done in Butter, in the Fall of 1863,—Choice Dairy being in steady demand, at higher rates than had prevailed during the two previous years; the market continuing active up to the close of December. The receipts by Grand Trunk Railway during 1863, were 45,651 kegs; by Lachine Canal, 23,486 kegs; by Montreal and Champlain Railroad, 5,119 kegs; by River Craft, 522 kegs;—total, 74,778 kegs, or about 6,000,000 lbs. The aggregates of 1862 were 85,902 kegs, or 6,872,000 lbs.; and of 1861, 71,875 kegs, or 5,750,000 lbs. These figures show a decrease in 1863, as compared with 1862, but an increase as compared with 1861.

The shipments seaward *via* the St. Lawrence River, in 1863, were 49,079 kegs; *via* Portland, 11,908 kegs; in River-craft, 3,716 kegs; by Montreal and Champlain Railroad, 3,222 kegs; by Lachine Canal, 484 kegs; total, 68,409 kegs, or about 5,473,000 lbs. The aggregate shipments in 1862 were 69,459 kegs, or 5,556,700 lbs.; and in 1861, 49,722 kegs, or 3,978,000 lbs.

The following table affords a comparative view of prices paid on the dates given for 1863, and on corresponding days of 1862 and 1861. There were exceptional sales, especially of Choice Dairy, in October, November and December last year, at higher rates than those here quoted.

Prices of Butter in Fall of Three Years:—

DATE.	1863						1862						1861					
	Store Packed.		Medium Dairy.		Choice Dairy.		Store Packed.		Medium Dairy.		Choice Dairy.		Store Packed.		Medium Dairy.		Choice Dairy.	
	Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.	
Sept 18	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.	c.
	12	@13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	@15	15	@16	11	@13	14	14	@15	10	@11	11	@12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	@13	
.... 25	12	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	15	15	16	11	13	14	14	15	10	11	11	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	
Oct. 2	12	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	15	15	16	11	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	11	11	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	 9	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	14	15	16	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	15	16	10	11	11	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13
.... 16	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	14	15	17	18	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	15	15	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	11	11	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	
.... 23	13	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	16	17	18	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	15	16	10	11	11	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	
.... 30	13	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	16	17	18	12	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	15	16	11	12	12	13	13	14	
Nov. 6	14	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	17	17	18	12	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	14@15	15	16	11	13	13	14	14	15	
	 13	14	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	17	17	18	12	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	15	15	16	11	13	13	14	15
.... 20	14	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	17	17	18	12	13	14	15	15	16	11	14	14	15	15	16
.... 27	14	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	17	17	18	12	13	14	15	15	16	12	14	14	15	16	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Dec. 4	14	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	17	17	18	12	13	14	15	15	16	12	14	15	16	16	16 $\frac{3}{4}$

An estimate of the importance of the Trade in Butter here, may be formed from the value of exports in 1863, as recorded at the Custom-House,—viz., \$556,452, representing 4,316,930 lbs. But the shipments by all channels were about 1,157,000 lbs. over that quantity; according to the foregoing ratio, therefore, the value of all the Butter exported would be more than \$700,000. Large as is the business done in this department of the Produce Trade, it is susceptible of much increase,—the main obstacle to which is believed to be the uncertainty involved in the purchase of shipping lots. *No Butter was officially inspected in this market last year, and only 500 kegs in 1862.* It cannot be matter of surprise, therefore, that complaints about unevenness of quality arise. The surest method for removing them would be for merchants to avail themselves of a thorough inspection,—equal if possible to that of Cork; and when that is done,

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