

Canadian statistics fail to show that a single pound of butter was shipped to Great Britain since the first of April last, but the accounts relating to trade and navigation for the United Kingdom credit 224 pounds of butter as coming from Canada during eight months ended November 30, 1912. Of course shipments to the Old Country do not represent our total export as there is a regular business in tinned butter from the Maritime Provinces to the West Indies and a quantity of inferior butter goes regularly to the United States, but we have to admit that the export of butter from Canada during 1912 was the smallest since 1850. We are also confronted with the further and rather astonishing fact, that our imports of butter during the past year have greatly exceeded our exports. Under these conditions Canada must be listed among the butter importing countries of the world.

The figures in the foregoing table do not take account of the stocks of cheese on hand at the closed of the period in each year, but if we assume that they were about the same at the end of November last, as they were in 1911, the decrease of 28,000,000 pounds is the largest for several years and just double the decrease of 1911 as compared with 1910.

#### CREAM SHIPMENTS.

The decrease in cream and casein shipments go together as the casein is made chiefly in cream shipping factories. No one who has the interest of the Canadian dairying industry at heart will regret the decline in the export of cream. Of course the factories cannot be blamed for taking advantage of this outlet when it gives them better returns than can be got through the manufacture of butter or cheese, but there is satisfaction in the fact that the state of our own markets made this trade less attractive last season than it was in 1911.

#### THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE CANADIAN EXPORT OF BUTTER.

Just here it may be interesting to take a glance backward at the record of the export of butter from this country. Small quantities were exported as early as 1800, but it was not until the forties that a regular trade of any importance was established. In the year 1850 the quantity exported was 1,319,920 pounds which was increased to 7,275,426 pounds in 1860. In 1868 the exports had risen to 10,000,000 pounds, and down to 1882 the quantity varied from that figure to over 19,000,000 pounds annually, after which date it declined rapidly until in 1890 it was less than 2,000,000 pounds. This decline was partly due to the expansion of the cheese-making industry and partly to the relatively poor reputation of Canadian butter abroad at that time.

Other countries had been making great advances in the art of butter making, while little progress had been made down to that time in Canada; and further, our storage and transportation facilities were inadequate for a successful export trade in the face of the competition then existing. The advent of Australasian butter on the British market about this time supplied more of the winter requirements with a freshly made article, and thus Canadian stored butter found a very poor demand at a correspondingly low price. On the other hand Canadian cheese was in favour, the price paid for it was relatively high, and consequently, it gave better returns to the farmers. This encouraged the making of cheese.

In 1895 a move was made to provide cold storage space on ships sailing from Montreal, which together with the erection of mechanical cold storages for holding the butter gave a new impetus to butter making in Canada. The exports again increased until the maximum of 34,000,000 pounds was reached in 1903. Then began that era of marvellous expansion and increase of population in Canada of which we have happily not yet seen the end, but which has already so effectually checked the growth of our total foreign trade in dairy products.