

France in thirty hours, and sold at 50/- to 60/- per 112 lbs. Mr. and Mrs. John Bull appear to like it, so long as they don't know that it is largely composed of the coarse fatty refuse of calves, bulls, and cows; and the shrewd English grocers who retail it at 1/- per lb., and thereby double their money, take good care to keep *mum* and sell it as nice fresh butter. And when Canadian butter is offered there at its value, say 90/- to 112/- per 112 lbs., they shake their heads and say they "have no trade for these Canadian butters." Why? Because Canadian butter gives them only a profit of about 1d. per pound and butterine pays them 6d. per pound profit; consequently they don't want to see genuine butter, or to let the consumer get a hankering after it.

Then again, the past season was a very bad one the world over for making butter; why, we cannot tell; but, without doubt, there never was so much *poor* butter and so little *good*; and this fact only developed itself after the butter was made and kept awhile. Unfortunately nearly all our heavy operators held their butter through the summer, apparently not knowing the part butterine was playing, but expecting a demand to spring up in the fall. When Autumn came, their butter did not look so well, did not taste as well, and would not sell as well as good butterine. In December the dark days came; the butter had to be shipped and sold at from 40/ to 80/, and the stampede has continued till now. Great has been the loss and ruin, and only where any really good lots have been offered has anything like cost been realized. There are two lessons to be learned by butter makers and butter dealers from all this, and these we repeat for the hundredth time:

The first is the necessity of selling our butter when it is fresh and sweet, to get it into the consumer's hands while it is in its prime. Britain is our chief customer; the Continent of Europe our chief competitor. France, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, are within 48 hours, at most, of England, and these and similar producing districts can pour in their butter in the best possible condition; Canada, to compete, must send her produce in the best and tastiest condition, if she would hold a place in the English market.

Second, If we are to regain the position in the estimation of English butter dealers which we have lost in the last two years, we must make a better article, and sell it cheaper. By these means alone will the use of butterine be curtailed. The improvement in quality which we are urging is to be obtained, in our opinion, through the agency of creameries or butter factories, and through this agency

alone will Canadian butter attain National excellence. For the information of our Canadian Dairymen, we mention the fact that in the State of Illinois there are 150 creameries going into operation this year which were not previously in existence. In Minnesota there will be 260 creameries in operation in 1878. In Iowa there are 120, and in Ohio over 200. The policy of the directors of these creameries is *to sell as soon as they have a car-load ready*, at the market price, whatever it may be. The states we have enumerated have certainly inaugurated a "new departure" by going into the dairy business, and are destined to be formidable rivals to Canada, and it depends very much upon the enterprise with which Canadians go into the creamery business and meet the market, whether we are to retain our prestige or lose it.

The stock now held over in Montreal is estimated at 12,000 packages; and the demand from the lower ports or provinces will in all likelihood be *nil*, for the American shippers have crowded into the Maritime Provinces all the butter that they can take.

The price of butter in April of last year ranged from 15 to 17c for ordinary, to as high as 25c for prime, in Montreal. The range in Toronto markets at the same date was 16 to 23c. The following was about the range of prices for the different qualities for the months named:

MONTH.	MONTREAL. PRICE.	MONTREAL.	
		Receipts	Shipments
April, 1877 ....	15 to 25c	1472	1927
May, .....	17 " 22	3250	4079
June .....	16 " 19	3804	1969
July .....	15 " 18½	6632	6411
August .....	16 " 23	22441	12254
September ....	16 " 21	15114	16776
October .....	15 " 22½	38100	39905
November .....	12½ " 20	13562	17966
December .....	15 " 20	6247	13640
January, 1878..	12 " 20	12814	21589
February .....	12½ " 20	5046	9731
March .....	9 " 20	4344	7544
April .....	9 " 19	....	....
TOTAL		132826	153791

The totals of receipts and shipments indicate that there was a heavy stock on hand, in Montreal, a year ago, and indeed it was being shipped here thence for sale, and, as we have said, there is a large stock still. No regular account is now kept of receipts and shipments of butter in this city, but the new Secretary of the Board of Trade is endeavouring to remedy the lack. The only figures bearing upon the matter which we can obtain are the Custom returns, which show the Toronto exports to have been as follows during nine months, ending 31st ult.:

EXPORTS.	Quantity. lbs.	Value.	Average Price.
April, 1877 ..	Nil.	Nil.	16 to 23c
May .....			16 " 21
June .....			15 " 18
July .....			15 " 17
August .....	102,189	\$15,539	14 " 18
September ..			12 " 17
October ....			12 " 18
November ..	118,652	\$19,359	8 " 17
December ..			8 " 18
January ....			8 " 18
February ....	257,136	\$40,604	8 " 18
March .....			6 " 17

In conclusion, we need hardly say that the butter product of the world in 1877 was unusually poor, and the handling of the article has resulted in serious loss in Europe as well as America, and should our dairymen refuse to sell in 1878 at whatever price foreign markets will warrant, we predict the loss this year will fall on the makers instead of the merchants. A burnt child knows how hot the fire is, and is likely to act accordingly.

#### THE METROPOLITAN BANK.

An action brought by a shareholder of the Metropolitan Bank against the Hon. Henry Starnes and other ex-Directors of that institution, to recover \$10,000 damages for losses sustained by the plaintiff in the downfall of the bank through the alleged malfeasance of the defendants, is now before the Court in Montreal. We must withhold comment, therefore, until judgment is given. The evidence elicited at the *enquete* was certainly remarkable, and we give some extracts from the report of it which appeared in the Montreal journals.

The cashier's evidence states that Mr. Starnes, the President, subscribed for 1,400 shares of the original stock of the bank in 1871, and paid ten per cent. upon it in cash, but gave a demand note for four subsequent calls, giving no security therefor. In 1872 this director received other loans from the bank, amounting to \$20,603 for which he pledged certain stocks. Mr. Starnes did not settle for the call loan until the 22nd of February, 1876. At this time his loan account amounted to \$113,314.44, against which the bank held certain securities. The bank would, the directors considered, suffer a large loss, and I was instructed by the Board to transfer the sum of \$31,984.35 to the account of profit and loss, the estimated loss at that time. A statement taken from the books of the bank, shows the advances obtained by Starnes, for speculative purposes, from 14th December, 1871, until his resignation in February, 1876. The total amount of these advances was \$1,471,715.23.

Mr. Maurice Cuvillier, the Vice-President of the bank became, it appears, a subscriber for 800 shares in the capital stock thereof. He paid up the first call in cash, and the remaining four calls, amounting to \$28,564, he paid, too, by a demand note, the full amount of which was passed to his credit, and no security given, and it has never been repaid to the bank. A statement exhibits the advances made to Cuvillier for speculative purposes between the 12th July, 1871, and 4th October, 1875. The amount was \$191,480.29. At the close of the account