

## The Makers' Corner

Butter and Cheese Makers are invited to send contributions to this department, to ask questions on matters relating to cheese making, and to suggest subjects for discussion.

### Shrinkage in Creamery Butter

Prof. H. M. Dean, O.A.C., Guelph.

THE question of allowance for shrinkage on creamery solids and prints is an important one at the present time, owing to the high price of butter. The manufacturer naturally does not wish to give any more weight than is necessary, while the buyer insists on, and rightly so, receiving full weight of butter paid for. As much of the creamery "solids" goes into cold storage packed in 56 lbs. boxes, where it is held for some time, the weight of butter necessary to place in each package in order to have it "hold out weight" when taken from storage is a very important one.

Tests made during the season of 1917 show that the loss per box on pasteurized cream butter, salted three per cent, with 1.45 per cent. in the finished butter, and held for two months at a temperature of about 35 deg. F., was but one-quarter of a pound, and for three months was one-half pound. Raw cream butter, salted six per cent, and having 2.78 per cent. salt in the finished butter, lost one-half pound per box in two months, and three-quarters of a pound in three months.

These results show that lightly salted butter made from pasteurized cream, should hold out weight at the end of three months in storage if 56½ lbs. of butter are packed in the box when made. Heavily salted butters need more butter to hold their weight.

**Efficiency of Machine Printers.**  
A number of creamerymen who cater to the print butter trade, are now using machine printers. These are of varying styles. The chief advantages of machine printing over hand printing are, more rapid work and neater prints. So far as uniformity in weights of individual prints goes, there appears to be quite as much variation as when the hand printer is used. Tests were made on two ninety-pound boxes cut into prints with a machine. In the first box cut, there were twelve prints exactly sixteen ounces in weight. The remainder of the prints varied from 9.32 of an ounce too light, to 24.32 of an ounce over a pound. In the other box, the variations were from 33.32 of an ounce too little, to 29.32 of an ounce over the required sixteen ounces. In this box there were but five prints of exact weight. If we allow 4.32 or ¼ of an ounce as the maximum variation each way, there were 49 prints out of 90 in the first box outside the maximum, and 40 in the second box, or practically 50 per cent. of the prints were outside the limits set. In the first box, 63 prints were over, and 15 were under 16 ounces in weight, and 12 were exactly one pound. Of the second box, 49 were over, 43 were under, and 7 were exactly sixteen ounces.

If we take the totals of the plus and minus prints on the first box, we find the plus's, or weights of prints in excess of 16 ounces, equals 516 thirty-second ounces, and the minus prints (under 16 oz.) equal 82. The difference between the plus's and the minus's is 434.32, or a little over thirteen ounces on ninety prints. In the second box the plus's equal 312 and the minus prints 225, a difference of 87.32, or about 2.7 ounces. In this case, the plus and minus prints more nearly balance each other.

The foregoing may be regarded as preliminary tests and much more work is needed before definite conclusions may be drawn. However, it would seem as if we may expect considerable variation in weight of prints of butter made by machines.

In the case of this particular machine, the prints along one side and on the bottom row were nearly always heavier than those cut in other parts of the box. This could be remedied by more even spacing of the wires used for cutting the butter.

### Commission Considering Cheese Prices

THE initial meeting of the Dairy Produce Commission was held April 9th, at the offices of the old Cheese Commission, in Montreal, which organization the new commission is to replace. Both the personnel and the scope of the commission have been enlarged. The members of the commission for 1918 are as follows:

The chairman of the Allied Provision Export commission, New York; or his deputy, Mr. A. J. Mills; Mr. Jas. Alexander, of Montreal; Mr. J. A. Rudlick, Dairy Commissioner, Ottawa; Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, representing the Canadian Food Board; Mr. Jas. Donaldson, president, Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario, Atwood, Ont.; and Mr. A. Gerin, of Coaticook, Que., representing the producers.

In 1917 the Cheese Commission represented the Imperial Board of Trade.

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