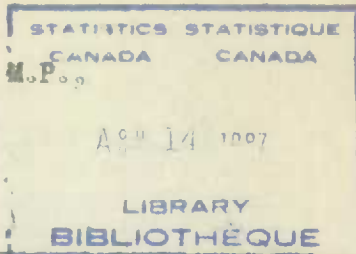




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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AGRICULTURAL BRANCH

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MONTHLY REVIEW OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN CANADA, DECEMBER, 1939.

(Issued Tuesday, January 9, 1940)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION in December increased approximately 5 per cent as compared with the December make of 1938 and decreased 24 per cent, as compared with the output for the preceding month. During the month of December 11.8 million pounds of butter were produced and during the twelve months ending December, the output reached a total of 266.9 million pounds. The increase in the December make occurred only in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

CHEESE PRODUCTION increased approximately 13 per cent in December as compared with December 1938, and decreased 54 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. The December make was approximately 2.3 million pounds and the total during the period January to December amounted to 121.0 million pounds. The increase in the December make occurred only in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. There was no cheese produced in the Maritime Provinces in December.

The production of CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS for the month of November registered an increase of approximately 42 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 23 per cent as compared with the preceding month. During November 10.1 million pounds of Concentrated Whole Milk Products were manufactured in Canada and 2.0 million pounds of Concentrated Milk By Products. During the eleven months January to November 122.5 million pounds of the former and 32.8 million pounds of the latter were produced in condenseries and creameries in the Dominion, making a total of 12.1 million pounds for November and 155.3 million pounds for the eleven months ending November.

CREAMERY BUTTER PRICES at Montreal, as quoted daily by the Canadian Commodity Exchange for the first grade product, averaged 28 cents a pound, compared with 21 1/2 cents in December, 1938. Ontario coloured cheese at Montreal based on daily quotations averaged 16 7/8 cents in December compared with 11 3/8 cents in December, 1938.

The combined output of creamery butter and factory cheese during the month of December represented the equivalent of 302.0 million pounds of milk, registering an increase of approximately 15.4 million pounds as compared with the combined make in terms of milk for the same month a year ago. Creamery butter represented 91.3 per cent and cheese represented 8.7 per cent of the total.

Exports of Butter in December amounted to 104,600 pounds as compared with 248,800 pounds last month and 185,600 pounds in December, 1938.

Exports of Cheese in December reached a total of 3,018,800 pounds as against 18,822,400 pounds last month and 7,574,500 pounds in December a year ago.

The domestic disappearance of butter in the month of November amounted to 22.0 million pounds, representing a decrease of 7.2 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 9.9 per cent in comparison with the preceding month. This estimate is based on storage and transit stocks amounting to 49.9 million pounds at December 1, 1939, and exports and imports amounting to 248,800 pounds and 88 pounds respectively.

1. - PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, DECEMBER, 1938 AND 1939.

Province	NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	14,665,565	15,459,515	(+) 5.4	11,247,322	11,779,650	(+) 4.7
Prince Edward Island	174,005	92,580	(-) 46.8	110,301	63,230	(-) 42.7
Nova Scotia ...	425,276	340,300	(-) 20.0	358,075	347,399	(-) 3.0
New Brunswick .	191,913	133,720	(-) 30.3	105,402	99,429	(-) 5.7
Quebec	4,770,364	4,745,882	(-) 0.5	2,524,308	2,540,853	(+) 0.7
Ontario	5,157,435	5,691,884	(+) 10.8	4,813,131	4,993,958	(+) 3.6
Manitoba	1,073,102	1,288,249	(+) 20.0	949,398	1,079,335	(+) 13.7
Saskatchewan ..	370,741	1,263,491	(+) 45.7	659,427	1,013,013	(+) 54.4
Alberta	1,632,491	1,561,020	(-) 4.4	1,342,796	1,337,738	(-) 0.4
British Columbia	382,538	336,889	(-) 13.5	379,434	299,675	(-) 21.0

x Revised

/ Preliminary

II. - PRODUCTION OF FACTORY CHEESE IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, DECEMBER, 1938 AND 1939.

Province	NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	7,215,113	5,075,597	(-) 29.7	2,077,613	2,358,735	(+) 12.6
Prince Edward Island	17,913	...	...	...	...	...
New Brunswick .	12,172	...	...	...	...	...
Quebec	1,229,439	508,759	(-) 58.6	294,052	289,753	(-) 1.5
Ontario	5,499,996	4,259,382	(-) 22.6	1,384,993	1,713,772	(+) 24.1
Manitoba	198,277	155,991	(-) 21.3	159,323	181,674	(+) 14.0
Saskatchewan ..	8,321	6,471	(-) 26.6	660	1,213	(+) 84.5
Alberta	194,046	103,002	(-) 46.9	179,886	102,005	(-) 43.3
British Columbia	54,454	41,982	(-) 22.9	58,639	45,301	(-) 22.8

x Revised

/ Preliminary

III - CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND FACTORY CHEESE IN CANADA,
BY PROVINCES, JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1938 AND 1939.

Province	JANUARY TO DECEMBER					
	BUTTER			CHEESE		
	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	266,386,883	266,378,858	(-) ...	121,314,607	120,976,031	(+) 0.3
Prince Edward Island	2,500,490	1,896,520	(-) 24.2	449,389	423,373	(-) 5.8
Nova Scotia	6,716,427	5,634,001	(-) 15.4	...	...	...
New Brunswick ..	4,519,137	3,963,682	(-) 12.2	539,491	558,199	(+) 3.5
Quebec	79,214,366	79,469,683	(+) 0.3	27,554,057	25,883,379	(-) 6.1
Ontario	87,893,148	88,091,621	(+) 0.2	85,959,923	87,212,341	(+) 1.5
Manitoba	25,703,684	26,543,371	(+) 3.3	3,344,202	3,450,871	(+) 3.2
Saskatchewan ...	23,524,260	25,379,734	(+) 7.9	420,963	333,596	(-) 20.8
Alberta	31,239,301	29,770,099	(-) 4.7	2,451,831	2,195,263	(-) 10.5
British Columbia	5,576,070	6,070,147	(+) 8.9	594,746	919,009	(+) 54.5

REVIEW OF THE PRODUCTION SITUATION

December was a very mild month throughout the whole of Canada; temperatures ranged well above normal and although cloudy and overcast skies reduced the amount of sunshine, precipitation was light and the snow fall was far below the average for this season. In the Eastern Provinces, very little snow fell until after December 10, but by the end of the month most sections of the country had a good covering. In the West, the weather was exceptionally mild. Some rain occurred, but there was practically no snow until Christmas. Reports from the Prairies showed the usually wide variations. It was the first December on record in which no snow was recorded at Morden, Manitoba, while at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, the precipitation was the highest since 1927.

Favourable weather conditions and the light snowfall permitted cows to range in the open until well on in December, and made it possible for farmers to haul from the open stacks and hold larger supplies of grains and roughage for future use. Since mill feeds and concentrates cost more money than they did a year ago, dairy men have been trying to curtail their purchases more than usual. But with the exception of some sections of the Maritimes farmers have abundant supplies of home grown feed, a situation which promises to offset the lack of commercial feed stuffs.

Dairy cattle are reported in good condition in most parts of the Dominion. There is no indication of any apparent reduction in the total number of cows, but the percentage actually milking in the month of November fell to 74.3 as compared with 74.7 in November a year ago. In this respect the situation is virtually the same as it was earlier in the fall. Milk production per farm was lower than that recorded the same month last year but the production per cow was slightly higher, being 12.6 in November, 1939, in place of 12.2 in November, 1938. Although the downward trend in milk production still continues in the Maritimes, Alberta, and British Columbia, reports suggest that some improvement is in sight. Higher cheese prices and an increase in the demand for fluid milk has called forth larger supplies of milk; and since this demand promises to continue at a high level as a result of increased employment, farmers will doubtless put forth additional efforts to utilize feed supplies to the fullest possible advantage to increase production. Since the diversion of milk from cheese factories to creameries has probably terminated for this season, the creamery make is not likely to share the increase in milk production. In fact the January output would be expected to show a somewhat smaller advance over the previous year than was recorded in December.

