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

(Issued Wednesday, March 8, 1939.)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION in February increased approximately 10 per cent as compared with the February make of 1938 and decreased 15 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. During the month of February 8.3 million pounds of butter were produced and during the two months ending February, the output reached a total of 18.1 million pounds. The increase in the February make occurred in all provinces except Nova Scotia.

CHEESE PRODUCTION increased 97 per cent in February as compared with February 1938, and decreased 23 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. The February make was approximately 1.1 million pounds and the total during the period January to February amounted to 2.5 million pounds. There was no cheese produced in the Maritime Provinces in February; of the remaining provinces, all contributed to the increase except Saskatchewan.

The production of CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS for the month of January registered a decrease of approximately 18 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 15 per cent as compared with the preceding month. During January 5.0 million pounds of Concentrated Whole Milk Products and 2.2 million pounds of Concentrated Milk By Products were manufactured in Canada, making a total of 7.2 million pounds, as compared with 8.7 million pounds produced in January, 1938.

CREAMERY BUTTER PRICES at Montreal, as quoted daily by the Canadian Commodity Exchange for the first grade product, averaged 22 3/8 cents a pound, compared with 34 3/8 cents in February, 1938. Ontario coloured cheese at Montreal based on daily quotations averaged 12 1/8 cents in February compared with 14 3/4 cents in February, 1938.

The combined output of creamery butter and factory cheese during the month of February represented the equivalent of 207.4 million pounds of milk, registering an increase of approximately 23 million pounds as compared with the combined make in terms of milk for the same month a year ago. Creamery butter represented 94.1 per cent and cheese represented 5.9 per cent of the total.

EXPORTS OF BUTTER in February amounted to 2,420,000 pounds as compared with 1,362,200 pounds last month and 27,100 pounds in February, 1938.

EXPORTS OF CHEESE in February reached a total of 894,500 pounds as against 1,329,500 pounds last month and 420,000 pounds in February a year ago.

The domestic disappearance of butter in the month of January amounted to 18.3 million pounds, representing an increase of 2.4 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 9.6 per cent in comparison with the preceding month. This estimate is based on storage and transit stocks amounting to 34.7 million pounds at February 1, 1939, and exports and imports amounting to 1,334,200 pounds and 472 pounds, respectively. The former is an adjusted figure allowing for a reduction of 28,000 pounds from the official figure for January to place the exports on a strictly calendar month basis.

I - PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN CANADA BY PROVINCES, FEBRUARY, 1938 and 1939.

Province	JANUARY			FEBRUARY		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	8,367,468	9,798,640	(+) 17.1	7,612,102	8,338,951	(+) 9.5
Prince Edward Island	76,955	93,917	(+) 22.0	69,751	70,000	(+) 0.4
Nova Scotia	367,881	345,289	(-) 6.1	344,167	314,702	(-) 8.6
New Brunswick	82,601	90,989	(+) 10.2	79,137	86,200	(+) 8.9
Quebec	984,329	1,274,620	(+) 29.5	532,465	608,554	(+) 14.3
Ontario	3,961,051	4,531,953	(+) 14.4	3,715,319	4,155,794	(+) 11.9
Manitoba	915,810	1,054,289	(+) 15.1	937,889	1,033,062	(+) 10.1
Saskatchewan	538,301	683,142	(+) 26.9	566,465	635,976	(+) 12.3
Alberta	1,114,497	1,244,631	(+) 11.7	1,058,555	1,095,884	(+) 3.5
British Columbia	326,043	479,810	(+) 47.2	308,354	338,779	(+) 9.9

x Revised. / Preliminary.

II - PRODUCTION OF FACTORY CHEESE IN CANADA BY PROVINCES, FEBRUARY, 1938 and 1939.

Province	JANUARY			FEBRUARY		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	683,889	1,405,930	(+) 105.6	553,417	1,089,155	(+) 96.8
Quebec	117,614	180,618	(+) 53.6	71,786	93,272	(+) 29.9
Ontario	338,602	825,162	(+) 143.7	245,710	602,682	(+) 145.3
Manitoba	103,661	161,835	(+) 56.1	112,347	162,781	(+) 44.9
Saskatchewan	870	490	(-) 43.7	860	725	(-) 15.7
Alberta	96,672	171,750	(+) 77.7	87,330	146,641	(+) 67.9
British Columbia	26,470	66,075	(+) 149.6	35,384	83,054	(+) 134.7

x Revised. / Preliminary.

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

Province	JANUARY TO FEBRUARY					
	BUTTER			CHEESE		
	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	15,979,570	18,137,591	(+) 13.5	1,237,306	2,495,085	(+) 101.7
Prince Edward Island	146,706	163,917	(+) 11.7	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	712,048	659,991	(-) 7.3	-	-	-
New Brunswick	161,738	177,189	(+) 9.6	-	-	-
Quebec	1,516,794	1,883,174	(+) 24.2	189,400	273,890	(+) 44.6
Ontario	7,676,370	8,687,747	(+) 13.2	584,312	1,427,844	(+) 144.4
Manitoba	1,853,699	2,087,351	(+) 12.6	216,008	324,616	(+) 50.3
Saskatchewan	1,104,766	1,319,118	(+) 19.4	1,730	1,215	(-) 29.8
Alberta	2,173,052	2,340,515	(+) 7.7	184,002	318,391	(+) 73.0
British Columbia	634,397	818,589	(+) 29.0	61,854	149,129	(+) 141.1

REVIEW OF THE PRODUCTION SITUATION

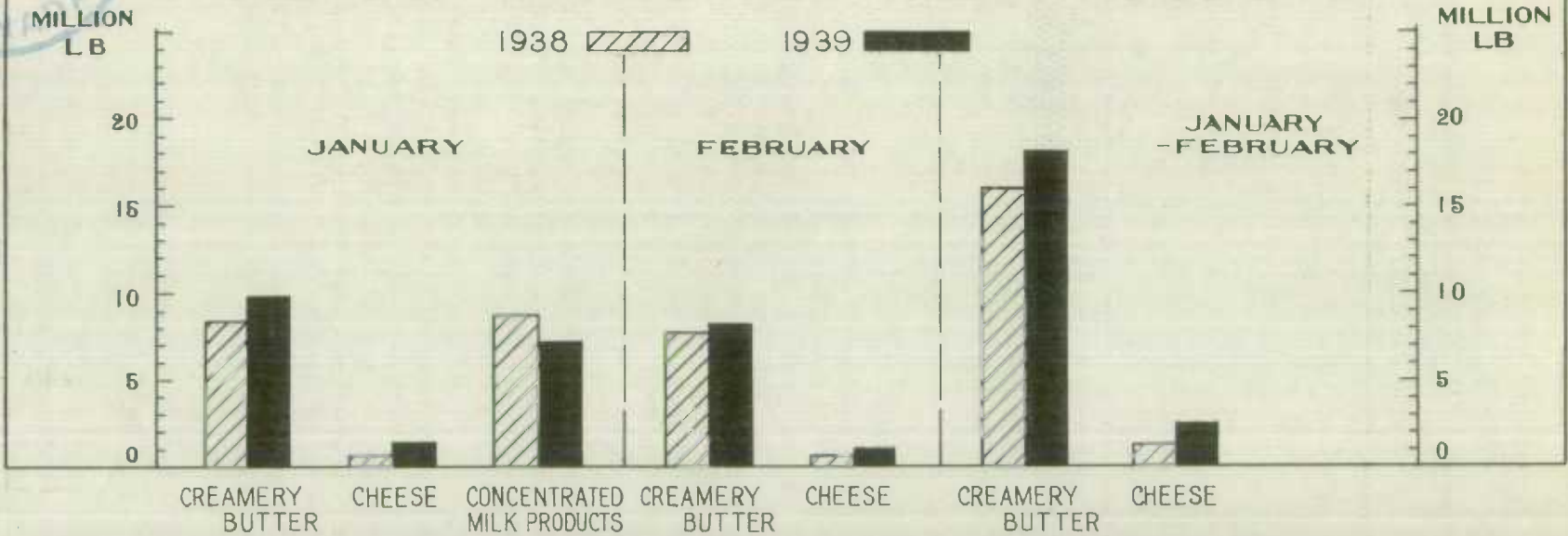
The snowfall in the month of February was unusually heavy, particularly in Eastern Canada; the Prairie provinces also received a normal covering of snow, and the distribution was more uniform than in recent years. At Cap Rouge, Quebec, the February snowfall amounted to 69 inches, the highest ever recorded at that station. At Ottawa the total precipitation of snow and rain, converted to the latter, amounted to 4.9 inches, the highest since 1908 and the second highest in 49 years. Farmers have found it difficult to secure their hay supplies from stacks embedded in the heavy snow, and those hauling their produce over country roads experienced some trouble in making regular deliveries.

Stocks of feed are holding out well. There seems to be a surplus of hay in northern Ontario, parts of Quebec, and in the Maritimes, although some of it is of poor quality. The quantity of grain fed per cow at the beginning of the year was practically the same as a year ago, but farmers are now taking advantage of low feed prices as indicated by shipments of grain from Ontario to the Maritime provinces and from the Prairies to British Columbia. Although butter-fat prices are low as compared with last year, apparently these prices offer nearly as large a return for the money expended in feeds as those of a year ago. There is no evidence of a decline in freshenings; in fact March freshenings may be slightly above those of March, 1938. Bush work has fallen off, due in part to heavy snow, and farmers temporarily engaged in this occupation are now giving their attention to dairying. Dairy cows are selling at good prices in the Eastern provinces and the movement promises to be active in the early spring.

Milk production per cow, based on all cows in the herds of Dairy Correspondents, amounted to 11.3 pounds in December and 11.2 pounds in January, representing respective increases of 4.6 per cent and 7.7 per cent over the yields for the same months of the previous year. About 70 per cent of the cows were milked in December, showing practically no change from the previous year, while the January figures registered an advance from 62.8 in 1938 to 65.0 per cent in 1939. A somewhat heavier production of milk is expected in March than was recorded in March a year ago; but if there is an early opening of cheese factories in Ontario and Quebec, it would tend to reduce the percentage of butter-fat delivered to creameries for butter-making purposes.



PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER, CHEESE AND CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS



DAILY PRICES OF BUTTER AND CHEESE AT MONTREAL DURING FEBRUARY 1938 AND 1939

