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MONTHLY REVIEW OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN CANADA, MARCH, 1939

(Issued Tuesday, April 11, 1939)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION in March increased approximately 6 per cent as compared with the March make of 1938 and increased 28 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. During the month of March 10.8 million pounds of butter were produced and during the three months ending March, the output reached a total of 29.1 million pounds. The increase in the March make occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta.

CHEESE PRODUCTION increased 111.8 per cent in March as compared with March 1938, and increased 34 per cent as compared with the output for the preceding month. The March make was approximately 1.5 million pounds and the total during the period January to March amounted to 4.1 million pounds. There was no cheese produced in the Maritime Provinces in March; of the remaining provinces, all contributed to the increase recorded herein.

The production of CONCENTRATED MILK PRODUCTS for the month of February registered a decrease of approximately 26 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 18 per cent as compared with the preceding month. During February 4.1 million pounds of Concentrated Whole Milk Products were manufactured in Canada and 1.8 million pounds of Concentrated Milk By Products. During the two months January and February 9.1 million pounds of the former and 4.0 million pounds of the latter were produced in condenseries and creameries in the Dominion, making a total of 5.9 million pounds for February and 13.1 million pounds for the two months ending February.

CREAMERY BUTTER PRICES at Montreal, as quoted daily by the Canadian Commodity Exchange for the first grade product, averaged 21 3/4 cents a pound, compared with 35 3/4 cents in March, 1938. Ontario coloured cheese at Montreal based on daily quotations averaged 11 3/8 cents in March compared with 15 1/2 cents in March, 1938.

The combined output of creamery butter and factory cheese during the month of March represented the equivalent of 270.3 million pounds of milk, registering an increase of approximately 24 million pounds as compared with the combined make in terms of milk for the same month a year ago. Creamery butter represented 93.6 per cent and cheese represented 6.4 per cent of the total.

EXPORTS - Owing to March being the last month of the fiscal year, export returns have been delayed. These figures together with the exports for April will be shown in the subsequent issue of this report.

The domestic disappearance of butter in the month of February amounted to 17.6 million pounds, representing an increase of 2.8 per cent as compared with the same month last year and a decrease of 2.7 per cent in comparison with the preceding month. This estimate is based on storage and transit stocks amounting to 25.3 million pounds at March 1, 1939, and exports and imports amounting to 2,420,000 pounds and 595 pounds, respectively.

I. - PRODUCTION OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN CANADA, BY PROVINCES, MARCH, 1938 AND 1939

Province	FEBRUARY			MARCH		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	7,612,102	8,474,209	(+) 11.3	10,161,091	10,811,083	(+) 6.4
Prince Edward Island	69,751	68,854	(-) 1.3	74,035	60,357	(-) 18.5
Nova Scotia	344,167	309,957	(-) 9.9	384,675	335,408	(-) 12.8
New Brunswick ..	79,137	84,821	(+) 7.2	117,903	114,828	(-) 2.6
Quebec	532,465	623,699	(+) 17.1	1,015,184	1,209,330	(+) 19.1
Ontario	3,715,319	4,134,280	(+) 11.3	4,875,555	5,280,740	(+) 8.3
Manitoba	937,889	1,017,594	(+) 8.5	1,239,015	1,305,266	(+) 5.3
Saskatchewan ...	566,465	635,977	(+) 12.3	728,565	773,310	(+) 6.1
Alberta	1,058,555	1,092,982	(+) 3.3	1,370,449	1,333,083	(-) 2.7
British Columbia	308,354	506,045	(+) 64.1	355,710	398,761	(+) 12.1

x Revised. / Preliminary.

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

Province	FEBRUARY			MARCH		
	1938	1939x	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939/	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	553,417	1,149,864	(+)107.8	724,634	1,534,749	(+)111.8
Quebec	71,786	93,993	(+) 30.9	64,193	96,632	(+) 50.5
Ontario	245,710	656,220	(+)167.1	333,131	929,063	(+)178.9
Manitoba	112,347	169,558	(+) 50.9	181,199	240,634	(+) 32.8
Saskatchewan ...	860	725	(-) 15.7	1,901	2,398	(+) 26.1
Alberta	87,330	146,314	(+) 67.5	96,447	173,059	(+) 79.4
British Columbia	35,384	83,054	(+)134.7	47,763	92,963	(+) 94.6

x Revised. / Preliminary.

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

Province	JANUARY TO MARCH					
	BUTTER			CHEESE		
	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)	1938	1939	More (+) Less (-)
	Lb.	Lb.	%	Lb.	Lb.	%
CANADA	26,140,661	29,083,932	(+) 11.3	1,961,940	4,090,543	(+) 108.5
Prince Edward Island	220,741	223,128	(+) 1.1	-	-	-
Nova Scotia	1,096,723	990,654	(-) 9.7	-	-	-
New Brunswick ..	279,641	290,638	(+) 3.9	-	-	-
Quebec	2,531,978	3,107,649	(+) 22.7	253,593	371,243	(+) 46.4
Ontario	12,551,925	13,946,973	(+) 11.1	917,443	2,410,445	(+) 162.7
Manitoba	3,092,714	3,377,149	(+) 9.2	397,207	572,027	(+) 44.0
Saskatchewan ...	1,833,331	2,092,429	(+) 14.1	3,631	3,613	(-) 0.5
Alberta	3,543,501	3,670,696	(+) 3.6	280,449	491,123	(+) 75.1
British Columbia	990,107	1,384,616	(+) 39.8	109,617	242,092	(+) 120.9

REVIEW OF THE PRODUCTION SITUATION

The weather was cold in the Eastern provinces during March, particularly in Ontario. Roads are still blocked with snow in many areas, and the heavy frost promises to have a detrimental effect on the tender clover plants. In the Western provinces the situation was reversed. A wave of warm weather swept across the country during the week ending March 18 which cleared most of the snow from fields and highways, and with the exception of the first ten days of quite cold weather the temperatures were somewhat above normal. A shortage of water is reported from the Peace River country, otherwise water supplies are quite ample. Sloughs and dug-outs are well filled, and although there has been little rain, soil moisture conditions are better than usual at this season.

The feed situation is satisfactory except in parts of northern and south-eastern Alberta, and in the Maritime provinces. Grains and roots are running low in the Maritimes, and in some parts of New Brunswick hay supplies have been reduced to the minimum. Taking the country as a whole, low grain prices have induced farmers to hold larger quantities on farms for feeding purposes; home grown feeds are being fed somewhat more liberally than in previous years, and smaller quantities of concentrated feed stuffs have been purchased. The relationship between feed costs and butter and cheese prices is less favourable to the farmer than was shown earlier in the winter. Butter prices showed a decline of 41 per cent at Montreal and Winnipeg at the end of March as compared with the same date of the previous year, while cheese prices at Montreal fell 30 per cent. Feeds, (oats, barley and bran) fell 29 per cent at Montreal and 38 per cent at Winnipeg.

The market for milch cows has not been quite as active as in the two previous years. Prices for grade cows ranged from \$50 to \$75 in Eastern provinces and from \$40 to \$60 in the Western provinces. The general attitude toward dairying is favourable. Freshenings this spring are expected to be slightly higher; the percentage of milking cows to total cows increased from 59 per cent in February 1938 to 62.8 per cent in February, 1939, and milk production per cow increased from 10.9 to 11.5 pounds per day. Butter-fat prices during March averaged 14 to 18 cents, depending on grade and locality. Despite declining feed supplies and the prolonged winter, it is probable that the April production will exceed that of April a year ago, with a considerable diversion of milk to cheese factories in Ontario and Quebec.

