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BUTTER IN CLATSOP

Another Industry Which Can Be Established Here.

Butter Can Be Packed in Tins and Shipped to Hot Countries--Views of a Practical Man.

The article below, received by Foard & Stokes Co. from a well known authority on butter making, is of special interest to Clatsop county farmers and dairymen, as it shows conclusively what minute care and attention must be given to this trade to insure proper success:

In regard to the question of packing butter in tins on the Pacific coast for export to Japan, China and India, I would say that the experiment might be well worth trying.

The first condition for success is that extra fine butter is or can be made on the coast. The dairy industry in, I believe, growing rapidly in Oregon and Washington, and, if it is not already possible to collect in Astoria sufficient fine butter for a packing establishment, the probability is that gradually there will be enough so that an industry of this kind started on a small scale would get plenty of material for a healthy development.

The situation of Astoria, with its facilities for shipping is favorable for such an undertaking, and another thing that would facilitate it is that tin cans can probably be made cheaply, and without establishing any new can factory, as such factories with the best machinery are already found there in connection with salmon packing establishments.

The industry of canning butter for export to hot climates was started in Denmark about thirty years ago by Mr. Rusk, Jr., and the great success he achieved was due mainly to his indefatigable energy and close attention to the smallest details. The Scandinavian preserved Butter Co. at that time only accepted sweet cream butter made according to the rules of the company, and shipped fresh twice a week from the farms to the packing establishment in Copenhagen. The reason why sour cream butter was not accepted was that in sweet cream the very least fault might be readily detected, while in sour cream butter the faults might be partly covered by the acid. It was not because sweet cream butter was always better, but because when such butter was found to be absolutely faultless it was safe to pack. Later butter made from ripened cream has been used with equal success.

As soon as the butter arrived in Copenhagen the tubs or firkins were placed in a large room where fresh air, and in which a temperature of 60 degrees was maintained by heating or cooling day and night. After standing there a few days, until the butter cooled and had attained the temperature of the room through the whole mass, it was removed from the tubs and sampled by experts. It was then carefully and strictly classified and only absolutely faultless sweet butter was selected as No. 1 and packed in tins for export to hot climates. For this No. 1 butter the dairyman obtained an over price, about 10 per cent over the highest market quotations. The balance of the butter, perhaps over one half of the entire receipts, was classified as Nos. 2 and 3 and packed in tubs and sold on commission as usual.

The No. 1 butter was resalted and worked once or twice, and it was then packed in tins from one to five pounds. It was pressed into the tins by means of a press like a hand printing press, a stamp fitting loosely in the tin can being pressed down upon the butter, which was first put into the can by means of hand butter ladies. The butter was pressed firmly into the can so as to prevent air holes and exclude all air. The cover was then put on and rapidly soldered on, care being taken not to melt the butter at the edges by the solder iron.

In this country butter has been put up in like manner, as for instance by Mr. Hintz, of the Elgin Butter Company, who I believe has furnished it to the navy and also exported it to Brazil.

Butterine has been and is probably yet put up in tins for the West India trade. I see no reason why an industry of this kind should not succeed in Astoria if it is started in the right way. It would, of course, be necessary to have such an establishment far from fish canneries, as the butter easily absorbs taint from any source, and would be apt to get a fishy flavor, if there was any chance for the wind to carry that flavor to it. I hardly need mention that it is necessary to have experts to classify butter, if the undertaking shall succeed, and if a reputation shall be worked up for the goods. It would no doubt be necessary to inaugurate a thorough education of the creamerymen, demanding of them that they make it strictly according to fixed rules and subject to the approval or correction of the experts or instructors of the packers.

But in order to ascertain if a market can be found for the product, it would probably be prudent to start on a small scale, which can easily be done. The only essential requirement being somebody who knows good butter when he sees it, and who understands thoroughly how to treat it. The mechanical and commercial part of the business your correspondents in Astoria will easily manage.

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