

The Butter Industry.

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING SEASON.

INTERVIEW WITH MR SPRAGG.

Mr Wesley Spragg, managing director of the New Zealand Dairy Association, has recently visited the southern portion of this island on business connected with his Company. On being interviewed on his return, Mr Spragg reported an early and very favourable season for dairy farmers, the weather south having been warm and suitable for the growth of spring vegetation. The output of dairy produce will, if the present conditions continue, be a record one. Farmers generally appear to be contented with the outlook. English market prospects are slightly improved, and this helps towards a sentiment of contentment.

What are the prospects with regard to prices?

Mr Spragg: The present value of land, especially in the Taranaki district, does not leave much margin for a reduction in the price of butter. A couple of fairly bad seasons would be felt seriously by farmers who are producing milk on this high-priced land, especially where, as is very often the case, the present "owners" are paying interest on heavy mortgages to the people who have mortgaged to them at boom prices. Comparing the Auckland province with "the Garden of New Zealand," I think that taking it all round Auckland is much the more prosperous and sounder place to live in.

Did you notice much progress in the dairy industry?

Well, as far as the manufacture of butter is concerned, the only advance of late years—say the last two or three years—has been in quantity, and practically no improvement has been made in quality. Of course this is a general statement, and applied to the general out-turn of the colony. This is my judgment upon what I saw, and I also found it to be the opinion of others who had had opportunities of judging.

What do you regard as the chief deficiency?

The fault is not difficult to locate. The Government has done something—perhaps a good deal—to improve the factory end of the business, and will possibly continue to instruct factory people to some minor advantage, but the radical fault is to be found in general carelessness in the production of milk. Improper feeding—that is, upon improper food—improper milking, under dirty and unclean conditions, and general dirt are the foes of the business. The evidences of all these were present in the samples of butter which I examined, and sometimes they spoke—that is, the evidences of these faults—in capital letters, leaded and underlined at that. I do not mean that Auckland has immunity from the troubles—it certainly has not—but Southern conditions intensify the evil.

What would you suggest should be done?

Mr Spragg: If it were practicable, I would turn Government inspectors and instructors loose upon milk suppliers, and give the factories a rest for a time. I do not mean that inspectors are not doing useful work in visiting factories, but the urgent need is for amendment at the beginning of the business, that is, at the milking-shed. No subsequent treatment will convert bad milk into good butter. If I had the direction of things I would, at least for a time, put every fraction of available Government assistance at the disposal of the farmers on their farms and at their milking-sheds. I should expect more results in the way of improved butter from such help than from any other application of it. Nothing else would produce any marked effect on butter quality. My own Company, and possibly others, have their own inspectors going round, but the work to be done is enormous, even as it is of the first importance. This year's prospects for dairy people are at least a good average, but with other countries making annual improvement in quality, New Zealand, with the finest natural advantages in the world for dairying, is going to be outclassed and left behind.

Mr Spragg added that he was not sanguine that the Government would lend a hand to instruct and supervise dairy farmers. The cost would be considerable, the work thankless and obscure, and naturally the Government will do

that which has the appearance of being something. But without doubt the important—indeed, the essential—thing is to supervise the milking-shed and secure reform at the first stage of the industry.

An Offensive Remark.

REGRETTABLE INCIDENT IN THE HOUSE.

WELLINGTON, October 31.

An unpleasant incident occurred in the House about six o'clock this morning during Mr Taylor's speech on the Licensing Bill. There were some sharp passages between Messrs. McLachlan and Rold. McKenzie who rapped some nasty personalities across the floor one at the other, the genesis being the contradiction by Mr McKenzie of a statement made by Mr McLachlan.

At the close of Mr Taylor's remarks Mr McKenzie rose to make strong personal references to Mr McLachlan, referring particularly to his nose, which is somewhat rubicund.

Mr McLachlan angrily retorted: "I never came into the Chamber with a dirty back eye."

Matters thereafter became very warm, and the Speaker called upon the members not to make personal remarks about each other. Mr McKenzie was continuing his references when Mr McLachlan shouted: "I never required female relatives to come crying to the House for me because I was drunk."

The Speaker called upon the member to withdraw. Mr McLachlan repeated the expression, and when again asked to withdraw, flatly refused.

The Speaker ruled the expression unparliamentary, and named the member for disobeying the ruling of the chair. He said he would leave to the ruling of the House as to whether anything more should be done.

The Premier regretted having to move: "That the member had been guilty of disorderly conduct."

The Speaker gave the member time to reconsider, but he refused, saying he was the custodian of his own honour. When given the opportunity to withdraw, Mr McLachlan began repeating the remark and when asked by several members to withdraw, emphatically refused, and saying he would take the penalty, retired from the Chamber.

The Premier then proposed the motion of censure, but withdrew in favour of a motion of regret, giving the member time to recant.

After a few minutes had passed Mr McLachlan returned to the Chamber, expressed deep regret at having disobeyed the ruling of the chair, and having walked off his temper, had cooled, and unreservedly withdrew and apologised. The incident then closed.

Bread Dearer.

MASTER BAKERS' SCHEME.

A SLIDING SCALE OF PRICES.

The members of the Auckland Master Bakers' Association, 70 in number, have decided to raise the price of bread by 1d on the 4lb or large loaf, and the increase comes into operation on Monday. The principal reason assigned for this step is the high price of flour, but the bakers urge also in justification of their case that practically everything they use has gone up in price within the last twelve months or so.

The position from the master bakers' point of view was explained to a "Star" reporter last week by Mr. M. E. McCarthy, of Wellington, the secretary of the United Master Bakers' Association. Mr McCarthy had been deputed by the Auckland branch of the association to put the facts before the public, so the interview may be taken as an official expression.

"I accepted the invitation of the Master Bakers' Association to remain behind after the Bakers' Conference," said Mr McCarthy, "to reorganise the bakers of Auckland. I found the trade in a demoralised state, bread selling as low as 2d to 3d the small loaf. Nothing less than 3d could pay the baker on the present price of flour, which is now ruling at from £10 5/ to £11 5/. My efforts at organisation have been completely successful, and we have now an

association in which is included every baker in the Auckland district, the total number of members being 69 or 70."

"We have had two meetings this week, and at the last we decided to confirm a resolution to raise the price of bread from November 1, to 7d the 4lb loaf. This means, taking the current average price, an increase of 1d on the large loaf and 3d on the small one."

"What are the reasons for the increase?" our reporter asked.

"The present price does not pay," replied Mr McCarthy decisively. "Wages are higher for bakers," he explained, "the materials used in manufacture are higher, horse flesh is dearer (affecting the price of delivery), and even horse feed is dearer than it was six or twelve months back. You know, the delivery of bread is more expensive in Auckland than in many Southern towns because of the hills. In Dunedin one cart can deliver 350 loaves per day, but in Auckland 200 is a very good average."

Mr McCarthy then made an explanation which shows that the bakers have agreed upon a kind of sliding scale to follow the fluctuations of the flour market with the price of the loaf.

"Hitherto," he said, "the price of bread has been regulated on the basis of the 2lb loaf, but in the future it will be on the 4lb loaf basis, the object being to enable the Auckland bakers to follow the fluctuations of the flour market more closely so that when flour drops £1 per ton they can at once give the public the benefit by a reduction of 3d per 4lb loaf. Under the present arrangement of the 2lb loaf basis the baker could not afford to drop 3d on the small loaf on a £1 reduction in flour, and the new scheme will make things much fairer for the public and save a lot of cutting. The "cutter" is an abomination in whatever trade he is, and we hope to minimise that difficulty. It is not in the interests of the community," Mr McCarthy concluded, "to support the 'cutter,' because he cannot pay 20/ in the £, and I appeal to the public to be fair and honest in the matter and assist the bakers in carrying out a scheme which will be fair to all parties."

PLAIN-SPOKEN DOCTORS

"MELBOURNE AGE" ON MEDICINE.

On Saturday the "Melbourne Age" had a sensible leader on "Doctors." Speaking of the great strides made by Medical Science, the "Age" showed how little



was known after all. "We give a medicine at random," says Sir Lauder Brunton, who was knighted for his know-

ledge, "with no defined idea of what it shall do, trusting to chance for good results." Sir William Broadbent, president of the College of Physicians, was nearly as candid when he remarked that too many medicines were given. And Sir John Forbes adds his testimony by saying, "In a very large proportion of diseases treated by doctors, the disease is cured by Nature, not by them."

The best doctors in New Zealand now admit these truths. They know the mistake of giving too many medicines. They have given up the old-fashioned idea that there must be a different medicine for each disease. Common diseases, they have learned, spring from one root—bad blood. They know that good, pure blood is the best cure for most ills, from paleness to paralysis, and from rickets to rheumatism. In nine cases out of ten the only medicine needed is one that makes new blood. This is admitted by the highest authorities in Europe, America, Australia and New Zealand—and Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people have just this power of actually making new blood. This new blood sweeps out poisonous impurities, braces the nerves, and carries healing, health and strength to every corner of the body. That is why these blood-building pills cure the very worst cases of anaemia, indigestion, biliousness, headaches, backaches, lumbago, sciatica, neuralgia, hysteria and the secret ailments of women. There is no mystery in their action. Dr. Williams' pink pills simply make new, pure, rich, red blood, and then, as Sir John Forbes says, Nature can cure disease without further aid.

Here is a case in point, right in New Zealand. Mr. James Kelly, Collingwood, says Dr. Williams' pink pills cured his rheumatism positively and permanently. They did this because they made new blood, which swept out of his system all the rheumatic acid that had crippled him with paralyzing pain. They didn't try to touch the pain direct, like liniments and doctor's medicines—but they set the blood right, and then nature soon stopped the pain. "For fourteen years," says Mr. Kelly, "the muscles of my arms were drawn up in knots. I couldn't lift my hand above my head, even to put on my hat. And my legs were nearly as bad. In fact, I hadn't a muscle, nerve or joint that didn't ache for it all it was worth with rheumatism. I tried liniments, and nearly took my skin off with turpentine—but that didn't touch the root of my suffering. At last I read in the "Wellington Post" how men and women in the Auckland, New Plymouth, Hawke's Bay, Canterbury and Otago districts thanked Dr. Williams' pink pills for curing them of rheumatism, neuralgia, headaches and backaches, after everything else had failed. I got some as quick as I could, and the first box started to fix me up. I kept right on till they drove out every drop of the painful poison and left me without an aching muscle or a stiff joint. Now I feel like a two-year-old. When people marvel at my activity and remark on my healthy look, I just give them the wrinkle for making new, pure, rich, red blood."

Mr. Kelly's case is just an illustration of what Sir Lauder Brunton, Sir William Broadbent and Sir John Forbes said about the uselessness of ordinary medicines.

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