

have to make, although a true one, that in many instances the benefits derived from these places are being nullified by the treatment received by the cheese before finally leaving the Dominion.

The defects in the present arrangements, as outlined above, are most harmful to the industry, and steps should be taken immediately to alter the existing condition of affairs. Cheese is frequently loaded on to the oversea steamers in an unsatisfactory state owing to the want of proper cool-storage accommodation, and such produce must be some distance on the voyage before this unwanted heat becomes extracted. The time has come when all cheese shipped from the Dominion should be handled in exactly the same way as butter intended for export—that is to say, it should be in a proper cool store for at least four clear days prior to shipment, while all cheese from coastal ports should be carried in steamers having mechanically cooled chambers.

The question of proper cool storage and better transport arrangements for cheese is without doubt a most pressing one; in fact, the existing lack in this connection is by far the weakest point in the industry to-day. The matter is one which calls for the attention of every cheese-making dairy company and cheese-factory proprietor in the Dominion, and it will require united action to bring about the improvements needed.

Damage to cheese of the nature mentioned above affects the Dominion as a whole; and now that New Zealand is one of the leading cheese-exporting countries of the world, the matter cannot be ignored without heavy and continued loss to the producers of this Dominion.

Yours faithfully,

D. CUDDIE,

Director of Dairy-produce Division.

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SANDON RYE-GRASS.—It is satisfactory to know that Sandon rye-grass of this season is of first-grade quality, both as regards bushel weight and germination. Sandon rye-grass can once again take its place among the best types of rye-grass produced in New Zealand. Farmers are particularly warned in buying Sandon rye-grass to insist on having 1913 seed. There is almost certain to be a considerable quantity of 1912 seed held over, much of which, owing to unfavourable harvest conditions, is of such an inferior nature that its use even at a cheap rate is an expensive proposition.—*A. H. Cockayne.*

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While the imports of beef for the past year into Great Britain show a large increase, those of mutton are less. The total quantity of mutton imported was 5,021,529 cwt., against 5,330,070 cwt. in 1911, and 5,405,923 cwt. in 1910. Moreover, the Argentine, which has taken such an enormous lead in the supply of beef, has sent less mutton, her contribution having been 1,580,200 cwt., against 1,782,066 cwt. in 1911. The largest quantity has come from New Zealand, which shipped 2,165,433 cwt., against 1,981,467 cwt. Australia, on the other hand, sent 977,068 cwt., against 1,291,696 cwt.