

GRADING OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

It is now over twenty-five years since the compulsory grading of butter and cheese was commenced in New Zealand, which was the first country to introduce the system, and it has been continued without interruption to date. The grading from year to year is now more or less of a routine nature, and calls for little comment in this report. It is sufficient to say that the past year's work has been conducted on a similar basis to that in vogue in former years. Consignments of butter and cheese reaching the cool stores have in all cases been promptly handled, graded, and stamped with the corresponding official mark in readiness for export at the first opportunity. The grading-stores have been frequently visited during the season by dairy-factory managers, who have been given the opportunity of examining the produce from their own and other factories then being graded. Several grading conferences were held in the North Island during the year, and with two exceptions were well attended by members of the New Zealand Dairy Factory Managers' Association. At these conferences a large quantity of cheese and butter in store was carefully examined by the members of the association and officers of the Division. Some valuable discussions on the quality and packing of the produce took place, which was evidently appreciated by those in attendance.

Table showing the Grading-points scored by the Butter and Cheese graded throughout New Zealand for the Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Grading-points.	Butter.		Cheese.	
	Number of Boxes.	Percentage of Total.	Number of Crates.	Percentage of Total.
75	39	0.0060	..	..
77	44	0.0067	..	..
78	7	0.0001	118	0.0133
78½	56	0.0086	8	0.0009
79	74	0.0114	132	0.0155
80½	62	0.0095	..	..
81	108	0.0166	103	0.0121
81½	95	0.0014	..	..
82	565	0.0872	573	0.0673
82½	78	0.0012	149	0.0175
83	554	0.0855	268	0.0315
83½	1,384	0.2136	721	0.0847
84	2,466	0.3806	2,279	0.2679
84½	3,039	0.4690	4,210	0.4949
85	5,381	0.8305	8,219	0.9662
85½	6,766	1.0443	11,541	1.3568
86	9,770	1.5081	21,606	2.5400
86½	5,374	0.8294	11,477	1.3492
88	5,187	0.8006	31,860	3.7456
88½	17,069	2.6346	3,259	4.2627
89	30,717	4.7411	77,172	9.0726
89½	30,734	4.7438	97,915	11.5113
90	43,031	6.6418	125,975	14.8101
90½	61,600	9.5079	110,643	13.0076
91	74,427	11.4887	98,916	11.6289
91½	77,754	12.0013	77,722	9.1373
92	84,135	12.9862	67,380	7.9214
92½	59,808	9.2313	32,493	3.8200
93	40,946	6.3200	20,398	2.3980
93½	30,747	4.7458	9,618	1.1307
94	27,258	4.2072	2,631	0.3092
94½	12,623	1.9483	212	0.0249
95	10,579	1.6328	..	..
95½	4,683	0.7228	..	..
96	554	0.0855	..	..
96½	162	0.0250	..	..

CREAM-GRADING.

Up to the present time the grading of cream and the payment for same according to grade has not extended beyond the butter-factories located in the Province of Auckland, but as this is the principal butter-producing district in the Dominion it is encouraging to find that the value of the system is being realized more and more as it becomes better understood by farmers and factorymen. Where the grading of cream has been adopted, and payment arranged on a scale which provides for a reduction in the price for cream below the standard of first grade and a premium for that which is superfine (scoring 92 points and over), there has been a noticeable improvement in the supply, with a corresponding improvement in the quality of the butter made therefrom. It has now been clearly demonstrated that the grading of cream is a practical means of uplifting the quality and value of this product. What is now required is an application of the same method of grading in other districts where cream is at present being accepted at the factories at a uniform price irrespective of its condition and comparative value at the time of delivery.