

THE DEMAND FOR EMPIRE BUTTER.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

Import of Butter.

The import of butter into the United Kingdom in 1929 was about 6½ million cwts. ; according to the last official estimate in 1925, home production was about 850 thousand cwts.

The chief sources of imports in 1929 were as follows:—

New Zealand	20 per cent.
Australia	12 „
Irish Free State	9 „
Other Empire	1 „
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Total Empire Countries	42 „
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Denmark	34 per cent.
Other European	19 „
Argentina	5 „
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Total Foreign Countries	58 „
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The most notable development of the import trade during this century has been the rapid growth in the quantities arriving from New Zealand. Supplies from Australia have also increased considerably. Canada on the other hand has practically ceased to export butter to this country. South Africa has lately begun to export small quantities, about 12 thousand cwts. being received in 1929. The total import of butter in 1929 was nearly 2½ million cwts. above the average for the years 1909–13 ; over three-quarters of this rise was accounted for by Empire butters, and nearly half by imports from New Zealand.

The seasonal nature of the trade with oversea Empire countries is illustrated in Figure II, which shows the average monthly imports of butter for the five years 1925–29.

In 1929, 74 per cent. of the import of butter from the Irish Free State arrived in the five months June–October, whereas in these months 17 per cent. of the New Zealand and Australian imports were