

## Milk Testing (for butterfat)

a better world is quite a pleasant thing to think about

a circle completes itself

*a divided community that cannot agree to keep the churn in the local creamery revolving*

a glance under each wrapper

*a large proportion went to distant colonial markets*

*a practical and effective institution through which a New Ireland would emerge*

*always found at a great depth in old, solid bogs*

an artefact of EU dairy policy

another air-pocket in the dairy story

as much future as we can plan for

*assembly of substantial stocks of butter by dairymasters*

beholding host to guest

Black Swan & Golden Valley

*bog violet or butterworth*

*butter buyers were men of modest means*

*calves, summer milk & butter*

carotenated salted milkfat

change in the technology of butter-making brought new words

*cheese consumption dropped away*

*churning is a native term*

*a butter draughtboard & men*

*a compression of fresh curds*

*a factory run by highly qualified technocrats & managers*

a land of self-sufficient peasants working for mutual advancement

a pleasant thing to think about

*a story both of cooperation & non-cooperation*

*among the better circumstanced*

*an overproliferation of creameries, leading to 'milk wars'*

*as "creamery" & "co-operative" have gradually become almost synonymous terms*

*as part of a year-long contract*

attention to the cracks political & parochial

betrays us on the market weighing-scales

boats full of butter for armies overseas

*brought to the verge of famine*

*butter roads in Cork, Kerry, Limerick & Tipperary vital conduits*

*cared little for Utopian visions*

carrot works to build the colour

*charged with volatile substance*

cheese has entirely ceded to butter

compact, friable & good for burning

*consisted of milking cows*

creameries of south Limerick

curdled milk, stringy enough to chew on

*delineating a new variant of cooperative organisation*

Don't cook with Kerrygold™

*engaged in a continuing struggle*

EU Butter Mountain

*exacerbated by a number of militant industrial actions at the firm's premises*

extraordinary break

*famine as a new weapon*

fanatical & sometimes downright impossible

*feed on milk, butter, curds, whey*

*fluid terminology*

*for the purpose of security*

*fossilised character*

*gallant efforts & substantial expenditures*

*generation of more income for the rural community*

grow up hollow-eyed on skim-milk & stirabout

*highly seasonal milk production*

hunger becomes a weapon

*concentration of supplies*

could have strengthened social links

*create sustainable employment for the rural population*

*dairying had become the dominant practice*

describes another ethos

*economic degradation*

*enormous advantage in international markets*

every kind of source of every age

*exigencies in word choice*

*failure to cope with mounting international competition*

*famous as a judge of butter*

*farmers were openly hostile to what they perceived as dangerous communist agitation*

filling our quiet parishes

*food to be given to youths*

formed in abstract dealings

fostering of sustainable native industry

*gathering the butter grains*

generosity & hope spurring him to lay foundations for a rural civilisation

higher fat content had the effect of increasing the butterfat adjustment

hunched at the churn when they still made butter at home

*important opportunities in terms of international butter markets*

*inspectors assessed the smell of butter by running the bore along their nose*  
*it has preserved in great measure the social fabric of the countryside*  
keep us warm in winter & fed for the year  
laced with salt & laid away in firkins  
*left the market dependent on marginal land      small dispersed dairy farms*  
*little or none was made or eaten*  
lower levels of EU dairy market support  
marvel at the many ways their yield is eaten  
*meaning soft, tender & smooth*  
milk in stages of sourness needing chewing  
mired already in discord & poor management  
*most plucky pioneering of the movement to make butter by modern methods*  
*mystery of butter-making*  
*no reference in literature*  
*not a morsel of butter*  
of a possible shared world  
*only very lightly salted*  
our day up here in the dusty eaves is so much longer  
*perfume of fine cream butter*  
providing backing & a cut-stone building  
*provisions for the use of                      his majesty's forces in North America*

*instilling characteristics of dignity & self-reliance*  
*its votive deposition*  
Knocklong Creamery Soviet: we make butter, not profits  
*launched a campaign to cut off milk supplies to the soviets*  
*limited composition*  
losing heavily for want of a creamery  
*many soviet creameries were hit with a farmers' boycott*  
*mass of this bog butter or tallow*  
*merely legal terms for milk*  
minding this herd of thirty cattle  
mistresses of volatile substances flowering from the churn  
mysteries of origin, implement, ritual & purpose  
neat stone building with one squat red separator operating all day  
*no tradition of mutual support & interdependence*  
noting their poetic deployment in similes  
*of infrangible substance*  
our creamery was burned to the ground by Black & Tans  
*over-simplified existence*  
*perhaps without parallel in the annals of Irish industrial history*  
*provision of a high taste*  
pure pragmatism calling for plain talking

put their faith & savings in common

really choicest butter

renew its rural heartland

*responsible for the resistance to change that bedevilled the exchange*

*rules of versification*

scowls if we chat above a whisper

separators slowed & stopped

*slow response to technological advances*

*soup & sandwiches from the factory canteen*

*spears of old butter*

*stirring in a tub with a stick*

*stripped the farmer of profits he might otherwise hold*

*the blockade was regarded at the time as a defining moment*

the edge of our capacity for cooperation

the labour of us dairygirls & women

the only unbroken thread

the taste & texture of a whale-wax

there is no visible end to the chain of boxes

they inject it into small round tins & ship it off to Canada or Manchester

thick with milk in all forms

*threats arising from its*

*slow response to changes*

*quite abnormal truncation*

*remarkable change exhibited by all the specimens*

*reorganise the agrarian economy along mutualist lines*

rules for sound-patterning may over-ride dairy science

scant purchase on this soil

sealed in tins & double-salted for long travel in the heat

shallow tubs of slowly curdling milk

*small farmers found a ready market beyond the farm*

*southern farmers set the milk*

starve the rebels to ground

*strengthening nationalist conservatism that had very distinct ideas about what 'freedom' was*

sunken spells & herbal alchemy

*the cooperative movement in this country failed to emphasise the social aspects*

the grass we tend yields milk

*the oldest incantation*

the ownership structure of some parts of the processing sector may militate

*the vapours of bad feeding*

*there seemed to be a kind of suspicion of the cooperative movement*

*they were looking to the government or the council*

this threadbare diet subsisted

time pleats & then extends

*tinned butter was used*

*on ships & in warm climates*

too soft to build a future on

*unless it had been publicly inspected*

*marked & branded*

unrestricted access to intervention for butter

*volatile substances*

*washing out the buttermilk*

*we forbid our members to supply under the red flag of anarchy & revolution*

we live within the limits

we make nothing & half their daily rate

*whether the bogs have grown over them*

*too salty for British consumers*

uniformly sweet, salted & yellow

*unless the economics of the situation is put right first*

*vast proportion of cattle*

*voluntarily adopted*

*a code of regulations*

weak growth in the demand for dairy commodities

we held the line & won ourselves a raise & two weeks holiday

we loved to hear of milk wars

white hat lifting off behind me to float back up to my sisters

*yellow-skinned cream protect thee*