

"It may be some time, officials stated, before operation of the program effects a more even flow of meat supplies, but without it, they said, there would be very little for some areas. It is inevitable that those deficit areas still will feel the pinch of the shortage, it was announced."

Why is it that the United States has meat rationing, and Canada has not? Here again the answer to the question requires that one step back and look at the broad picture. The military, munitions, production, transport and feed resources of the United Nations are controlled by a number of organizations meeting in London and Washington known as the "Combined Boards." These Boards do not operate separately. The grand strategy of the Allies is laid down by the Combined Chiefs of Staff organization, and the other Combined Boards work together to implement this strategy. The activities of all the Boards are integrated so as to bring to bear against the enemy the maximum strength of the Allies. Canada is a member of two of these boards -- the Combined Production and Resources Board and the Combined Food Board. The other members are the United States and the United Kingdom. Besides these there are several other Boards-- Combined Chiefs of Staff, Combined Munitions Assignment Board, Combined Raw Materials Board, Combined Shipping Adjustments Board.

Canada introduced meat rationing on May 27, 1943. (U.S. meat rationing was introduced March 29, 1943.) Canada has always produced more than enough meat for domestic consumption but the rationing was begun to provide an increased exportable surplus to meet the needs of the United Kingdom and Canadian forces overseas. And besides introducing control measures, the Canadian government carried out a vigorous campaign to increase meat production. Bonuses were offered through various means. Farmers in the great wheat-producing provinces of the Canadian west were encouraged to grow coarse grains -- livestock feed -- instead of their traditional wheat. Canadian farmers were told of the urgent need for meat in the United Kingdom. And they cooperated to such an extent that at the end of February, 1944 there were 102,000,000 pounds of meat in cold storage in Canada -- nearly twice as much as at the end of February, 1943.

Record quantities of meat were proceeding overseas, but even so, there was not enough shipping available to take care of the meat being produced. As we pointed out above, Canada is allocated shipping through the Combined Shipping and Adjustment Board in Washington, and in the allocation of such shipping the other needs of the Allied war effort had to be weighed. This was in February, 1944. The buildup of supplies before D-day was in progress. There were many demands on the Allied shipping pool.

That was the situation in February, 1944, when Canadian meat rationing was temporarily suspended. There was no shipping available. Cold Storage facilities could hold no more meat. There was obviously nothing to do but to suspend the rationing. But it should be well noted that the Canadian ration was only suspended temporarily. The Canadian government has always emphasized that the rationing of meat has not been abandoned, and may be resumed when it is considered helpful to the cause of the United Nations. At the time that the rationing was discontinued, Mr. D.C. Abbott, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance told the House of Commons (February 29, 1944):

". . . it has been decided to suspend meat rationing, including meatless Tuesdays, until the congestion in both storage and