

EUROPEAN LIVE STOCK AT LOW LEVEL. VAST FIELD FOR CANADIAN RE-STOCKING EFFORT.

Sir William Goode of the British Ministry of Food, has cabled the Food Board an after-the-armistice statement of the live stock in the chief European countries, which is of the utmost significance to Canadian farmers. He says:

"There is throughout Europe a serious deterioration in the numbers of live stock. The Allied and neutral home-produced meat supplies cannot improve for several months, hence an insistent demand for overseas supplies will be inevitable. The meat situation in Germany, and especially in Austria-Hungary, is considerably more difficult than we had anticipated, thus further increasing the call upon exportable surpluses to the limit of our transport capacity.

"Owing to the universal reduction of pigs, the world production of bacon, hams, pork and lard at present is unequal to the demands, including those of the United Kingdom, which have always been by far the largest consumer of pig products.

"The milk yield in general is greatly diminished, in fact, almost to a vanishing point in Central Europe. Holland, Switzerland and Scandinavia, which are normally large exporters of dairy products, will probably not have any considerable surplus for the United Kingdom, which will thus be practically dependent on imported fats entirely from the Dominion of Canada and the United States."

Decreases shown by the returns of the Inter-Allied Food Commission are:—

Country.	CATTLE.	DECREASE.
France...	14,787,600	2,366,000
Italy...	6,646,000	996,000
Denmark...	2,462,800	344,700
Sweden...	2,722,500	598,900
Holland...	2,096,500
Germany...	21,828,000	2,182,800
Austria...	9,160,000
Hungary...	6,028,000
	Sheep.	
United Kingdom...	27,886,000	2,788,600
France...	16,131,000	2,258,300
Italy...	13,824,000	138,000
Denmark...	514,000	46,200
Sweden...	973,400
Holland...	842,000	199,900
Germany...	5,471,000
Austria...	2,428,000
Hungary...	7,696,000
	Pigs.	
United Kingdom...	3,939,000	984,200
France...	7,035,000	2,814,000
Italy...	2,722,000	353,800
Denmark...	2,496,700	1,872,300
Sweden...	977,600	351,900
Holland...	1,350,000	162,000
Germany...	25,341,000	19,305,750
Austria...	6,432,000
Hungary...	6,415,000

Date.	CANADA.		
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
June, 1914....	6,036,800	2,058,000	3,434,000
" 1917.....	7,920,800	2,369,000	3,619,000

In a memorandum recently published by the British Director General of Food Production, a number of points were made for the guidance of British farmers for the harvests of 1919 and 1920 which will be of much interest and equal value to Canadian farmers who desire to know what policy is being followed in Great Britain for the crops for the next two years, and more especially for replacing the large slaughter of livestock. The points were as follows:—

"During the continuance of war the most important agricultural products are—

(1) Bread grain; (2) potatoes; (3) milk.

Next in order come—

(4) Bacon; (5) beef; (6) mutton.

Production of pig meat in the United States will supply all the bacon and ham required for some months to come. On the other hand it is likely that supplies of beef and mutton will be deficient in the spring months. But policy must not be guided by the outlook of the moment; they are preparing for the harvests of 1919 and 1920, and before these harvests have been gathered, the food position may have undergone important changes.

The policy of the Food Production Department is essentially an insurance policy. The task is to guard against calamity, not to provide for minor shortages.

The whole success of our present system of food supply would be endangered if there were such a shortage of breadstuffs as would make bread rationing necessary.

Potatoes.—Up to the limit of the present acreage, potatoes will be required to ensure an adequate supply for ordinary use.

Milk.—Efforts are necessary to maintain the present production of milk.

Pork and Bacon.—As a deficiency in pork and bacon would be worse than a deficiency in beef and mutton, since fat meat is more needed than lean meat, executive committees should endeavour to secure an increase in pig-keeping to the utmost limit permitted by the food available, especially on farms where potatoes are grown.

Beef and Mutton.—As meat is a food always in keen demand when money is plentiful, the supply will not meet the demand; but it must be remembered that the production of beef and mutton requires much more land than the production of breadstuffs.