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Food Controller Quotes Authoritative Figures in Comparison.

That food prices in Canada were lower than in the United States except in four minor instances and lower than in Great Britain despite frequent irresponsible statements to the contrary, was the emphatic announcement of Hon. W. J. Hanna, Food Controller, addressing the May Court Club in the city of Ottawa on December 4. Mr. Hanna also startled his hearers by announcing that the United States has not a bushel of wheat for export over and above normal consumption requirements.

"Why is Canadian bacon cheaper in Great Britain than in Canada?" asked Mr. Hanna. "It is for this reason, and this reason only: it is because it isn't! That is to say, bacon is not cheaper in Great Britain. It costs more in England than in Canada by the amount of the cost of the transportation from this country to Great Britain."

He quoted average figures from the National Food Bulletin, issued by Lord Rhondda, Britain's Food Controller, as follows:

	Canadian	British	Difference.
Milk...	10½	14	35½ p.c.
Eggs...	51	85	66½ p.c.
Bacon...	42	57	36 p.c.
Round steak...	28½	52½	85 p.c.
Oatmeal...	6½	10	54 p.c.

Similarly he quoted a large number of prices of leading commodities to show that the assertion that food costs consumers more in Canada than in the United States was absolutely wrong.

The figures are average prices for October, 1917:

	Canadian	American	Difference.
Potatoes...	1.74	2.71	56 p.c.
Bread...	.07	.11	57 p.c.
Bacon...	.43	.48	12 p.c.
Beef...	.29	.30	5 p.c.
Butter...	.50	.51	2 p.c.
Rolled Oats...	.07	.09	28 p.c.
Rice...	.09	.11	21 p.c.
Fish...	.18	.23	27 p.c.
Cheese...	.30	.35	16 p.c.
Milk...	.11	.12	9 p.c.

In four cases were American foods prices lower, namely:

	Canadian	American
Lard...	.32	.31
Sugar...	.11	.10
Eggs...	.54	.49
Coffee...	.40	.31

"It may startle you," said Mr. Hanna, "if I tell you there is not to-day in

the United States one bushel of exportable wheat, allowing for a normal consumption. Between now and next harvest it will be necessary to deliver on the other side of the Atlantic 450,000,000 to 500,000,000 bushels of wheat. The amount of wheat in the United States is only 500,000,000 bushels, which is no more than the 100,000,000 people of the United States would eat before the next harvest. Mr. Hoover has set himself to save 100,000,000 bushels out of normal consumption. That means a saving for every man, woman and child of one-fifth the amount of flour he or she usually consumes.

"In Canada, we have to-day from 100,000,000 to 110,000,000 bushels of exportable wheat. If the United States can save twenty per cent and we can save twenty per cent, it will leave about 220,000,000 bushels to send across to our armies and our Allies. It is important that 220,000,000 bushels get across the Atlantic within the next four or five months. It is unlikely that Argentine wheat will find its way across until the new ships building in the United States are ready, and so the people of the United States and Canada are asked to liberate one-fifth of their normal supply of wheat or flour."

SOLDIERS MUST BE FED.

Mr. Hanna Says the Situation is Desperate—Plain Talk Needed.

The New York Herald published recently an interview with Hon. Mr. Hanna, in the course of which the Food Controller for Canada stated that unless every village, city and person in both the United States and this country practised strict economy for the next three months, the Allies and soldiers in France would suffer from want of wheat.

"The men who take advantage of the present shortage should be pilloried by the press," Mr. Hanna declared.

"The situation as to food is desperate and calls for plain talk. Tell the people the true state of affairs and they will respond, I feel sure. The facts of this situation call for the conservation of wheat, beef, bacon, fats—conservation to the limit. It is not so much the question of the price of food, as that food shall go forward to save the men at the front.

"The men at the front are dependent on the United States and Canada to feed them. They must be fed regardless of the cost to the people here."