

CANADA CANNOT HELP UNITED STATES

Washington is Grappling With High Meat Prices and Finds Beef Cattle Decreasing Here

The meat supply of the United States is dealt with in a bulletin just issued by the United States department of agriculture. No relief can be seen through shipments from Canada. One proposal to relieve the situation is the establishment of public abattoirs and the sale of meats through public markets. Mr. J. Pickens, of the United States bureau of animal industry, summarizes the position as follows:—

"The high cost of meat is a serious reality, and it is now obvious that the rise in prices in recent years is the natural result of an actual shortage in production. These conditions are reflected in the per capita consumption of meat in the United States, which is estimated to have fallen off ten pounds in four years, or from 162 pounds in 1909 to 152 pounds in the fiscal year 1913. It is evident that the country is facing an era of short production of meat, and that some constructive means must be adopted if the American appetite for this class of food is to be supplied.

Meat Cattle Declining.

"In the last six years the number of beef cattle in the country has apparently fallen off over 30 per cent., while the population has, of course, increased. According to estimates of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture, the beef cattle in the country on January 1, 1907, numbered 51,566,000, and at the beginning of the present year the number was only 36,030,000. Meanwhile the number of dairy cows has remained practically stationary.

"The slaughter of beef under Government inspectors, which covers more than half of the total slaughter of the country, shows a steady falling off since 1910, the total decline amounting to over 800,000 carcasses, equivalent to about 450,000,000 pounds of dressed beef. Applying the ratio of federally inspected slaughter to total slaughter, according to the census figures for 1909, this means a falling off of 1,419,000 cattle, or approximately 780,000,000 pounds of beef in the entire slaughter of the country from 1910 to 1913.

"While future imports may afford some measure of relief, too much reliance should not be placed on this source of supply. A study of the statistical situation in other countries does not disclose where we are likely to obtain any large quantity of beef for an extended period. Besides Canada and Mexico, the sources of imports are practically limited to South America, especially Argentina, and Australia.

No Help From Canada.

"Canada and Mexico do not at present give promise of substantial assistance. The number of beef cattle in Canada is only about one-ninth of that in the United States, and shows a steady decrease, amounting to over 11 per cent. in the last five years. Argentina and Australia are already supplying most of the British imports and have been called on to make up the loss in supply formerly furnished by the United States. Argentina is a large producer and exporter of beef, but has apparently reached the limit of its present cattle resources. The number of cattle in that country showed a decrease at the last census, 1911, as compared with the preceding one, 1908.

"The report from Buenos Ayres that 7,262,000 cattle were killed in 1912 out of a total stock of 29,000,000 indicates that Argentina is drawing on its reserve.

"In view of the present meat situation at home and abroad, it is unlikely that our cattle raisers will have much to fear from foreign beef."

Hops in the Small Farmer.

The department in its bulletin says that the chief hope for a solution of the problem lies in the small farmer again turning to the raising of stock as he did before the packing-house with its artificial refrigeration put an end to local butchering. But before the farmer will undertake to raise more stock he must be assured of a local market. The department recommends for the present co-operation among farmers in different communities so that they may raise the same kind of animals and ship them to a central market in carload lots.

All previous grain handling weekly records were beaten during week ended October 4th, at Fort William. Over 8,000 cars of grain amounting to about 11,000,000 bushels were emptied into the bins of the different elevators. Vessel shipments for the week kept pace with the receipts and according to figures, between 10,000,000 and 12,000,000 bushels were shipped east via the lake and rail route. The capacity of the elevators is over 42,000,000 bushels and at the present time there is not quite 15,000,000 bushels of grain in storage.

UNITED STATES TRADE BALANCE

It Would Have a Different Complexion, but for Canada, Says James J. Hill

According to the prediction of Mr. James J. Hill, it is a question of only a few years when Canada will become the best customer of the United States. Mr. Hill, who was born in Canada, addressed the bankers' convention at Boston last week. He discussed the trade balance of the United States, showing what a prominent factor Canada is in that balance, and emphasized the necessity for more agricultural production.

"In the modern era," he said, "manufacturing became the main sources of fortune; and on its raw material, products and plants a greatly expanded credit system was established. Governments have not yet freed themselves from the delusion that this is the cornerstone of wealth production. But those who investigate know better—that agriculture, as the ultimate source of wealth, should be the especial care of those interested in maintaining the credit system.

"Campaign should be waged along this line because national developments follow a curve that moves toward future disaster. No country ever yet put all its eggs in one basket by fostering one industry at expense of others and escaped the penalty.

To Interpret the Lesson.

"Total exports the the last fiscal year were \$2,466,000,000, having almost doubled in ten years. Manufacturers' materials increased from \$409,000,000 to \$731,000,000; manufactured articles from \$468,000,000 to \$1,187,000,000; but foodstuffs, which were \$510,000,000 in 1903, were \$502,000,000 in 1913. Translated into pounds the deficit would be much greater.

"It is not difficult to interpret the lesson. The number of mouths to be fed increases progressively. In a few years we may be buying food abroad. The industrial features which we boast are bound to make most of living higher. Exhausting our natural resources means future scarcity and industrial decline.

"We may hereafter buy, not only bread, but steel manufactures abroad. What then, will support a top-heavy industry and pay our debts? Would it not be better to quit hurrahing over the rise in exports while we rearrange our industrial system?

"Sound policy advises to increase the number engaged in farming, to educate them and to increase production. So far as the banker can assist by granting agricultural credits and conditioning loans on right methods, he will safeguard his own interests while helping to build up the country.

Canada and United States Trade Balance.

"We exult in a balance of trade exceeding \$650,000,000. But we do not analyze. Our eyes look east or south, and we refuse to understand the advantages already ours, and that we might enjoy if we had looked north instead.

"Our trade with Canada in the last fiscal year was nearly \$536,000,000, in ten years an increase of over 200 per cent. For 1913 over 1912 it increased 22.3 per cent.

"Our balance of trade in 1913 amounted to \$653,000,000. Canada contributed \$294,688,000, or 45 per cent. We spare no expense to drum up trade south of us. We have spent many millions on the Panama Canal. Our balance of trade last year with all North and South America was \$183,869,000. If we leave Canada out, it shows a balance against us of \$110,000,000, mainly to pay for coffee. It is not difficult to decide what is the most valuable trade to us in the western world."

SWISS TRADE WITH CANADA

The Swiss imports from Canada in 1911, consisting almost entirely of wheat, were valued at £474,500, an increase of £140,200 as compared with 1910. The imports of Canadian wheat rose from £46,000 in 1908 to £194,000 in 1909, to £310,400 in 1910, and to £460,500 in 1911.

The principal Swiss exports to Canada in 1911 were as follows:—

Cotton, silk, woolen and straw textures	£455,400
Embroidered goods	328,200
Watches	79,600
Chocolate	20,500
Food products	22,800
Coloring materials and chemicals	14,600
Machinery	40,600