

to adjust itself to the changed conditions.—e.g. higher priced land, the necessity for competing with other industries which stand ready to pay stronger prices for feed used for cattle raising, increased cost of labor, increased hazard from disease, such as tuberculosis and contagious abortion; decrease per capita consumption of meat and increased difficulty of securing a cheap and adequate supply of feeding cattle.

It will be apparent from the foregoing that prices for all live stock were almost bound to increase and that we were on the eve of a revival in prices of beef cattle. The war coming at the time it did had the effect of stimulating the price.

In addition to the conditions stated above, as tending to increase and hold the price of beef cattle, we must also consider what effect the readjustment of trade relations with the European Countries will have on the subsequent prices of beef to the Canadian farmer. Great Britain has arranged to furnish France with 20,000 tons of frozen meat per month, and Italy with 100,000 tons per year, as long as the war continues. France is fast learning that frozen beef can be used to advantage for her armies and provided Canada can supply this demand, there is no reason why a permanent market in this commodity cannot be established with France. It is estimated that fully one-fifth of the herds of France have been depleted, being utilized in the early stages of the war to supply the demands of the army. The probability is that France will be in a position to take large numbers of Canadian cattle to stock the pastures of Normandy and Brittany to be finished for home consumption. From the report of the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa, Canadian cattle will be preferred on account

of the prevailing feeling against cattle from other countries due to prevalence of bovine diseases.

The trade in canned meats has been greatly increased and only recently the Department of Militia and Defence is reported to have placed in Canada enormous orders for over seas.

It will be noted that any outlet we may hope for our cattle in Europe, as the situation stands at present, will be with France rather than with the United Kingdoms, and a market for canned meats and feeding cattle is not the most desirable from the point of view of the Canadian cattle feeder. According to latest reports, Canadian beef does not find favor with the British consumer as compared with that from the other colonies, or the United States. The quality is lacking, and what is further against us is that Argentine, Australia and New Zealand can produce beef, both on the farms and in the packing houses, more economically than Canada.

To the farmer engaged in the production of beef there seems no question in regard to a permanent market and good prices for anything he may have to offer, even if the war should be over soon and conditions in Europe become normal again. Probably the outstanding feature as it affects the production of beef in this country is, that we must improve our methods of feeding and breeding before we can successfully compete with other meat producing countries in the better class of trade with Great Britain. If the conclusions of this article are right, the public must reconstruct its point of view with references to prices of meat. We need not look forward to an era of cheap meat, this is only possible where cheap land and labor are available. From this viewpoint the policy of the Canadian farmer should be to