

HAS PUBLICLY BOUGHT SUPPLIES VALUED AT OVER 200 MILLIONS

War Purchasing Commission Issues Report which Shows Scope and Value of Work.

FAIR DEALING

In the third report of the War Purchasing Committee, recently issued, the value and number of purchases is shown, as follows:—

VALUE AND NUMBER OF PURCHASES.

"The Commission has been in existence nearly four years, and during that time has supervised purchases and contracts aggregating upwards of two hundred million dollars. On page ix is given a summary showing approximately the value of purchases authorized by the Commission during the past year for the different departments of the Government, but, in addition to contracts included in the values shown, numerous contracts have been authorized for which the values are not shown, although all purchases are, of course, reported exactly in the Auditor General's report. These unknown amounts consist principally of supply contracts. For example, a contract will be given after tenders have been called for the supply of provisions, forage, etc., during a period of time. The Commission does not in its minutes record an estimate of the value of this contract, nor has the Commission thought it necessary to obtain a report from the department showing the total amount of money spent.

"In examining these figures it must be borne in mind that the past year has been abnormal. Some departments had reduced their purchasing to the smallest possible compass, whereas others, such as the Militia or Naval Service, had large purchases to make on account of the war.

"The number of purchases and the work involved may perhaps best be indicated by the number of sessions held, and of minutes which record the Commission's transactions:—

Year.	Sessions per year.
*1915-16	188
1916-17	227
1917-18	257
1918-19	290
Total	962

*May 6, 1915, to March 31, 1916; other years April 1 to March 31 following.

"For the year 1917-18 the minutes of the Commission numbered 7,464, while the minutes of the year 1918-19 have so far been 16,247.

"The increased amount of work during the past year indicated above is due to the fact that the Commission has had to deal with the purchases of all departments for all purposes in addition to those known as 'War Purchases.'"

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

The War Purchasing Commission consists of three honorary members, and was formed in May, 1915, for the purpose of supervising purchases under the provisions of the War Appropriation Act. The largest part of the work has been in connection with purchases for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In February, 1918, the Commission was authorized by Order in Council to take charge of all Government purchasing for all departments and for all purposes. The objects of the Commission are the saving of public money and the abolition of patronage.

BASIS OF PUBLIC PURCHASING.

"The mere obtaining of a fair and reasonable price does not of itself justify any particular purchase. The public demand that, as far as reasonably possible, every firm in the line of business concerned has the right to an opportunity of participating in public business; hence the necessity for the re-

peated calling of tenders. This is, in fact, the only feature which differentiates public from private purchasing. In private life purchases may be made from one individual or from one firm as long as it suits the purchaser; in public buying, however, opportunities must be given to all persons or firms in the line of business concerned, as stated in the report.

ESTIMATED AREA SOWN TO CROPS IN DOMINION

[Continued from page 1.]

the areas are: Wheat—Manitoba, 2,913,199 acres; Saskatchewan, 8,879,000 acres; Alberta, 3,658,600 acres. Oats—Manitoba, 1,715,000 acres; Saskatchewan, 5,088,000 acres; Alberta, 2,811,000 acres. Barley—Manitoba, 1,082,000 acres; Saskatchewan, 643,000 acres; Alberta, 437,000 acres. Rye—Manitoba, 249,000 acres; Saskatchewan, 137,000 acres; Alberta, 50,000 acres.

UNITED STATES CROP.

The Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture states (June 9) that the total area sown to wheat for 1919 is 71,526,000 acres, as compared with 59,110,000 acres in 1918, an increase of 12,416,000 acres, or 21 per cent. The acreage of 1918 was 14,021,000 more than in 1917, a ratio of 31 per cent; so that within two years the wheat acreage of the United States has increased by 26,437,000 acres, or 58 per cent. The area sown to oats for 1919 is 42,365,000 acres, or 4.6 per cent less than last year; to barley, 8,899,000 acres, or 8.1 per cent less; to rye, 6,576,000 acres, or 4.8 per cent more; and to hay, 71,224,000 acres, equal to last year.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON ELECTRIC RAILWAYS

Nearly 500,000,000 Were Carried on Car Lines in 1918 Says Report.

The table below, taken from the report on Railway Statistics, issued by the Department of Railways and Canals, shows the passenger and freight traffic over the electric railways of Canada, during 1918, and the number of fare passengers carried in each year since 1900.

The number of fare passengers carried in 1918 was 487,365,456. Comparison cannot be made with preceding years owing to the omission of facts relating to the Montreal Tramways and several other units.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

1901	120,934,656
1902	137,681,402
1903	155,662,812
1904	181,689,998
1905	203,467,317
1906	237,665,074
1907	273,999,404
1908	299,099,309
1909	314,026,671
1910	360,964,876
1911	426,296,792
1912	488,865,682
1913	597,863,801
1914	614,709,819
1915	562,302,373
1916	580,094,167
1917	629,441,997
1918	487,365,456

The volume of freight hauled in 1918 was 2,497,530 tons as compared with 2,335,539 tons in 1917.

MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE PERIL FROM CONTAMINATED MILK

Report Shows Steps Taken by Department of Agriculture to Improve Health of Dairy Herds.

NEW REGULATIONS

The activity of the Contagious Diseases Division of the Department of Agriculture in efforts to prevent the spread of tuberculosis through the use of milk from tuberculous cows is shown by the account of the working of the new tuberculosis regulations, in the report of the Veterinary Director General on the health of animals for 1918, recently issued by the department.

The report on tuberculosis is, in part, as follows:—

MUNICIPAL TESTING.

After a year's experience in the working of the new tuberculosis regulations, it was decided to amend them in one or two respects with the object of extending their scope and making more liberal compensation for reactors. The regulations were, therefore, amended to permit them to apply to any city or town applying for federal aid. Formerly such aid was limited to cities and towns of a population of 5,000 or more. Compensation was raised to two-thirds the appraised value of the animal from one-third formerly, so that the owner of a reactor destroyed under these regulations may now receive a maximum of \$53.33 for a grade cow, or \$166.66 for a pure-bred registered one.

These changes have been very satisfactory to the dairymen, and have resulted in a wider extension of the work of control. Ottawa and North Battleford applied for federal aid and during the year the first test was applied to the herds supplying both these places. No unpleasant friction between owners and the department was observed, and a number of reactors were got rid of which had been regularly supplying milk to the citizens.

IMPORTANCE OF WORK.

The importance of this work to the health of a community can hardly be over-estimated, especially to the welfare of the child population. It was found by our tests that some herds were supplying milk to be consumed in the raw unpasteurized state, when almost every cow in the herd was diseased. This milk must have been highly dangerous for the children drinking it, yet the parents were probably quite satisfied if its appearance and taste were all right.

Experiments have proved that young pigs fed on tuberculous milk become tuberculous to the extent of 80 per cent if they receive only two or three feeds of it. When fed continuously on it for a month, 100 per cent became infected. There is no reason to believe that children are not equally susceptible to the effect of consuming tuberculous milk. The results are not so evident as in the case of pigs, but far more disastrous to the human race. Much human tuberculous comes from drinking tuberculous milk, and every effort should be made to prevent it by putting the tuberculous cow out of business.

Urban municipalities might well give some consideration to this important health matter and protect the lives of the little ones by permitting only wholesome milk, free from tuberculosis, to be sold. The tuberculosis regulations show how easily and at how little cost to a town this may be done.

Since this work was begun there have been over seven hundred diseased cows removed from the dairies supplying four cities and towns. The evil potentialities of seven hundred diseased cows in spreading tuberculosis cannot be estimated. We can only be thankful that

their opportunity is gone, and hope that the evil they have done will not live after them.

Statistics on this work are difficult to compile. Dairymen seldom retain a cow more than a year or two. Sometimes it is the practice to sell a cow as soon as her period of lactation is finished, and to replace her with another which is just commencing or, in the parlance of the dairy, a "springer." This continual changing of cows makes the work of testing almost a continuous performance.

Cows to replace those sold out of the dairy, or condemned as reactors to the test, must be tested by our inspector before being added to a clean herd, and it is therefore found impracticable to test these herds, as we do breeding herds, by regular semi-annual tests. For the same reason, the figures of testing can never be completed, and we can only report the number tested to this date and the number of reactors found.

For London Hospital.

Separate sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Isolation Hospital, Westminster Psychopathic Hospital, London," or "T. B. Pavilion, Westminster Psychopathic Hospital, London," etc., as the case may be, will be received until 12 o'clock noon, Friday, August 15, 1919, for the construction of an isolation hospital, T. B. pavilion, recreation building, storage, garage, etc., at Westminster Psychopathic Hospital, London, Ont.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the offices of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa; the Superintendent of Construction, Westminster Military Hospital, London, Ont.; the Superintendent of Dominion Buildings, Postal Station "F," Toronto, Ont.; and the Overseer of Dominion Buildings, Montreal, P.Q.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or War Bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

By order.

R. C. DESROCHERS,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,

For Halifax Hospital.

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Alterations to Buildings, Camp Hill Military Hospital, Halifax, N.S.," will be received until 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, August 12, 1919, for alterations to buildings, Camp Hill Military Hospital, Halifax, N.S.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the offices of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works Ottawa; the Superintendent of Military Hospitals and the Superintendent of Dominion Buildings, Halifax; and of the Overseer of Dominion Buildings, Central Post Office, Montreal, P.Q.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or War Bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

By order.

R. C. DESROCHERS,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, July 24, 1919.

Government Railway Expenses

The total working expenses on the government-owned lines in 1916-17 was \$23,930,398.06, and in 1917, \$33,259,488.02, an increase of \$9,329,089.96, as stated in the annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals.