

DON'T HOARD POTATOES.

Potato Growers Advise Against Holding Back Supplies.

Ottawa, November 20.

A survey of the potato situation was made at the Food Controller's Office to-day, and the opinion was expressed that it would be in the best interests of the growers to let their potatoes go on the market freely at the present time, rather than to hold them for later delivery. The statement reads:

"The four Western provinces have in sight a surplus of 2,820,000 bushels of potatoes, or about 14 per cent, above their needs at the normal rate of consumption. The surplus is chiefly in Alberta and Manitoba.

"At present the prices to consumers in these Western provinces range from 80 cents per bushel in Alberta to \$1.25 per bushel in the other provinces.

"In the five provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, there is an estimated surplus of 4,000,000 bushels, or about eight per cent above the normal requirements. The surplus is chiefly in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

"It is evident that there will be enough increased consumption of potatoes, for the substitution of them, in part, for bread, to absorb the whole of the surplus of 4,000,000 bushels in the five provinces, providing they are offered and delivered freely at reasonable prices in the cities of Ontario and Quebec, where they will be consumed. In some zones where there is a local surplus the local price should be lower by the amount of freight rate to the zone or city when and where the supply from the surrounding district is not sufficient.

"If farmers in these provinces do not let their potatoes get on the market freely at the present time, it is altogether likely that the price in the spring months of 1918 will not net them as much money then, after making allowance for losses from shrinking and wastage in storage.

"In meeting the international food situation, it is very probable that the United States will not expect any shipments of potatoes from Canada, since there is a large surplus in that country, estimated at 100,000,000 bushels.

"The Food Controller for Canada, in case there is evidence of hoarding or withholding supplies by growers or dealers, may fix maximum prices, allowing to producers and handlers only fair and reasonable prices."

LICENSE NECESSARY FOR OPERATION OF FLOUR MILLS.

Ottawa, November 20.

On and after December 1st it will be illegal for any person, firm, corporation or association to operate, without a license from the Food Controller, any flour mill in Canada having a daily capacity of one hundred or more barrels. Licenses are optional in the case of mills with a lesser daily capacity than 100 barrels, but may be granted upon application, in which case such mills will be subject to the same rules as those upon whom the licensing provisions are compulsory.

Licenses may be suspended or revoked in case of violation of any of the Food Controller's regulations. The Food Controller is empowered to make rules with respect to the sale, distribution and transportation of flour mill products. He is also given authority to appoint a committee of millers, to be known as the Millers' Committee of the Food Controller's Office, together with an officer, to supervise the flour mills which shall be licensed, and to represent the Food Controller in carrying out the arrangement with the milling industry.

The Order-in-Council, with these provisions, confirms the arrangement made some time ago by the Food Controller with representatives of the milling trade.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROFIT.

From Winnipeg comes the announcement, made for the first time, last week, by Hon. Arthur Meighen, at the Unionist convention at Portage la Prairie, that in addition to having limited profits on flour to 25 cents per barrel, and in addition to having established control of the packing industry and confiscating all profits on the latter over fifteen per cent, as well as half the profits between seven and fifteen per cent, the Government is now taking steps to limit profits on the sale of fruit and vegetables to not more than twelve and a half per cent. This is being attended by the Food Controller.

DOMESTIC SUPPLIES OF BREADSTUFFS.

The aggregate supplies of breadstuffs—flour and wheat—in the United States and Canada on November 1, 1917, as compiled by the Daily Trade Bulletin and the Minneapolis Market Record, exhibit an increase during October of 33,579,600 bu., compared with an increase of 13,013,000 bu. during September, and an increase of 32,133,000 bu. during October, 1916. In the aggregate, the supplies in the United States were increased about 10,320,000 bu., and those in Canada were increased about 23,560,000 bu. Supplies in the aggregate are 87,649,000 bu. less than one year ago. In a general way the breadstuffs trade was decidedly more satisfactory during the past month than at any time since harvest. Millers and merchants were more accustomed to the new usages suggested by the Government. While the offerings of wheat were somewhat larger in general in the United States, there was only a fair general supply, sufficient to meet the requirements of millers, and in some quarters stocks were increased moderately. In Canada, the movement of wheat was unusually large, especially in the West. Business at the terminal markets was quite good. Fall work—seeding of winter wheat and securing the corn crop—checked the movement of wheat to some extent, and lack of transportation facilities generally interfered with a liberal movement of wheat and flour. It may be regarded that the trade generally was fairly satisfactory to all parties, and will probably now continue in a regular way—the distribution be more equitable in all parts of the country, and conducted with a certain degree of general reliability. Stocks of flour in millers' and in second hands in the United States and Canada at the larger shipping and manufacturing points, as reported and estimated in this compilation, were increased 205,000 barrels during October, compared with a decrease of 106,000 barrels during September, and a decrease of 43,000 barrels during October, 1916. The increases were quite general throughout the United States, more especially in the Southwest and the Northwest—a good proportion of the latter at lake ports awaiting navigation.

During the month of October the supplies of wheat in the United States and Canada, at the points included in this statement, as reported (and estimated, where increased 33,579,000 bu., compared with an increase of 13,490,000 bu. during September, and an increase of 32,326,000 bu. during October, 1916. Stocks were increased materially in New York, and moderate increases were reported in the other Middle States. Through the Central West supplies were increased slightly except in Indiana. In Kentucky and Tennessee the supplies were reduced, while in the Southwest they enlarged. On the Gulf, stocks were reduced. On the Pacific Coast were increased, and in Canada were substantially increased, especially at the lake ports and in the interior. Supplies in the interior elevators of the Northwest were estimated to have increased 125,000 bu. during October, compared with an increase of 300,000 bu. in September, and an increase of 1,570,000 bu. during October, 1916. These supplies are now estimated at 575,000 bu., compared with 450,000 bu. on October 1, and 9,685,000 bu. on November 1, 1916. The aggregate supplies of wheat in the United States and Canada on November 1, 1917, at the points included in this estimate, were 82,208,000 bu., smaller than reported one year ago, and 42,725,000 bu. smaller than reported two years ago.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES.

The St. John's Herald, of November 13, reports from the Straits of Belle Isle and Labrador a catch of 224,000 quintals of fish for the season to date:

Following is a comparative statement of the catch of codfish up to November 3rd:

	1917.	1916.
Ferryland	28,200	25,565
Placentia and St. Mary's	60,170	40,490
Burin	201,155	131,800
Fortune Bay	124,815	75,485
Burgeo and La Poile	48,065	46,340
St. George's	12,940	7,130
St. Barbe	39,600	21,375
Twillingate	89,250	43,875
Fogo	37,825	12,530
Bonavista	131,855	70,910
Trinity	39,180	57,230
Harbor Grace	29,405	20,480
Port de Grave	12,520	6,210
Harbor Main	2,360	2,220
Straits	31,120	15,900
	888,460	577,540

DRY GOODS.

During the month cotton developed considerable strength, and on October 24th reached the record figure of 29.50 on the New York market. The last week of the month a certain weakness was noticeable which was furthered by the news of the Italian reverse. There seems, however, to be pretty general belief that top prices have not yet been reached. Severe frosts in the cotton belt, almost unprecedented at this time of the year, have undoubtedly cut down the crop returns to a very considerable extent.

The wool market is practically at a standstill. Australian and New Zealand wool that has already arrived or is on the road is all under contract, and there is practically no wool of any kind changing hands. Owing to considerable complaint on the part of the Australian ranchers it is expected that the next allotment of Antipodes wool will be at a considerably increased price.

The linen situation is unchanged, the supply being practically in Government hands, and all possible linen looms working on aeroplane cloth.

Hides have developed a stronger feeling during the month, owing largely to heavy purchases believed to have been made on behalf of the British Government. Offerings are being well taken care of, and there is no doubt that price recessions have been checked for the immediate future.

The raw silk market has been decidedly weak during the month, the total decline from the high figure of a couple of months ago equalling nearly \$1 per pound. Japanese silk has shown signs of a comeback the last couple of weeks, but China silk is still inclined to lower figures. Manufactured products remain practically unchanged.

There have been advances in needles, equal to about 20 per cent., and the supply is still limited.

Business in general seems to be a little quiet. Wholesalers report that retailers show no disposition to buy more heavily than is required by their immediate needs. As we go to press the country is feeling considerable depression over the news of the Italian reverse. Wholesalers believe that this will have a quieting effect for a while on general business conditions. The market as a whole would appear to be a non-speculative one with weakness rather noticeable all along the line. Cotton is the only raw product connected with the dry goods business that has shown any marked advance during the month.—Drygood Review.

SUPPLIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The aggregate supplies of breadstuffs afloat for Europe, in store in Europe—the latter based on world's shipments and past records—Argentina and Australia, and in store in second hands in the United States and Canada on November 1, 1917—including a much larger number of points than in any other compilation—were equal to 264,823,000 bu., against 235,874,000 bu. on October 1, and 276,715,000 bu. on November 1, 1916. The estimated increase during October was equal to 28,949,000 bu. compared with an increase of 25,511,000 bu. during October, 1916. Aggregate supplies in second hands in America, Europe, estimated, Argentina and Australia on November 1, 1917, were about 11,872,000 bu. smaller than reported one year ago, and \$4,258,000 bu. larger than reported two years ago.



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