

FOOD FROM CANADA

Food has been called a weapon of war. It is increasingly apparent that food is an even more powerful weapon in the struggle to keep the world at peace.

Lester B. Pearson, Canadian Ambassador to the United States and head of the Canadian delegation to the UNRRA conference which opened at Atlantic City, New Jersey, on March 15, 1946, stressed this point at one of the council sessions. "The implications of failure to meet the present emergency are so terrifying," he said, "that only the most heroic efforts on all our parts will be of any real help. These efforts will require the laying aside of every consideration except that of human need."

The contribution made by the great food productive capacity of Canada toward the war potential of the United Nations could, perhaps, be assessed on a military basis. The contribution which Canadian food will make in the post-war years cannot be estimated, but it will undoubtedly have a great influence.

During the war Canada was a strong, working member of the United Nations. In every field, particularly that of food, Canada was able to contribute much to the victorious alliance. Canada is now taking other steps to aid its wartime allies and to ship Canadian food to a hungry world.

The War Record

Canada is a country of comparatively few people - approximately 12,000,000; yet in area it is one of the largest countries in the world. Until the last two or three decades Canada was predominantly an agricultural country, and it remains a country of wide prairies in the midwest, rich farmlands in the east and far west. Canada produces more food than it can consume. Therefore it is a food-exporting country.

Markets, however, have not always been available for Canada's exportable food surplus. What Canada could really do in the way of producing food for export was an unknown quantity until World War II. Throughout the war years 1,000,000 Canadian farmers performed prodigies of production to supply essential foodstuffs to the allies.

Total Exports by Main Groups

The following table shows the total dollar value of exports of Canadian food by main groups during the calendar years 1939 to 1945, inclusive:

	To <u>United Kingdom</u>	To <u>United States</u>	To <u>All Countries</u>
( Millions of Dollars )			
Grains and grain products....	910.567	987.308	2,416.825
Meats.....	716.848	14.034	785.106
Dairy Products and eggs.....	248.952	4.844	306.444
Fish.....	99.285	197.785	352.725
Fruits.....	23.617	26.518	58.127
Vegetables.....	18.570	24.645	65.132
Other vegetable food products (excluding grain, fruits and vegetables).....	5.277	14.665	52.709