

FOOD IS CHEAPER HERE.

Budget Comparison with the United States Shows Canada's Advantage.

Despite the prevailing high prices for food, consumers in Canada are more fortunate than those in the United States in this regard. The following comparison has been made from official reports of actual retail prices ruling at the middle of January in the two countries. The Canadian data are collected by the Dominion Department of Labor and those for the United States by the Statistical Department of the Food Administration. In each case the prices are averaged for the whole country. A selected group of foods is shown as nearly similar to the family food budgets used by the Labor Departments in each country as the data for the two countries will allow. Proper weighting has been given by taking a greater quantity of those foods in greater use. The cost of food in the United States is shown to be nearly 14 per cent higher than the cost in Canada. The comparative table follows:—

Food.	Quantity.	JANUARY (1918) PRICES.		U.S. price as percentage of Canadian.
		Canada.	United States.	
		\$	\$	%
Beef.....	4 lbs....	1.088	1.168	107.35
Ham.....	1 ".....	.331	.415	125.38
Bacon.....	1 ".....	.448	.483	107.81
Lard.....	2 ".....	.666	.662	99.39
Eggs.....	2 doz.....	1.024	1.180	115.23
Milk.....	6 qts....	.714	.900*	126.05
Butter.....	3 lbs....	1.450	1.620	111.72
Cheese.....	2 ".....	.637	.702	110.20
Bread.....	15 ".....	1.140	1.515	132.89
Flour.....	10 ".....	.650	.653	100.46
Rolled Oats.....	5 ".....	.350	.435	124.29
Rice.....	2 ".....	.196	.228	116.33
Prunes.....	1 ".....	.173	.170	98.27
Sugar.....	4 ".....	.428	.392	91.59
Tea.....	1/2 ".....	.246	.309	125.61
Coffee.....	1/4 ".....	.101	.078	77.23
Potatoes.....	2 pecks..	.727	.886	121.87
Total budget..		10.369	11.796	113.76

* As the standard quart in use in the United States is only 1/4 of the Canadian measure, the price here given is for the equivalent of the Canadian quart.

Toronto and Chicago Prices.

The next comparison shows the actual retail prices in Toronto of representative commodities and the prices which are published by the Illinois Division of the United States Food Administration as those which the "Consumer should pay." In

the case of nearly all the more important commodities the Toronto price is lower than that at Chicago:

	Toronto. Dollars.	Chicago. Dollars.
White bread... per lb.	.061	.08-.09
White flour... "	.066	.066-.074
Rice... "	.08-.125	.10-.14
Potatoes, per 90 lb. bag.	2.50-2.70	2.34-2.52
Butter... per lb.	.45-.57	.44-.55
Cheese... "	.28-.38	.35-.42
Eggs, fresh... per doz.	.65	.70
Eggs, storage... "	.50	.55
Sugar... per lb.	.11	.0875
Beans... "	.15	.16-.19
Lard... "	.34	.33

Most Commodities Cheaper Here.

In a recent report of the United States Food Administration it is shown that prices are higher in the United States, than in Canada on fourteen commodities (viz. bread, flour, oatmeal, rice, potatoes, beans, fish, tea, pork chops, round steak, lard, milk, butter and cheese), while on seven commodities prices are lower in the United States (viz. on canned tomatoes, canned corn, canned salmon, canned peas, sugar, coffee and eggs).

CITIES PLEDGED TO HELP.

Lead of Ottawa Council is Followed in Number of Other Places.

Following the lead of the Ottawa City Council the councils of a number of other cities throughout Canada have placed themselves on record as recognizing the necessity of active co-operation by the people with the Food Controller for Canada in the direction of producing, conserving and maintaining reasonable prices for all food commodities. The resolution adds:

"Considering the present need among the Allied armies in the field and the Allied nations in Europe for food such as Canada can supply, this Council views with favour restrictions in the use of wheat flour and of cured ham and bacon, with the object of releasing for shipment overseas considerable quantities of these important food necessities."

Among the cities which have adopted this resolution are Vancouver, B.C., Moosejaw, Sask., and Port Arthur, Ont.

The annual report of the president of the Board of Trade of Port Arthur shows that the Garden Club organized by the city council last year produced vegetables valued in the aggregate at \$26,527.