

These are the statistics, gathered from official government sources. But try to tell the traveller from New York that Americans have had more meat to eat than Canadians. The American knows that he hasn't seen steak in many days. And the statistics are no answer to his problem.

Here are some factors to consider which may throw some light on the puzzle:

1. In the same O.W.I. Press Release which announced the cut in the estimated civilian meat supply and the reduction of lend-lease meat exports is the following paragraph:

"Nearly half the total civilian meat supply (in the U.S.) at present is non-federally inspected. Inasmuch as no meat except federally-inspected may be sold across state lines, this results in relatively large supplies of meat in surplus producing areas, while acute shortages are felt elsewhere."

(OWI-4173)

Canada has a similar ruling, that unless meat is federally-inspected it cannot be sold outside the province in which it is produced. But the regulation does not work the same hardship in Canada.

Consider first the case of the United States. The most thickly populated area--hence the heaviest meat-eating area-- is in the east. The chief producing area is in the mid-west. These concentrations of population are about 1,000 miles away from the source of food production. In Canada there is nothing like these population concentrations. As has been pointed out there is only one city in Canada of more than a million people - Montreal. There are many of these cities along the east coast section of the United States, and many others almost as big. And around all these cities are other, smaller towns, which add up to great masses of population. Greater New York City alone has a population of 11,700,000 without including other cities situated close to New York. This all adds up to a concentration of population in the New York area considerably larger than the population of the whole of Canada, which is only eleven and a half millions.

The two largest Canadian cities are Toronto and Montreal. Toronto has a population of 900,500, Montreal of 1,140,000. And they are about 340 miles apart. These two cities are in a far different position from the cluster of big cities on the American east coast, where Boston is about 225 miles from New York, Atlantic City about 125 miles from New York, Philadelphia 95 miles from New York, Albany 147 miles from New York and so on. While Canada also has a rule that only government-inspected meat can be sold outside the province where it is produced, Canada is still a rural country in the sense that it has few large cities, and the area around the large cities can do much to ease their meat supply. There is actually enough meat produced and slaughtered within a radius of 150 miles of Toronto to feed Toronto. A fair amount of Alberta beef might be sold in Toronto butcher stores. This is a matter of preference. Alberta beef is, generally speaking, the best in Canada.

In the United States the situation is far different. For example, the amount of meat produced in Massachusetts would not feed Boston. Boston must rely on meat produced outside the State; in other words, on meat from inspected plants.