

Comments on Current Commerce

By E. S. BATES

FOOD CONSERVATION: Meatless days, baconless breakfasts, rye bread, vegetable dinners and dietetic lunches are now a reality in Canada. Many clubs have already signified their intention to follow the food conservation policy dictated by the Food Controller to the letter. Undoubtedly, thousands of families will take similar voluntary action. The result is obvious. Thousands of pounds of meat and flour will be saved from consumption in Canada for shipment to Europe to defeat the U-boat menace. It is hoped that the Food Controller will carry his work much further than merely asking for voluntary conservation on the part of consumers. While the effectiveness of price-fixing is open to grave doubt judging from reports emanating from Great Britain, much can be done in preventing fictitious prices, and in reducing the present disparity between the prices paid the producer and those paid by consumers. It is somewhat strange to the average citizen why the investigation of the charges contained in the O'Connor report was not placed under the jurisdiction of the Food Controller. In fact, there seems to be too much investigation and too little effective conservation.

The United States Food Controller has presented the heads of American railroads with a few suggestions for conservation in dining cars that are of interest. Canadian roads have already practised economy in this regard. No doubt, their example will be widely followed. The recommendations are, as follows:

1. All wheat, bread and butter portions are to consist of not more than two medium sized slices of bread or toast and one pat of butter, and a charge should be made for them. A charge should also be made for all crackers or biscuits. Charge for each extra pat of butter.
2. Serve no wheat bread, crackers or wheat cakes for lunch or breakfast. Use instead, corn bread (baked thin), corn muffins, corn cakes, fried mush, rye bread, oatmeal, oat cakes, buckwheat cakes, rice cakes. Serve honey and syrups with cereal stuffs whenever possible as substitutes for cream and sugar.
3. Make tarts instead of pie, leaving off bottom or top crust.
4. Avoid entirely use of wheat bread, toasted, to be served under chops, squabs, chickens, entrees, game, etc.
5. Serve beef, mutton or pork not more than once per day. Reduce size of all meat portions by one-half, making some charge for second portion. The average meat portion should not exceed five ounces served. Increase fish and sea food courses and make specialties of them.
- Make special dishes of hashes, cooked-over meats, croquettes, etc., to avoid waste.
6. Serve chickens, eggs, pigeon, squabs, rabbit, fish.
8. Serve cottage cheese.
9. Use no butter in cooking. Fry foods in animal fats or vegetable oils. Serve cream in individual portions with special charge.
10. Serve liberal portions of all vegetables and fruits in season. Encourage use of potatoes. Make a specialty of baked beans and brown bread.
11. Avoid waste by serving smaller portions, particularly of bread, butter, meats, milk, cream, sweets.

THE WOOL SITUATION: It is expected that approximately 600,000 pounds of Western fleece wool will be sold in Toronto during the first week in August under the direction of the Federal Live Stock Branch. This wool is now being collected in warehouses where it can be inspected. It is probable that auctions will be held along the same lines as the great wool sales at Coleman Street, London. This wool is being marketed by members of the sheep-growers' association of the Western provinces. It is said to be in good condition, clean and well-prepared. It is expected that prices will range from around 60 cents per pound for choice lots.

The Eastern clip is about all marketed, the major portion of it being sold by dealers and through co-operative sales to Boston firms at prices away above those ruling in the English markets. Unfortunately, these prices have been prohibitive to Canadian mills. At present, dealers are paying from 78c to 80c per pound for unwashed, Eastern 63c to 65c for unwashed fleece, fine, and 56c to 58c for unwashed fleece, coarse.

The first shipment from Australia under the arrangement with the Canadian Wool Commission was landed at Vancouver last week. The shipment amounted to 1,999 bales of washed. It now appears that the Australian Government finds it impossible to make further shipments of washed wools, owing to the imperative needs of Russia before navigation through northern ports is closed. Canadian mills will, therefore, have to content themselves with unwashed, and delivery will be greatly extended. As it is freight space is very scarce. There is only one boat a month from Australia to Canada, so that shipments are necessarily limited. The mills however, are generally fairly well off as to wool supplies on hand.

TEXTILE EDUCATION.—Some time ago one formation of the Canadian Textile Institute was commented upon in these columns. Since then, branches of this main body have been established at Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton. The purpose of these organizations is to assist in the promotion of industrial educational facilities in Canada to teach textile arts and manufactures. These studies will include designing, chemistry of textile manufacture, textile calculations, and elementary work in all branches of the textile trades. It is proposed to establish schools at these centres in connection with existing industrial schools. Additional branches will be formed in other textile centres.

So far, in Canada the textile industry has received little consideration in this connection, the result being that the youth of the country are not attracted to this important industry as a life work. England and the United States have made rapid strides in furnishing educational facilities for textile schools. There is no gainsaying that this has been an important feature in the development of this great industry in these countries. From all appearances, Canada will not long be behind in this important detail.

U. S. NAVY A WOOL BUYER.—The United States Navy Department has taken matters into its own hands to ensure an adequate supply of wool for uniforms at a satisfactorily low price. The Department recently asked for bids on two and a half million yards of woolen uniform cloth. In this connection it has purchased a large stock of wool in Texas, Oregon and Montevideo. Bidders will base their quotations on the price at which they can purchase this wool from the Department, but if it is to their interests to use their own wools or purchase supplies elsewhere they are at liberty to do so. The Department has also conducted researches with a view toward furnishing woolen mills with an adequate supply of suitable dyes. It is said that the efforts in this direction have proved successful. This is a new departure in Government purchasing and it will be interesting to see how it works out. The Department states that this policy eliminates competition for raw stock among contractors, and tends to stabilize prices.

TAX THE BACHELORS.—An unfortunate feature of the Income Tax proposals announced by the Finance Minister is that the vast majority of single men having no dependents will be exempt. There are in Canada today thousands of wage-earners, single men with no family responsibilities, earning just under 2,000 a year, who are perfectly able to share the tax-burden but upon whom no call whatever is made. This group includes an army of mechanics, munition workers, salesmen and others, who are making little effort to support war finances. For the duration of the war, at least, surely the Income Taxation might be levied to touch this large source of revenue.

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NO SHORTAGE OF SUGAR.

World Supply Greater Than Last Year.

Although prices remain high owing to the tremendous demand for sugar for normal trade consumption and that of the Allied troops in Europe, assurance is given that in spite of reports to the contrary, there is no shortage of the commodity in sight. According to United States Food Controller, Herbert C. Hoover, there is no need for any talk of sugar shortage, and certainly no justification for sensational advances. Mr. Hoover has recently issued a statement of the facts, as he finds them based on authentic crop reports. The statement is as follows:

"There will be no shortage in sugar production this year save in Europe, and this will not be large, according to a statement on production and crop resources, and the needs of the United States and the world obtained to-day from official sources. Apparently the shortage of our Allies and of the neutrals of Europe can be readily supplied from our resources if shipping can be secured with which to transport it, and it is allowed to follow the natural channels of trade in this country without speculative interference.

"On June 30th, Cuba, with the harvest just closing, had a combined balance on hand and estimated production for this year of 1,062,815 tons, as compared with 804,368 tons a year ago, and 1,018,284 tons two years ago. The present crop and the balance of supply of Cuba are, therefore fully up to normal.

"The cane sugar crop of the United States for the harvest ending in January last, furnished 310,900 tons, as compared with 288,620 tons for the previous year, and an average for five years of 241,837 tons. This was a notable increase. As for the coming crop, the harvest of which takes place from this month until January next, the acreage planted was higher, but there has been some damage by drouth, so it is estimated that it will be about equal to the last harvest.

"The beet sugar crop of the United States, the harvest of which was finished in January last, gave a production of 820,657 tons, as compared with 874,220 tons for the previous year and an average of 724,346 tons for a previous five-year period. The sowings for this year, the harvest of which occurs from this month to January next, are much larger than last year, 808,889 acres, as against 672,116 acres, with an estimated production of 1,002,400 tons. This will be much the largest production of beet sugar the United States has ever grown.

"In Hawaii there was an increased production last year, 644,000 tons, as against 592,763 for the previous year, and an average of 598,465 tons for the preceding five years. Porto Rico also showed a gain, last year producing 481,751 tons, as against an average for five years of 390,165 tons.

"Cuba for five years previous to the war supplied the United States with 43.1 per cent of its sugar, and during the past three years has furnished 53.6 p. c. The United States during the five-year pre-war period produced 22.9 per cent of sugar for home consumption, and the past three years has produced 21.7 per cent. Hawaii has declined in the supply to this country from 14.1 to 12.7 per cent. Porto Rico also shows a slight decline in the amount furnished us. The only total loss to this country is in the Dutch East Indies, and this was less than 5 per cent of our total supply.

"The world supply for the present year is estimated at 18,659,792 ton, against 18,528,048 for the previous year of 1915-16, and 20,755,960 for 1914-15, and an average production of 18,712,997 tons for a period of five years prior to the war."

ALGONQUIN PARK.

The Algonquin Provincial Park of Ontario is a region of expansive lakes abounding with the sportiest of fish, of hurrying streams, primeval forests of pine, spruce and fir, where almost every species of Canadian fauna roams in freedom; cool sward and wild upland bush, swept by pine scented winds; ideal camping spots and sylvan retreats. Everything in fact that is dear to the heart of the lover of outdoor life. Splendid hotel and log cabin camps operated by the Grand Trunk Railway. A charming place to spend a summer holiday. For handsome illustrated booklet write to or call on M. O. Dafee, City Passenger Agent, 122 St. James St., Montreal, Qua