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4. The principal foodstuffs, the import of which into the United Kingdom might have to be controlled in the event of a major war, are—

Wheat and other cereals, including rice, barley, and oats ;
Meat, including beef, mutton and lamb, pork, bacon, and livestock ;
Sugar ;
Butter, cheese, processed milks and eggs ;
Oilseeds and nuts ;
Fish, including canned salmon ;
Tea.

5. The attached table showing the imports of the above-named commodities into the United Kingdom in 1935, gives an indication of the exportable surplus of these commodities in the different Dominions and India in relation to United Kingdom requirements. In the case of oilseeds and nuts, vegetable oils, sugar, and tea there is also a substantial import from the Colonial Empire.

6. In the Great War, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom undertook to purchase the whole of the exportable surplus of certain foodstuffs from the Dominions, the price being determined by negotiation from time to time. In other cases, contracts were arranged for the purchase by the United Kingdom of specified quantities at an agreed price. In the event of a major war in the future, the United Kingdom might consider it desirable to propose arrangements on similar lines to those followed in 1914-1918, i.e., according to circumstances, either (i) to undertake to purchase the whole of the exportable surplus of a particular product for a certain period, or, alternatively, (ii) to negotiate for bulk purchases at intervals as the war progressed, when the quantity and price could both be determined in accordance with the circumstances existing at the time of the negotiation.

April, 1937.

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APPENDIX

UNITED KINGDOM : IMPORTS OF PRINCIPAL FOODSTUFFS FROM EMPIRE COUNTRIES IN 1935 AND RELATION OF UNITED KINGDOM IMPORTS TO EXPORTS OF COUNTRIES PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED.

	Total Imports.	From Empire Countries.	Empire Countries principally concerned.			
			Country.	Total Exports.	Exported to U.K.	
					Amount.	%
I. Grain :—						
Wheat .. (000 tons)	5,061	2,738	Canada ..	4,438	1,845	42
			Australia ..	1,874	885	48
Barley .. (000 tons)	855	151	Canada ..	170	116	68
			Australia ..	62	23	37
Oats .. (000 tons)	178	177	Canada ..	218	166	76
Maize .. (000 tons)	2,975	208	Union of South Africa.	446	192	43
			Kenya ..	60	4	7
Rice .. (000 tons)	108	69	India (including Burma).	1,665	62	4
II. Meat and Livestock :—						
Beef .. (000 cwts.)	10,803	2,595	Australia (1) ..	1,894	1,729	91
			New Zealand ..	926	878	95
Veal .. (000 cwts.)	180	163	Union of South Africa.	129	63	49
Mutton (000 cwts.)	1,715	1,466	Australia (1) ..	1,752	1,718	98
Lamb .. (000 cwts.)	5,037	4,005	New Zealand ..	3,631	3,631	100
Bacon and hams (000 cwts.)	7,604	1,589	Canada (1) ..	1,139	1,135	100
			I.F.S. ..	501	495	99
Pork .. (000 cwts.)	1,082	796	New Zealand ..	492	491	100
			I.F.S. ..	141	139	99
Chilled and frozen offals. (000 cwts.)	1,070	341	Australia (1) ..	140	135	96
			New Zealand ..	119	117	98
Canned meat (000 cwts.)	1,275	98	Australia (1) ..	54	33	61
			New Zealand ..	74	53	72
Livestock :—						
Cattle .. (000 head)	662	662	I.F.S. ..	668	647	97
			Canada (1) ..	84	48	57
Sheep and lambs ..	281	281	I.F.S. ..	279	279	100
Pigs ..	128	128	I.F.S. ..	127	127	100
III. Butter .. (000 cwts.)						
	9,608	5,435	New Zealand ..	2,789	2,697	97
			Australia (1) ..	2,344	2,193	94
			I.F.S. ..	531	497	94
IV. Cheese .. (000 cwts.)						
	2,714	2,398	New Zealand ..	1,728	1,723	100
			Canada (1) ..	538	511	95
			Australia (1) ..	150	145	97
V. Preserved Milk (000 cwts.)						
	2,011	394	New Zealand ..	186	153	82
			Canada (1) ..	236	170	72
			I.F.S. ..	113	91	81
VI. Eggs :—						
In shell .. (mill.)	2,372	578	Union of South Africa.	44	43	98
			Australia (1) ..	261	260	100
			I.F.S. ..	367	298	81
Liquid, frozen or dried (000 cwts.)	815	2	Australia (1) (2)	£3,369	£3,365	100

(1) Fiscal year 1934-5.

(2) Expressed in value only. The approximate weight is about 2,000 cwts.

