

ADVANCE OF PRICE OF SUGAR IN CANADA

Forced automatically by combines housewives are experiencing difficulty in getting an adequate supply of sugar for preserving and canning fruit. This is due, according to Dr. R. J. McFall, Cost of Living Commissioner, to artificial restrictions, the unwarranted advance of sugar prices due to combines, "and conspiracies which are absolutely pernicious and unlawful."

"Now that the season is here when the housewife should be preserving and canning fruit the people in control of our sugar have seized upon the opportunity to deal another blow to household canning and make the consumer still more dependent upon the big canning combine," said Commissioner McFall. "For several weeks the dealer has been experiencing difficulties in getting sugar to supply his retail customers. There have been a few strikes at the refineries which have helped to cause a stringency, and on top of these other refiners have seized upon the same time to close down their plant for repairs."

"The attempt has been made to blame the shortage of refined sugar on excessive exports, but this is absolutely untrue, as shown by the facts. The latest available customs records show that the excess of our imports over our exports is very much greater than usual; the sugar coming into Canada to stay is sufficient to supply decidedly more, not less, than our customary requirements."

"In spite of labor difficulties and well timed closing of plants, sugar has been refined lately in Canada at a rate in excess of our requirements. Yet we have a shortage."

"An advanced price was announced on Saturday, an advanced price comes into effect in Canada, while the price remains constant on the New York market, which is now the world's clearing house for sugar. When the market price in Montreal advances 55 cents per cwt. the price of sugar in the hands of the refiners, wholesalers and many of the retailers, advances also even on the large quantities in storage. Some retailers have already advanced their prices for the sole reason that they are profiteers. This is not general, for most of our retailers are good citizens. Moreover, there is no general combine among the retailers to make them advance prices in common."

"There is, however, a vicious combine before the sugar reaches the retailers, and there is a powerful weapon in operation to cause the price on the tens of millions of pounds in all the major stock bins to advance at once. This combine makes a substantial discount to wholesalers provided they maintain the common price set by the combine; if prices are cut, the discount is not received. Under such conditions the advance in price on all major holdings is inevitable."

CANADA'S PLANS FOR HANDLING WHEAT CROP

Government Board to Buy Whole Yield from Farmers for Cash

The Canadian Government plans to handle the wheat crop this year as follows:

- (1) A board to buy and market the crop of 1919.

(2) A cash payment on account to be made to the farmer at the time he sells his wheat.

(3) The wheat crop of Canada to be sold by the board at the prevailing world prices, and the surplus proceeds, after expenses are deducted, to be distributed to the original sellers of the wheat in proportion to grade and quantity.

(4) No speculation on exchanges or profiteering by handlers to be allowed in disposing of the wheat crop of 1919 to the disadvantage of either producer or consumer.

(5) A direct and immediate cash sale by the farmer, and a speedy movement of the crop along the usual channels of transport.

COST OF LIVING AND LABOUR DEMANDS

So long as labour persists in its demands for shorter hours and more pay, which means curtailed production at a higher cost per unit, the financial community sees little prospect of successfully combatting the high cost of living. "You cannot legislate lower prices at the same time that you cut down production and meet the demands of labour for higher wages," was the way one banker summed the situation up yesterday. The opinion seems to be that the only manner in which the high cost of living can be reduced is through the gradual operation of the natural laws and that not very much can be done by legislation.

CO-OPERATION FOR REDUCING THE THEFTS OF CARS

A conference of insurance company officials, motor vehicle license authorities, and representatives of police departments of large cities, in the United States will meet in New York in September, to devise means of putting a stop to the thefts of automobiles, which have grown to such large proportions, and caused such great losses, that insurance companies, and owners of cars, have become alarmed.

TRAFFIC RETURNS.

Canadian Pacific Railway

	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Year to date				
July 31.....	\$82,500,000	\$82,133,000	\$89,685,000	\$6,952,000
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Aug. 7.....	2,559,000	2,882,000	3,442,000	560,000
" 14.....	2,746,000	2,759,000	3,228,000	539,000

Grand Trunk Railway.

	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Year to date				
July 31.....	\$36,503,344	\$28,306,117	\$34,302,988	\$6,296,871
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Aug. 7.....	984,921	1,236,343	1,392,477	156,134
" 14.....	993,965	1,285,464	1,461,258	176,194

Canadian National Railways.

	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Year to date				
July 31.....		\$12,178,530	\$17,666,987	\$5,488,457
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Aug. 7.....		1,546,287	1,811,263	264,976