

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

The Western Provinces are rapidly getting into line in the question of hog production. Saskatchewan, the central province, is leading the van in the aggressiveness of its operations, having decided to not only urge farmers who are already raising hogs, to increased production, but the Government is placing an agent on the Winnipeg market, who will purchase numbers of sows suitable for breeding. These will be concentrated in camps at one or two central points in Saskatchewan, presumably, Saskatoon, Regina and Moose Jaw, and will be bred; six or eight pure bred boars being sent to each camp. They will be kept for a month after breeding, and will then be sold to farmers at actual cost, and in the case of farmers, who have not previously handled pigs, they will be accompanied by the fullest possible directions for their care; also they will be given the date on which they are expected to farrow.

There are 40,000 farmers in Saskatchewan, who at the present time keep no pigs, and it is felt that if even a moderate percentage of these men can be got to take one or two sows that are already bred, there will be a very considerable increase in production. The Government will go a step further and will keep a proportion of the sows over the winter in the concentration camps. When their pigs come next Spring, they will be kept until they are six or seven weeks old, and will then be sold to individual householders in the villages and small towns, who are willing to keep a pig and will utilize garden trash and house slops for this purpose. These people will also receive very full directions as to the care and feeding of the pigs.

The slogan adopted by Saskatchewan is "KEEP A PIG." Dean Rutherford and the Faculty of the University working in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture have devised this scheme to meet the

situation, and in addition the Legislature of Saskatchewan, which is at present in session, passed a strong resolution on Tuesday afternoon urging increased production of hogs, as a patriotic duty as well as good business.

MANITOBA.

Manitoba has held a conference at which 125 farmers and their wives were present. The whole situation was thoroughly discussed and the delegates pledged themselves to individual effort to arouse public interest in the country to the acute need of production of pork. Small local meetings will be held at which the facts given at the conference by Dominion Livestock Commissioner Arkell and J. D. McGregor, representing the Food Controller, will be passed on. This conference also asked that the municipal councils to allow their health regulations to be amended to allow pigs being kept in the back yards in the villages and the smaller towns and cities, of course, under proper supervision, in view of the fact that before the war, Germany raised more hogs in the back yards of the villages and towns than are at present produced in the whole of Canada, is suggestive of what the ordinary householders might do to furnish their own meat supply, leaving the hogs produced commercially for export overseas.

LABOR SITUATION.

The labor situation is very acute, and is one of the lions in the path of increased production. The military tribunals have not been as careful as they might have been in the matter of conscripting men from the farms who are absolutely essential to production, and a great deal of hard feeling has been engendered on this account, which is bad for production and bad for the Union Government. The shortage of feed is also another barrier, and it is to be hoped that the

appointment of a purchasing and distributing agent at Ottawa will relieve the situation to some extent. Manitoba is materially increasing its production, and by no means a small item will be the work of the boys and girls clubs, in which there are 15,000 members. It is quite within the range of possibilities that 10,000 pigs will be raised by these clubs during the coming summer. The girls are as active in this work as the boys, and the local banks are ready and willing to loan sufficient money, either to a boy or girl, to buy a pig, taking as security the note of the purchaser, and so far as the parents are concerned, ask only that the pig will not be confiscated.

The Provincial Government has put in large supplies of sows in their various farms in connection with Provincial institutions, and pigs from these sows will be available for purchase by the boys and girls clubs, and also by the individual householder. Altogether there is evidence of very material activity in the matter of hog production.

Millers from all over the West have been in conference this week with the Board of Grain Supervisors, and the chief matter under discussion, it is understood, is the amount of grain which the supervisors shall hold back in the country for grinding by Canadian mills. There is also a movement on foot with regard to the working out of the Order-in-Council respecting the profit on flour. There seems to have been some bungling in this matter. The profit was set at 25c per barrel, and was understood to be all on the flour, with the bran and shorts to be saleable at cost, and the livestock men were figuring on this with regard to prices at which feed would be obtained. The whole matter will have to be thrashed out by the Food Controller's department at Ottawa.

FLOUR BUYER.

George H. Kelly has been appointed flour buyer for Britain and the allies from the Lakes west to the Pacific coast. He will work in conjunction with the Wheat Export Company, and will have his offices with them in the Grain Exchange here. Kelly is a man with 28 years milling experience and an absolutely unblemished reputation for honesty and efficiency, and there is a general feeling of satisfaction at his appointment. Another appointment which is giving great satisfaction is that of J. D. McGregor of Brandon, who has been asked by the Food Controller to take charge of the Food Control office at Winnipeg, to deal with all matters pertaining to the four Western Provinces. Mr. McGregor is at present on his way to Chicago and Ottawa, and the Winnipeg office will not doubt be established on his return. Conditions in the West vary so greatly from things in the East that these arrangements will prove more satisfactory to both sections.

During the week an order to relieve the tension on the oat market, which was severe, owing to the very considerable shortage of contract oats, it was decided to establish a new set of futures and to make numbers one and two feed oats deliverable on the options. It is expected that old contracts will be cleaned up by Monday next, the new arrangements do not affect them, but all new contracts will be on the basis of No. 1 and No. 2 feed being deliverable, a penalty of 6c for No. 1 and 9c for No. 2. The demand for oats for the end of November has been heavy, and prices have been, upon occasion over 80c per bushel.

The Manitoba Government issued its annual crop statement this week, placing the yield of oats for the Province at an average of 28 bushels to the acre, which is abnormally low. The average yield of wheat was placed at 14.9 per acre. The writer, in September last, before any threshing had been done, put the average for the Province at 15 bushels.

The movement of wheat to the Head of the Lakes has been heavy from all C.P.R. lines, but congestion is very severe on the Canadian Northern lines. The weather has been very mild, and navigation will probably remain open until quite late in December, if it does not there will be a greater proportion than usual of the wheat to be moved all rail.

Over the week-end there was a great congestion of hogs in western stockyards, and a drop in price running from 75c to \$1.00 per cwt., and in the minds of some this was credited to the packers. As a matter of fact, it was due to a cessation in buying on the part of the allied purchasing committee. Financial arrangements have now been completed between food controller Hanna and this commission and this kind of thing will not occur again.

The intense cold of the past few days has again bucked up the beef market also as meat that was being forced on the market owing to the crowded condition of the coolers, the scarcity of tonnage and the mild weather is now being frozen.

Up to the moment there is no definite information as to what loss of food supplies there may have been at Halifax.

Food Rations in Great Britain

Sir Arthur Yapp, Director of Food Economy in Great Britain, has announced a new scale of voluntary rations. The scale should be of interest to Canadians as showing how all classes in Great Britain are doing their share in food conservation. The weekly rations are as follows:—

BREAD.	lb.	oz.
Men on heavy industrial work or agricultural work	8	0
Men on ordinary industrial or other manual work	7	0
Men unoccupied or on sedentary work	4	8
Women on heavy industrial work or on agricultural work	5	0
Women on ordinary industrial work or in domestic service	4	0
Women unoccupied or on sedentary work	3	8
OTHER FOODS (for all adults).	lb.	oz.
Cereals other than bread	0	12
Meat	2	0
Butter, margarine, lard, oils, and fats	0	10
Sugar	0	8

CHILDREN.

Children to receive "reasonable" rations; no definite scale laid down.

The scale laid down by Lord Devonport last winter was as follows:—

Bread	4	lb. per week.
(or Flour for bread-making)	3	lb. "
Meat	2½	lb. "
Sugar	¾	lb. "

(*Afterwards reduced to ½ lb.)

It will be seen that the new scale differs in several respects from the old one. Lord Devonport confined himself to rationing bread, meat, and sugar, whereas Sir Arthur Yapp adds (1) all cereals other than bread, and (2) butter, margarine, lard, oils, and fats. While Lord Devonport, of course, recognized the wide differences between the reasonable food requirements of, say, men employed in hard manual work, men engaged in sedentary occupations, women similarly employed and children of various ages, his scale was based on a flat rate for each individual without consideration as to sex, occupation, or age. So far as bread is concerned, Sir Arthur Yapp provides for three classes of male and three classes of female workers, each with its own weekly allowance, but in the case of the other rationed foods no difference is made between the agricultural workers, the city clerk, the shell-filler, and the domestic servant. Only one

of the six classes of adults (women unoccupied or on sedentary work) is now allowed less bread than under the Devonport scale, and for men doing the heaviest physical work the allowance is doubled. The meat ration for all adults is reduced by ½ lb.; the sugar ration remains the same. As regards children, Sir Arthur Yapp has wisely left to mothers of families a necessary discretion in providing for the varying needs of growing children of different ages; they should, he says, receive their "reasonable rations" of the staple foods.

The following definitions were supplied by Sir Arthur Yapp:—

Cereals.—The "bread" rations include all flour, whether used for bread or for cooking. Flour may be taken instead of bread at the rate of ¾ lb. of flour for every pound of bread. The "other cereal" rations include oatmeal, rice, tapioca, sago, barley, meal, cornflour, maize, meal, dried peas, beans and lentils, and all cereal products except bread and flour. The weight given is the weight of the dry article as bought. If the full bread ration is not used the amount saved can be taken in other cereals at the rate of ¾ lb. of cereals for every pound of bread saved.

Meat.—The "meat" rations include the average amount of bone, which may be taken as one-quarter of the weight of the actual meat. Any parts of the meat (such as rump steak, bacon, or suet) which are bought without bone must count for one-quarter more than their actual weight. On the other hand, any bone in excess of a quarter of the actual meat bought may be deducted. Poultry and rabbits may be counted at half their actual weight. The meat rations include suet.

Exchange of Bread and Meat.—Any person may take half a pound of meat over and above his meat ration in exchange for half a pound of bread to be deducted from his bread ration. Similarly any persons may take half a pound extra of bread in exchange for meat.

Other Foods.—The consumption of milk and cheese must be restricted as far as possible. These foods should be reserved for persons for whom they are indispensable. A more extensive use should be made of fresh vegetables and fruit, and in particular of potatoes, which are not rationed. This season's excellent potato crop supplies the means of observing and prescribed rations without privation, and it must not be wasted.