

DECREASE IN BUTTER, EGGS, MUTTON, CHEESE AND BEEF IN STORAGE.

Ottawa, January 16.

Decreases in the amount of eggs, butter, mutton, cheese and beef in cold storage on January 1, as compared with December 1, 1917, are shown in the monthly report of the Acting Commissioner of Labor, re Cost of Living, Mr. W. F. O'Connor. On the other hand, there were on January 1 larger amounts of pork, bacon, fish, etc., in cold storage. The statement includes reports of companies holding about ninety-nine per cent of the cold storage space available in Canada.

"It is to be expected," says the report, "that the holdings on January 1 of butter, cheese, and eggs particularly, should show a decrease. By the first of March the cold storage companies expect that these commodities will be almost cleared, except for current trade."

The quantities on hand on January 1, 1918, and December 1, 1917, were as follow:

	Jan. 1.	Dec. 1.
Eggs, doz.	4,144,490	6,819,169
Butter, lbs.	11,273,627	15,414,154
Cheese, lbs.	12,374,985	15,809,639
Beef, fresh and pickled, lbs.	43,335,952	48,093,680
Pork, fresh and pickled, lbs.	22,623,378	21,086,221
Bacon and ham and smoked meats, lbs.	15,086,828	10,971,611
Mutton and lamb, lbs.	3,963,483	3,670,444
Fish, lbs.	19,419,984	12,871,275
Poultry, all varieties, lbs.	3,369,307	2,216,236

The following statement shows the distribution of the total quantities of each of such commodities in store January 1, 1918, reported according to established districts:

	Maritime Provinces, Quebec		Ontario (Minus Toronto)	
	Quebec	Maritime	Toronto	Ontario
Butter	164,910	3,824,360	921,564	1,956,791
Eggs, doz.	157,105	1,040,019	738,559	529,495
Cheese	116,344	7,124,850	1,950,668	1,825,683
Beef, fresh and pickled	502,605	6,323,477	612,951	14,216,765
Pork, fresh and pickled	255,637	588,692	2,389,247	10,236,924
Ham, bacon and smoked meat	611,428	2,862,557	3,882,132	6,602,785
Mutton & lamb	861,303	406,922	95,057	1,577,467
Fish, all varieties	4,772,556	351,740	1,851,104	1,477,166
Poultry	6,822	603,462	1,146,062	692,905
	Manitoba, Alta. & Sask. B.C.			
Butter	1,633,170	1,548,978	1,220,731	
Eggs, doz.	781,425	639,701	528,165	
Cheese	567,257	806,391	184,281	
Beef, fresh and pickled	7,464,764	12,184,468	2,030,922	
Pork, fresh and pickled	2,143,297	5,975,689	1,033,892	
Ham, bacon and smoked meats	788,320	252,184	87,422	
Mutton and lamb	419,082	523,824	79,828	
Fish, all varieties	842,922	687,913	9,436,583	
Poultry	140,262	488,830	197,964	

The holdings of the firms reporting quantities of food on hand January 1st, 1918, who also have reported for January 1st, 1917, show the following comparisons:

	Jan. 1, 1917.	Jan. 1, 1918.	Increase.
Butter	9,071,898	10,150,893	12 p.c.
Cheese	6,434,147	10,949,815	70 p.c.
Eggs	1,437,980	2,131,527	48 p.c.
Beef	34,523,933	36,509,668	6 p.c.
Pork	20,697,196	22,402,360	8 1-3 p.c.
Bacon and ham	13,842,913	12,774,918	*8 p.c.
Mutton and lamb	4,743,736	3,817,395	*19 p.c.
Fish	12,711,583	14,465,217	14 p.c.

* Decrease.

MORE FIRMS REPORTING.

The number of firms reporting comparative figures for both years has greatly increased. In the beginning of the investigation companies holding only about 60 per cent of the cold storage space of Canada were unable to report their holdings as on the first day of the month of the previous year. Beginning with January 1st almost all the cold storage companies have supplied comparative figures for January 1st, 1917.

Cheese shows a very remarkable increase, due to the large decrease in the quantity exported in December,

1917, as compared with December, 1916. Those increased holdings are chiefly in Montreal.

The increased holdings of eggs are also shown in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

The increase of quantities of food held in storage in Canada does not necessarily mean that there is a greater quantity of foods in Canada, but that it is being concentrated more in the hands of cold storage companies.

U. S. PAPER CONTROL BILL DEFEATED.

After five hours of acrimonious debate, during which Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, arraigned the Democratic party in Congress for "projecting heresies and isms," that, he warned, are apt to stiffle the country's huge industries, the Senate, on Wednesday last, defeated the resolution offered by Senator Smith of Arizona, to put the news-print product of the country under control of the Federal Trade Commission. The vote was 36 to 32.

NO LIMIT TO PAPERS' SIZE.

In the vote that killed the resolution fifteen Democrats and twenty-one Republicans voted against, while twenty-five Democrats and seven Republicans voted in favor.

While the resolution was under debate in Committee of the Whole, an amendment was offered by Senator Jones of Washington to limit the size of newspapers during war time to sixteen pages. This was carried by viva voce vote, but later the Senate, as an evidence that it did not take the amendment seriously, defeated it by a vote of 53 to 4.

THE FOOD VALUE OF CHOCOLATE AND COCOA.

There are two articles that are usually thought of and sold as candy that have a very definite food value and the consumption of which we would encourage, provided that they are unsweetened or a minimum amount of sugar is used in preparing them. These articles are chocolate and cocoa. Linnaeus, the great botanist called the tree which produces the chocolate bean "Theobroma, the food of the gods." It is indigenous in Ceylon, Cuba, West Indies, Central America, Philippines, Paraguay, Mexico and Samoa. Chocolate is prepared by separating the chocolate bean from its enveloping skin, desiccating it and compressing it into the chocolate cakes or slabs of commerce. In this form it retains a large portion of the natural oil with which the bean is supplied by the chemistry of nature. Cocoa is simply the residue of chocolate after a certain percentage of oil has been extracted. The removal of this oil makes the cocoa a much better food than chocolate as is shown by the following comparison taken from an article by B. K. Wilbur, M.D., in the October number of "Candy and Ice Cream."

	Per Cent.				
	Protein.	Water.	Fat.	Carbo-hydrates.	Ash.
Chocolate	12.9	5.9	48.7	30.3	2.2
Cocoa	21.6	4.6	23.9	37.7	7.2

In this article it is stated that ten cents' worth of beefsteak contains 282 calories while ten cents' worth of sweet chocolate furnishes 787 calories. A glass of milk, weighing eight ounces, contains about 60 calories while four ounces of sweet chocolate contains 738 calories. Those who find it necessary from time to time to take a hasty lunch know that a cake of chocolate reinforced by a cracker or two is the equivalent of a full meal. It not only satisfies the appetite but provides the energy and strength that are needed for the hardest work. Combined with a little corn starch to give it coherency chocolate is the emergency ration for both the German and the French armies. Many Americans who are in the habit of taking long walks find that a moderate lunch of chocolate and water is a great improvement upon a meal that gives them a greater sense of repletion but has less food value. There is no present scarcity of chocolate. The world's supply seems adequate to satisfy any demand that may be made upon it. Chocolate is condensed food and the increase in ocean freights adds but little to its cost. We are inclined to believe that those candy manufacturers that will direct their energies towards increasing the consumption of unsweetened or slightly sweetened chocolate in the world will be able to build up a substantial business that would offset the decreased use of candy that they ought to encourage as a war duty.—Finance and Commerce.

MORE HOGS FOR MANITOBA.

Mr. J. H. Evans, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba has estimated that the hog production of the province this year will be increased by 250,000 animals, as a result of the campaign for increased production of swine.

CANADA'S DAIRY OUTPUT.

The annual report of the Department of Labor, shows that during the last fiscal year the quantity of butter exported was 1,228,753 pounds, valued at \$309,046. During the previous year the quantity exported was 7,990,453 pounds, valued at \$2,491,922. Cheese was exported to the amount of 180,733,426 pounds, valued at \$36,721,136.

"The aggregate value of butter, cheese, condensed milk, fresh cream, exported from Canada during the year amounted," says the report, "to the fine total of \$41,367,705, a sum which is \$10,000,000 in excess of any previous year. If to do this we add the value of milk, butter and cheese consumed at home, a reasonable estimate of which would be \$140,000,000, we arrive at a total production of \$181,367,705.

"The foregoing figures present an unmistakable form of convincing illustration of the argument that the best spur to increased production is found in high prices."

GOVERNMENT FIXES RETAIL FEED PRICES.

Ottawa, January 20.

In order to prevent retail dealers taking advantage of the scarcity of bran and shorts to exact excessive profits over the prices fixed by the Food Controller, the latter has ordered that the retail price of bran and shorts, where cash is paid, must not exceed by more than ten cents per bag the cost f.o.b. track at the dealer's station. In cases where purchasers take delivery direct from the car the profit has been limited to a maximum of five cents per bag. An extra charge may be made where credit is given and the bran and shorts delivered from the dealer's store, but this amount must be only a reasonable charge, representing the consideration of such services.

When the miller sells at the mill in less than carload lots he is not permitted to add more than five cents per bag of 100 lbs. to the price at which he is permitted to sell under the Food Controller's order of December 17th, 1917. When the purchaser brings bags to the mill to be filled the miller must not add more than \$2.00 per ton to the price at which he is permitted to sell under the order of December 17th. In effect the miller must not charge more than the fixed Fort William bulk prices, or minus freight to or from Fort William, and in addition \$2.00 per ton as retail charges. For example, suppose that at a point in eastern Canada the freight from Fort William is \$4.20 per ton. In this case the selling price for bran per ton, when the purchaser supplies the bags, would be \$24.50 plus \$4.20 plus \$2.00, a total of \$30.70. The order applies to all millers and dealers in Canada.

While this action has been taken in order to render available to the farmer all supplies of bran and shorts at the lowest possible cost, the amount obtainable is very limited, and farmers must depend mainly upon other feeding stuffs. Prices for livestock are such that, despite the high cost of coarse grains, it is profitable to feed them to food animals.

The Food Controller has taken measures to reserve for the farmer of the Dominion all by-products of grain elevators that are available for stock feed and also feed wheat, bran and shorts, and all such mill feeds. Applications for licenses to export 6,640 tons of bran, shorts and millfeeds have been refused. Indeed, the saving has been very much greater, because the mills were definitely informed that licenses would not be issued for the exportation of such products. Feed wheat has all been retained in Canada, and more than 2,850 tons of screenings have also been made which will keep the exportation of oats, barley and other feeds to a minimum, except for shipments overseas by the allied nations.

The Food Controller has been in constant communication with the authorities at Washington, with a view to expediting shipments of corn into this country for feeding purposes. Arrangements have been made for its entry as soon as means of transportation have been provided.