

HUGE BRITISH PURCHASES IN CANADA.

Nearly a quarter of a million tons of meats, dairy products and eggs have been purchased by the British Ministry of Food in Canada up to the end of 1918. The exact total is 486,150,000 pounds.

The provisions section purchased directly 153,453 tons, made up of:—

	Tons.
Bacon and ham.....	86,438
Lard.....	420
Butter.....	222
Milk.....	1,674
Preserved meat.....	4,535
Frozen meat.....	60,164

In addition to this, the Dairy Produce Commission, on behalf of the British Ministry, purchased 80,622 tons of food, made up of:—

	Tons.
Cheese.....	65,955
Butter.....	3,988
Milk.....	10,334
Eggs.....	345

Total, 234,075 tons.

An analysis of prices for American products in England has been made by Mr. Herbert Hoover since his arrival there. In a statement made to "The National Food Journal" he says:—

"I keenly realize how hard the present price levels bear on all consumers, and more especially upon the Allied peoples, whose economic wage plane is much below that in the United States. So far as the United States is concerned, it is not a matter of profiteering, but one of deep complexity of economic forces and provision for world necessities. The economic plane in the United States was established through the drain of our markets by the Allies during 1916-1917, before we came into the war. Since our entry into the war our Government has successfully exerted itself to stabilise prices, by drastic use of its war powers over economic currents and the use of these same powers to stimulate production. The following table will indicate the comparative levels before and after these war controls were established, and I may add that prices have been invariably the same to the Allies as to our own consumers and our own Government.

Commodity.	Price before Control.	Price To-day.
Wheat (No. 1 Northern at Chicago).....	\$ 3 25	\$ 2 26
Live hogs (average Chi- cago).....	20 00	17 50
Maize (Chicago).....	2 20	1 20
Oats (Chicago).....	85	70
Sugar (Cuban raws ex Cuba).....	5 90	4 50
Steel (per ton).....	100 00	50 00
Copper (per lb.).....	35 00	23 00

"So much for the very drastic reductions effected. The high price levels, however, created before we entered the war caused our labour and other food production costs to increase by leaps and bounds, and prevent any return during the war to 1914 levels."

"Even a superficial examination of our agricultural situation would show that a reduction of 10 per cent to the American farmer would not only more than eliminate the profit of our marginal production—but which I mean the extension of acreage necessary to meet the world situation—but would only reduce prices to the English consumer less than 7 per cent. Of more importance, it must be remembered that, to secure surplus production from the United States, it is vital to bring into cultivation areas that would at normal prices not be cultivated."

"As I view the world's food assets this moment, I am convinced that the extra marginal surplus from the United States is of priceless value to the immensity of human life at stake between now and next harvest.

I am sure, however, that to sacrifice the margin of American production (upon which the Allies must piece out existence) by reducing the American farmer 10 per cent—which would be 6 per cent when it reaches the English consumer—would be the rankest of folly."

TO CARRY FOOD TO GERMANY.

Marshal Foch announced on December 15, that 2,500,000 tons of cargo space lying in German harbours must be placed under the control of the Allies to supply Germany with foodstuffs. The ships are to remain German property.

A calorie is the unit of food value and corresponds to the energy or heat necessary to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 4° Fahr.

It is rather surprising to learn from a bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture that the yearly production of sugar, together with its equivalent in syrup, has fallen from more than 22,000 pounds in the eighties of the past century, to about 20,000 pounds during recent seasons. In view of the keen demand for good maple products and the high prices, it is evident that many farmers are missing a good opportunity of making money.—Montreal Herald.