

for Canadian meat. The recent cut in American meat shipments was also not without its effect on this situation. Also, British stocks are being reduced by shipments to liberated areas. Mr. Churchill told the British House of Commons on March 21 that British Food stocks at that time were "rather less" than 6,000,000 tons, and by the end of June will be reduced to 4,750,000 tons "as a result of aid to liberated countries".

There is also the matter of quantity of production. Canada has always produced much less meat than the United States. Total production of meat from inspected plants in Canada during 1944 was 1,186,000,000 pounds. Of this Canada exported 886,000,000 pounds -- about 47% of the inspected meat. Another 6% was for priority purposes, including Army and Air Force in Canada and Newfoundland, Navy, British Admiralty, ships stores, Red Cross, Northwest Purchasing Mission (Alaska Highway, etc.), Department of Transport, Merchant Seamen, R.A.F. Transport Command, certain hospitals, UNRRA. The remaining meat was for domestic purposes.

Hogs are the major Canadian export commitment, and have represented the biggest increase in production during the war. Production of hogs in Canada has tripled during the war years. Beef production has been increasing, but it is obviously difficult to increase beef herds and the same time make any great immediate increase in production.

Canadian hog production in 1945 (to the present) is about 30% below last year. In the last quarter of 1944 hog production was about 10% below the last quarter in 1943. Attempts to increase beef production are now paying off. Production of this meat in 1944 was higher than any other year on record. Beef slaughtering in the last six months has been at the highest levels in the history of Canada. However, Canada is shipping large quantities of beef to the United Kingdom. And it is expected that in 1945 beef slaughterings will be even higher. But pork production will be down.

Canadian commitments to the United Kingdom under the Mutual Aid plan are undertaken on the basis that the Canadian government signs a contract with the British Ministry of Food to supply at least so many million pounds of meat. If more meat is available, the Ministry of Food will be ready to accept it as well. The objective set in the contract is a mark to shoot at, and if possible surpass. Production of food is influenced by so many factors -- weather, manpower available, etc.--- that it is difficult to forecast very far ahead just how much food will be produced.

Canada has an open order for shipment of meat to the United Kingdom. To ship any meat to the United States she would have either to cut down on her export commitments or cut down on her domestic consumption. A cut in domestic consumption would not have any worthwhile over-all effect on the U.S. meat consumption picture. Canada's annual meat consumption is around one and a half billion pounds. U.S. annual consumption amounts to over 19 billion pounds.

And once again there appears the factor which has perhaps been responsible for most of the difficulty in the U.S. situation -- the matter of distributing meat produced in the middle west to deficiency areas in the east. Canada's great bulk meat-producing areas are also in the west.

An increase in Canadian meat production is being urged by the Canadian government. Dr. G.S.H. Barton, Deputy Minister of the federal Department of Agriculture said on a nation wide network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on March 19 last that Canada is "long on wheat but short on meat." He pointed out that Canada has today almost a monopoly of the British bacon market, and Canadian hog production has fallen off since last year. The biggest contribution to Canada's wartime