FOOD COMMODITIES IN CANADA

Large Stocks of Produce in Storage—Overseas Shipments of Meat Have Increased

The statements for May 1st, compiled by the Department of Labor, show that foods are being kept moving reasonably well. The stocks of butter are low and have decreased since April. Stocks of eggs are increasing, as it is right they should at this season of the year, when the new crop is coming in. The very low figure in egg holdings on April 1st indicates that the storages were entirely cleared of last year's stock. Cheese has also decreased markedly since last month.

The stocks of beef are larger than a year ago, but they are being moved rapidly. Stocks of pork are not so large as a year ago, judging by the records of the firms reporting this May and a year ago, but they have increased above last month. Mutton and lamb are in storage in less quantities than usual. Taking the meat situation as a whole, it is found that there are large stocks, large movement, and an opportunity for a still larger overseas shipment.

This export has been centralized in the hands of the Allied Provisions Export Commission, and thereby Canadian consumers as well as the Allies are being saved still higher prices which would result from the old system of competitive buying by a dozen different commissions bidding against each other. The commission stated that they had been taking available surplus of pork products, beef, cheese and butter, and that they shall undoubtedly require all that Canada can spare of these products.

Commodities in Storage.

The amount of food commodities in storage May 1st, 1918, were:—

	Pounds.
Butter	1,182,211
Cheese	3,141,771
Eggs (dozen)	3,766,997
Beef (fresh and pickled)	21,592,408
Pork (fresh and pickled)	27,235,400
Bacon, ham and smoked meats	13,279,961
Mutton and lamb	1,449,655
Fish, all varieties	15,534,328
Fowl, all varieties	1,640,150

The preceding figures cover only goods reported as held in storage. To estimate the quantity of any of such goods available from cold storage companies for consumption and export, ten per cent. may be added to represent goods in transit and certain comparatively insignificant quantities unreported.

Owned by Firms.

The following comparative statement shows goods owned by firms reporting May 1st, 1918, who also have reported May 1st, 1917:—

Commodity.	May 1st, 1917. Pounds.	May 1st, 1918. Pounds.
Butter	994,693	873,016
Cheese	1,199,585	1,952,573
Eggs (dozen)	1,633,842	2,934,594
Beef (fresh and pickled)	8,904,857	17,866,506
Pork (fresh and pickled)	27,679,144	25,548,857
Bacon, ham and smoked meats	23,001,405	12,984,219
Mutton and lamb	2,767,430	1,227,073
Fish, all varieties	9,235,692	9,992,208
Fowl, all varieties	3,021,004	1,042,407

Comparison of Holdings.

Comparison of holdings of April 1st, 1918, with May 1st, 1918, are as follows:—

Commodity.	April 1st, pounds.	May 1st, pounds.
Butter	2,804,201	1,182,211
Cheese	4,266,207	3,141,771
Eggs (dozen)	276,898	3,766,997
Beef	30,285,941	21,592,408
Pork	25,335,862	27,235,400
Bacon, ham and smoked meats	13,328,750	13,279,961
Mutton and lamb	2,933,231	1,449,655
Fish, all varieties	14,721,956	15,534,328
Fowl, all varieties	2,090,038	1,640,150

PERSONAL NOTES

MR. C. J. BRITTAIN, manager of the Canadian Fairbanks-Morse Company, Limited, Winnipeg, has been appointed to the directorate of that company.

MR. F. J. COOMBS was this week elected president of the Empire Club of Toronto. Mr. Coombs is a member of the firm of A. E. Ames and Company, and manager of the bond department.

MR. GEORGE HENRY, M.P.P. for East York, has been appointed minister of agriculture in the provincial government, relieving the prime minister, Sir William Hearst, of the duties of the agriculture portfolio.

MR. JOHN APPLETON, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Mortgage and Investments Association, has returned from an absence of several weeks in the West, during which he attended the annual meetings of the four provincial mortgage associations.

MR. JAMES GRAHAM, F.I.A., manager of the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company, Limited, of Melbourne, Australia, died recently. Mr. Graham was formerly actuary of the Australian Widows' Fund Society, with which the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company amalgamated some years ago.

MR. F. J. GILLESPIE, provincial manager for British Columbia of the Excelsior Insurance Company, has been appointed commissioner for South Vancouver, by the Hon. John Hart, minister of finance. Mr. Gillespie will operate the city of South Vancouver, the management and financing of which has been taken over by the provincial government, with a view to once again placing the city in a solvent condition.

MR. EDWARD HAY, general manager of the Imperial Bank of Canada, has been appointed to the directorate of that bank. He has been with the institution since its inception, and in the financial community much of the credit for the substantial growth of the bank is accorded to the new director. Mr. Hay and Mr. Peleg Howland, who was the first junior in the bank, and is now president, are the only survivors of the original staff.

According to a recent statement of the Acting Premier of Australia, the debt of the Commonwealth is now £609,000,000 sterling, including £148,000,000 of Commonwealth war loans and £49,000,000 war loans from the Imperial government. This represents an annual interest of £25,000,000 sterling.