

attended by representatives of the federal and provincial departments of agriculture and by delegates from farm producer organizations (among them the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Dairy Farmers of Canada, the United Farmers and the Canadian Wheat Pool). The first of these conferences was called in Ottawa on September 27, 1939, just 17 days after Canada had entered the war; the 12th was held December 4 to 6, 1944. These conferences have given direction to the farmer in connection with the production of food in most demand.

Ration List - The fact that some commodities are rationed to the consumer in the United States and not in Canada should not be taken as an indication that there is no control in Canada. Very often controls are imposed on other levels with less administrative difficulty and the consumer and retailer co-operate to prevent hoarding. For example, canned vegetables have been rationed in the United States since the beginning of 1943 but they are not rationed in Canada. But Canada does have a quota system in effect for both wholesalers and retailers which ensures equitable distribution.

Also, when comparing supply and rationing circumstances in the two countries, it should be remembered that 90% of the Canadian population live in an area which forms a geographical band 200 miles wide stretching across the country along the American border.

As a result, Canada does not have the wide divergence in climate and food habits in different parts of the country which exists in the United States. What may be a large item of diet in one part of the United States is comparatively small in another section of the country. Since there was no alternative to federal rationing, the United States ration list for the whole country was bound to be long. This circumstance is also responsible for the fact that the United States introduced the point system, which allows a wide variety of consumer choice, in preference to the direct quantity rationing system which is in operation in Canada.

### Meat

When an American traveller makes a trip from New York to Montreal there is a good chance that he will find at the end of his journey, something that he has not seen in a long time -- a steak. If he looks around Canadian butcher shops he finds that there is apparently no difficulty in buying meat in Canada-- yet he knows that in the United States his wife has not been able to purchase anything but calf's liver and frankfurters for many days. He finds that meat is not rationed in Canada, while he is well aware of the consumer rationing of meat in the United States. He is puzzled and, very often, annoyed. What is the answer to this strange situation?

The first thing to consider (although it won't actually put any meat on his plate when he gets back home) is the relevant statistics. The figures following are taken, in the case of Canada, from the most recently revised statistics prepared by the Canadian Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the information of the Combined Food Board in Washington; the U.S. figures are taken from the "Report on the National Food Situation" -- a publication issued in January, 1945 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

These figures show apparent civilian consumption of fresh meat in the United States during the year 1944 to be 147 pounds per person; the comparable figure for Canada is 138.8 pounds per person.