

MILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS SAVING IN MILK DISTRIBUTION.

Food Controller Makes Public Report of Special Committee.

Ottawa, November 24.

An annual saving of more than \$429,000 in the cost of milk distribution in Montreal, and an aggregate annual saving of more than \$1,500,000 in seventeen of the principal cities throughout Canada is contemplated under a plan recommended by the Milk Committee appointed by the Food Controller.

The report which was made public last week contains a recommendation that the maximum "spread" or difference between the price paid to the producer and the price charged to the consumer, should not be allowed after December 1 to exceed 5 cents per quart in the Maritime Provinces, Ontario and Quebec, and 5 1/4 cents per quart in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. These maximum "spreads," or distributors' margins, represent the present charge for distribution under average conditions and are intended to allow time for the adjustment of the milk-distributing business.

The Committee makes it plain that its recommendations do not involve sanction of an increase in the distributors' "spread" in any municipality where it is lower at present than the proposed maximum "spread." In the case of Ottawa the Committee recommends that the present "spread" of 3 1/4 cents per quart should not be increased. A plan is outlined for the subsequent reduction of such maximum spreads, wherever it may be found upon investigation that a saving could be affected by a reorganization of delivery and elimination of the heavy waste resulting from unnecessary duplication of services. The Committee estimates that, under present conditions, there is an average loss of 1 1/4 cents per quart, which could be prevented under a single or local zone delivery system.

In making public the report, Hon. W. J. Hanna stated that reorganization of milk distribution, as recommended by the Committee, would require action by the Provincial Government if it were to be put on a permanent basis. He explained that certain powers were vested in the Food Controller under the War Measures Act, and that when that Act was repealed there would be no machinery for the permanent reorganization of milk distribution which the Committee outlined, unless it be provided by Provincial authority. The Provincial Government, he said, if they should deem it desirable to do so, might pass legislation to bring about such reorganization and to allow control of local milk distribution to be exercised by municipalities or private companies, under the plan proposed by the Committee.

The report states that the price paid for milk to the producers is not excessive, in view of present conditions. An average increase in the price of milk has been less than 30 per cent while the average cost of cows, feed and labor has advanced 50 per cent, 75 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. It is pointed out that, in order to secure an ample supply of milk, a reasonable profit must always be allowed to the farmer. Any price which did not allow a reasonable profit would result in decreased production and the necessary supply of milk would be endangered.

Taking an average for representative cities of Canada, the farmers are receiving from 6 to 8 cents per quart while the consumers are paying from 10 to 13 cents per quart. The increase in price added by the distributor ranges from 2 1/2 to 6 1/2 cents per quart, and varies in about the same ratio as the number of distributors operating in the different cities. The Committee reports that this "spread" is excessive and that the chief cause is an excessive number of distributors.

Provision is made in the report for the appointment of Provincial Committees to investigate the cost of distributing milk in any city and to recommend any adjustment of the distributors' spread which may be found advisable. Where it is decided that economic waste could be reduced by reorganization of distribution a local commission is recommended to deal with such reorganization. The results expected under the Committee's plan, are:

- (1) A reduction in the price of milk to the consumers or an increase in the price paid to the producers, or an apportionment of the saving between the two classes.
- (2) The release of a considerable number of men for military service or other important war work.
- (3) Economies to both producers and distributors by the co-operative purchasing of supplies and by standardizing of equipment.

- (4) A better quality of milk would be assured to the consumers in many cities, with a consequent reduction in mortality and saving in expenditures to prevent the spread of tuberculosis and other diseases.

The report is signed by Mr. P. B. Tustin, Chief of the Food and Dairy Division, Winnipeg (Chairman); Mr. W. A. Wilson, Dairy Commissioner, Regina; Mr. R. W. Wigmore, Commissioner, St. John; Dr. N. E. MacKay, Chairman, Board of Health, Halifax; Mr. J. Bingham, Manager of the Ottawa Dairy, Ottawa; Dr. T. Boucher, Medical Health Officer, Montreal; Mr. W. R. Hamilton, Vancouver, B.C.; Mr. E. H. Stonehouse, President Ontario Milk Producers' Association.

City	Daily Consumption		Yearly Consumption	Saving at 1/2 pint in Quarts per Capita
	in Quarts	estimating at 1/2 pint		
Quebec	19,677.5	7,182.288	\$ 71,822.88	
Montreal	117,620.0	42,931.300	429,313.00	
St. John	10,627.75	3,879.120	38,791.20	
Halifax	11,654.75	4,253.984	42,539.84	
Toronto	94,134.5	34,359.093	343,590.93	
Hamilton	20,492.25	7,479.671	74,796.71	
London	11,575.0	4,224.875	42,248.75	
Ottawa	21,765.5	7,944.408	79,444.08	
Hull	4,555.5	1,662.758	16,627.58	
Winnipeg	40,750.0	14,873.750	148,737.50	
Regina	6,531.75	2,384.089	23,840.89	
Saskatoon	5,262.0	1,920.630	19,206.30	
Moosejaw	4,233.5	1,545.228	15,452.28	
Calgary	14,128.5	5,156.903	51,569.03	
Edmonton	13,461.5	4,913.448	49,134.48	
Vancouver	25,100.25	9,161.591	91,615.91	
Victoria	7,915.0	2,888.975	28,889.75	
Totals	429,485.25	156,762.120	1,567,621.20	

CANADIAN EMBARGO ON EXPORTATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS.

The exportation of food products, feeding stuffs, fertilizers, and certain other articles of necessity to countries other than the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates is placed under strict control by an Order-in-Council of November 15. The prohibition upon shipments of such goods is to be modified by licenses issued by the Minister of Customs, under regulations framed by the Food Controller of Canada, in favor of countries in alliance with the British Empire and having armies in the European field. The articles named in the list are as follows:

Animal fats; butter; castor oil; castor beans; coconut, desiccated; cheese; cod liver oil; condensed milk; copra; corn (maize); corn flour; corn meal; corn oil; cottonseed meal; cottonseed oil; cod; dry blood; dry paste flour; fats, all; fertilizers, including cattle and sheep manure, nitrate of soda, poudrette, potato manure, potassium salts, land plaster, potash, cyanide, phosphoric acid, phosphate rock, superphosphate, chlorate of potash, bone meal, bone flour, ground bone, dried blood, ammonia and ammonia salts, acid phosphates, guano, humus, hardwood ashes, soot, anhydrous ammonia; glycerin; glucose; grease of animal or vegetable origin; hoof oil; hulls; fodder; lard; lard compound; linseed oil; linseed; livestock; halt; meats, all; meat juice; meats and fats, including poultry, cottonseed oil, corn oil, copra, desiccated coconut, butter, fish (fresh, dried, and canned), edible or inedible grease of animal or vegetable origin, linseed oil, lard, tinned milk, peanut oil, peanut butter, rapeseed oil, tallow, tallow candles, stearic acid, pigstails; fish; flax; flour; food grains, flour and meal therefrom; fodder and feeds; pigeons, carrier and others; pilchards (sardines), canned; poultry; rapeseed oil; rice; rice flour; rolled oats; rye; sago flour; samp Indian corn; sirup; milk, tinned and powdered, not fresh; molasses; neat's-foot oil; Nestle's food (infants); oats; oatmeal; oil cake; oil-meal cake; peanuts; peanut butter; peanut oil; soap, soap powder; stearine; stearine acid; stearine acid candles; sugar; sugar of milk; sulphurated castor oil; tallow; tallow candles; vegetable oils; wheat, wheat flour.

The instructions to the customs service for the administration of the above prohibition, issued on November 17 as Customs Memorandum No. 2139B, make special provisions for trade with the United States. Endorsement by the collector of customs at the port of exit will serve as a license for the exportation to the United States of the following quantities of goods specified: Less than 125 bushels of food grains; less than 25 barrels of flour; less than 125 pounds of but-

UNITED STATES LICENSES FOR THE EXPORTATION OF TIN PLATE.

The following information regarding licenses for the export of tin plate from the United States, released for publication November 12, 1917, has been received from the War Trade Board, Washington, D.C.:

The War Trade Board, upon the recommendation of its Bureau of Imports and of the Committee on the Conservation of Tin Plate, had to-day made two additional rulings affecting the exportation of tin plate, which are set forth below in paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, in the following list of such rulings, which is complete to date, and includes in paragraphs (1) and (2) the rulings promulgated on October 24, 1917.

RULINGS CONCERNING APPLICATIONS TO EXPORT TIN PLATE.

(1) That no licenses will be granted for the exportation of tin plate for use for any other purpose than as food containers, except on satisfactory evidence that the plate will be used in such a way as to contribute to the military needs of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(2) That, as to applications for license to export tin plate to be used as food containers, preference will be given to those cases in which satisfactory evidence is presented that the food to be packed will be for the use of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(3) That no licenses will be granted for the exportation of articles (other than tin plate) containing tin, except on satisfactory evidence that the goods will be used in such a way as to contribute to the military and other vital needs of the nations at war with Germany and her allies. Preference will be given to those cases in which satisfactory evidence is presented that the goods will be used in such a way as to contribute to the production or transportation of foodstuffs for the use of the nations at war with Germany and her allies.

(4) That no licenses for the exportation of tin plate will be granted, except to the manufacturers of the plate, or to others who, either at the time of making application or before shipment out of the country, present satisfactory evidence that they have purchased the plate from a manufacturer on firm order from a purchaser abroad. This rule applies to pending, as well as to future, applications.

CANADIAN EXPORT EMBARGO ON IRON AND STEEL.

A more complete embargo on the exportation of iron and steel products is established by a Canadian Order-in-Council of November 15, published as Customs Memorandum No. 2138B. The following articles are placed under prohibition of exportation to all destinations abroad other than the United Kingdom, British possessions and protectorates: Pig iron, steel ingots, billets, blooms, bars, and slabs, iron and steel plates, iron and steel shapes (comprising beams, channels, angles, tees, and zees), iron and steel fabricated for structural work and shipbuilding.

Earlier embargo lists have included hematite pig iron, iron and steel plates, and iron and steel fabricated for structural work and shipbuilding, all of which were prohibited to be exported to foreign countries in Europe and on the Mediterranean and Black Seas other than France, Russia, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

HAY AND POULTRY MAY BE EXPORTED FROM CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER LICENSE.

The Food Controller on November 21 announced that the export to the United States of hay as well as of live stock may be licensed until further notice by endorsement of the customs collector at the point of exit and the usual shippers' export entry. Live poultry is included under the ruling regarding live stock.

ter, milk, and cream in usual quantities; fresh fish in usual quantities. Certain shipments containing a number of different articles, each of small value, may be forwarded to the United States after endorsement by a collector of customs. Such shipments are not to contain an amount of one commodity exceeding \$100 in value. Wheat from certain Provinces may be delivered to elevators in the United States when conveyed in farmers' vehicles.

All goods laden on cars and in transit on November 19 are exempted from the provisions of the Order-in-Council.