

Allies Face Serious Meat Shortage

There is a world shortage of meat. In Europe there are 115,000,000 fewer stock animals than before the war. The situation is so critical that meat is now one of the vital factors in deciding the outcome of the war.

The fighting forces of the Allies are fed heavily on meat, because meat, especially bacon, supplies a large amount of fat—and fat is worth twice as much as starch for producing energy. Meat is the food with "the punch."

The millions of soldiers and sailors in the Allied armies and navies must be ensured adequate supplies of this "fighting" food. The vast forces of workers in munition factories, shipbuilding plants and dock yards, and the women and children of Great Britain, France and Italy also require a huge supply of meat.

Some idea of the vital need for pork products overseas is given by the statement of British Imports of bacon and hams since the beginning of the war.

In 1913 they were.....	633,000,000 lbs.
In 1914 they were.....	664,000,000 lbs.
In 1915 they were.....	896,000,000 lbs.
In 1916 they were.....	1,006,000,000 lbs.

There has been no increase in the world's hog production to meet this enormous increase in consumption.

Instead, there are 32,425,000 fewer hogs in Europe than before the war. In the United States the receipts at Stock Yards up to the end of October 1917 show a decrease of 4,721,223 hogs, or 14 per cent. less than the same period in 1916. In Canada the receipts at Stock Yards from the first of January to end of November 1917 show a decrease of 13 per cent. as compared with the same period in 1916.

The foregoing figures indicate the seriousness of the meat situation which can only be met by a large increase in production in Canada and the United States. On us and our American neighbors lies a great responsibility.

The quickest way possible to meet the meat crisis is with hogs, because hogs are very much more prolific than any other stock animal and are ready for market at an early age.

Hogs also produce more meat from a given amount of food than any other stock animal.

They also produce more dressed carcass in proportion to live weight, and the carcass contains more edible meat in proportion to bone than any other animal.

Pork and bacon are about 50 per cent. fat which is so vitally needed in the rations of our fighting men.

Bacon is also the most compact form in which meat and fats can be supplied to the armies. It takes up the minimum of space in freight cars, ships, transport wagons and in supply depots at the front. It is easily handled, it keeps, it is easily cooked and readily digested.

Canada and United States Government Control

To encourage the producers, the Governments of Canada and the United States have taken steps to stabilize the market and protect the producers in every way possible.

The Dominion Government now controls and restricts the profits of packing houses. The hog producer is assured his fair share of the price paid by the consumer.

The Flour Mills are under a form of

license with restrictions on profits. The export of bran and shorts is under control.

The United States Food Administration also states that, by a license system of manufacturers and distributors, it will do all within its power to see that the prices of pork are maintained in a ratio to feed prices that will cover not only cost of production but proper remuneration to the producer.

The action of the Governments of Canada and the United States indicates a serious endeavor to give stability to the market for hogs. In addition, there are two other factors that will be effective:—(1) The tremendous decline in European and American hog production. (2) The constant increase in British imports of hams and bacon since the beginning of the war.

Save the Young Sows

Young sows which are slaughtered now only produce about 150 lbs. of meat per sow, whereas each of these young sows through her progeny could produce, at a moderate estimate, 1,500 lbs. of meat within a twelve month period.

Every pound of pork that can be raised is urgently needed. Every

soldier in the Canadian and British Armies requires $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per day to maintain the highest bodily efficiency. Every soldier in the great American army now being raised will require a like amount. The armies of Italy and France must all have meat.

Canada has responded nobly to every call that has been made for

men, for money and for farm produce. Today's call for increased hog production is one of the most urgent and vital that the Allies have ever made to Canada. There is an individual responsibility—and every person who can raise hogs should seriously consider the possibility of raising at least one or two extra litters in 1918.

Dominion of Canada Department of Agriculture

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