

STOCKS OF FOOD IN THE DOMINION

STORAGE PLANTS HOLDING LARGE FOOD RESERVE

Cost of Living Branch Issues Monthly Report to Minister of Labour Giving Figures to January 1st.

BEEF SUPPLY PLENTIFUL

The Cost of Living Branch has made the following report to the Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labour, concerning stocks of food in storage on the 1st of January.

Canada had 11,355,271 pounds of creamery butter and 1,344,712 pounds of dairy butter on hand January 1. Comparison between storages reporting this year and last January indicates that this is 7 per cent more than a year ago. It is about four and three-quarter million pounds less than a month ago.

Oleomargarine stocks are 761,182 pounds. This is a slight decline from last month. No figures are available for a year ago.

Cheese stocks have declined from last month and are now 4,430,303 pounds. Comparative data indicates this to be a decrease of 67 per cent as compared with a year ago.

Canada has 2,075,716 dozen eggs in cold storage, which is less than half those on hand December 1; 395,113 dozen on hand other than in cold storage, which is about one-half of the stocks of a month ago; and 1,935,295 pounds of frozen eggs, compared with over 2,500,000 pounds a month ago. Comparative figures show that we have now 3'05 per cent less eggs on hand than a year ago.

The stocks of pork amount to 38,291,329 pounds, including 15,008,897 pounds still in process of cure, 12,762,447 pounds sweet pickled, 3,343,355 pounds dry salted, 2,479,550 pounds fresh unfrozen, and 4,697,060 pounds frozen pork. Comparative data indicates this to be 3'8 per cent more than a year ago.

The stocks of beef amount to 57,166,998 pounds, including 51,109,590 pounds of frozen beef, 4,607,227 pounds unfrozen fresh beef, 549,518 pounds cured, and 900,663 pounds of beef in process of cure. Comparative figures indicate that this is 20'52 per cent greater than a year ago.

The stocks of mutton and lamb include 8,783,967 pounds frozen and 179,986 pounds not frozen. Comparative figures show this to be about 78 per cent more than a year ago.

The stocks of fish are 22,460,883 pounds, a drop of about half a million pounds from last month and about 39 per cent more than a year ago.

The stocks of chickens are 3,172,869 pounds, and other poultry 2,665,961 pounds. Comparative figures show this to be about 115 per cent more than a year ago.

The reports of some firms are not included in the totals for January 1, 1919.

Statements of Food Commodities in Canada, January 1st, 1919, compared with the previous month, December 1st, 1918, and with the same month of the previous year.

The amount of food commodities in storage January 1, 1919, were:—

	Lbs. or doz.	
Butter—		
Creamery..	11,355,271	
Dairy..	1,344,712	
Cheese..	4,430,303	
Oleomargarine..	761,182	
Pork—		
Frozen..	4,697,060	
Not frozen..	2,479,570	
Dry salted..	3,343,355	
Sweet pickled..	12,762,447	
In process of cure..	15,008,897	
Total..		38,291,329
Beef—		
Frozen..	51,109,590	
Not frozen..	4,607,227	
Cured..	549,518	
In process of cure..	900,663	
Total..		57,166,998
Mutton and lamb—		
Frozen..	8,783,967	
Not frozen..	179,936	
Total..		8,963,908
Fowl—		
Chickens..	3,172,869	
Poultry..	2,665,961	
Fish—		
All kinds..	22,460,883	
For bait..	1,184,703	
Eggs—		
In cold storage..	2,075,145	
Other than cold storage..	395,113	
Frozen..	1,935,295	

Statement comparing Holdings of January 1st, 1919, with January 1st, 1918, taken from such limited lists of firms as the records of last year allow.

	1918.	1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
Butter..	11,509,252	12,335,961	7'18%	
Cheese..	10,746,688	3,558,342		66'89%
Eggs..	3,759,269	3,644,980		3'05%
Pork..	35,184,334	36,522,026	3'80%	
Beef..	43,131,780	51,984,596	20'52%	
Mutton and lamb..	4,334,568	7,724,358	78'20%	
Poultry..	2,359,322	5,068,330	114'82%	
Fish..	15,886,190	22,084,764	39'01%	

Statement comparing Holdings for all Canada January 1st, 1919, with December 1st, 1918, based upon limited lists of firms reporting both of these dates.

	Lbs. or doz. January.	Lbs. or doz. December.	Increase.	Decrease.
Butter—				
Creamery..	15,631,588	11,145,534		28'70%
Dairy..	1,615,639	1,344,557		16'78%
Cheese..	5,558,377	4,407,552		20'71%
Oleomargarine..	803,021	761,182		5'22%
Eggs—				
In cold storage..	4,561,020	2,055,466		54'94%
Other than cold storage..	566,735	256,576		54'73%
Frozen..	2,623,686	1,928,309		26'51%
Pork—				
Frozen..	3,525,387	4,675,185	32'61%	
Not frozen..	5,167,282	2,479,570		52'02%
Dry salted..	4,139,162	3,335,863		19'41%
Sweet pickled..	10,944,449	12,524,018	14'43%	
In process of cure..	16,837,598	15,008,897		10'87%
Beef—				
Frozen..	37,133,311	50,034,129	36'62%	
Not frozen..	6,359,354	4,394,910		30'90%
Cured..	2,443,470	532,771		78'20%
In process of cure..	516,790	900,663	74'28%	
Mutton and lamb—				
Frozen..	7,493,443	8,730,817	16'51%	
Not frozen..	602,654	178,296		70'42%
Poultry—				
Chickens..	2,321,058	3,141,114	35'33%	
Other poultry..	3,329,752	2,662,520	100'22%	
Fish—				
All kinds..	23,457,990	22,414,707		4'45%
For bait..	900,069	1,184,703	31'62%	

Value of Rain and Snow.

From rain and snow the soil receives per acre per annum approximately 6'5 pounds of nitrogen in forms available for crop use, as shown by results obtained in the work of determining the fertilizing value of rain and snow carried on by the Chemistry Division of the Department of Agriculture. Assigning the reasonable figure of 20 cents per pound for the nitrogen, the precipitation supplies annually plant food to the soil worth approximately \$1.30 per acre, according to the report of the Minister of Agriculture for the year ending March 31, 1918.

Dominion Parks Figures.

The Dominion parks of Canada, which are maintained as wild life sanctuaries, include an area of 7,927 square miles, or more than 5,000,000 acres, nearly equal to one-half the total area of Switzerland, almost as large as Belgium, and nearly 1,000 square miles greater than the area of Wales. Jasper Park alone, which includes 4,400 square miles, is larger than Montenegro and almost twice the size of Prince Edward Island, as shown by data furnished by the Dominion Parks Branch, Department of the Interior.

A "quarter" buys a Thrift Stamp.

DATE OF SEEDING IN EASTERN QUEBEC

Experimental Farm Note Advises Farmers of This District When to Sow.

If it were not yet admitted by all good farmers that grain first sown gives the best harvest, both as to yield and quality, the conclusive results obtained at the Experimental Station, Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, Que., as well as by the best farmers, during the last few years, would forcibly prove this fact, at least as far as eastern Quebec is concerned, where the good growing season is relatively short. By carefully noting the results and the yields obtained from different grains sown at different dates on this station, the following conclusion has been arrived at: the best grain and the highest yields in each case and in each year have been obtained from early sowings. Wheat, oats, peas and field beans require to be sown, in the order named, at the earliest possible moment in spring. Information obtained from numerous practical farmers in the district have fully confirmed the observation made at Ste Anne on this point, says an Experimental Farms note issued by the Department of Agriculture.

Since upon early sowing and good seed depend the success of next year's harvest, farmers should be ready to commence work in the fields at the earliest possible moment; to be ready to commence work is to have it already commenced. No date for starting operations can be fixed, but there is always a proper time for commencing, and the farmer should be on the look out for this and ready to take advantage of it by frequent visits to the fields which he proposes to sow. A field or part of a field which is wet in the morning is often ready to be worked by the afternoon; any small obstacle may be enough to dam up a trench or ditch, so that a visit to the field will be worth while if it enables the farmer, by removing such an obstacle, perhaps to be able to work the field much earlier. Working a muddy or wet field is to be avoided, above all if it is clayey but, on the other hand, one discing of a soil just firm enough to carry the horses will cause the exposed surface to be considerably increased, by the crumbling of the soil, which will thus be warmed more quickly and allow sowing to be commenced one day or even several days sooner.

The farmer should prepare his horses for the spring work by increasing the ration a little each day before the regular field work commences, and should look to his cultivators, harrows and drills. A careful examination of all machinery before seeding-time will permit of forgotten and necessary repairs being made. At least one good pair of traces and a good set of whipples trees should be kept in reserve, in order to avoid running the risk of losing a single one of the minutes which are so precious at seeding-time. All precautions taken, and every foreseen contingency being provided for, success will undoubtedly crown these efforts.

ANNUAL MEETING OF CONSERVATION EXPERTS

The Commission of Conservation has announced that the annual meeting of the Commission will be held in Ottawa on the 17th, 18th, and 19th of February. Particular attention will be given to the subject of wild-life conservation, which will be the principal subject of discussion at the coming conference. Among other eminent authorities on the preservation of wild-life who will take part in the proceedings will be Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey in the United States Department of Agriculture. It is stated that Senator Edwards, of Ottawa, acting chairman of the Commission, will preside at the meeting.

Exhibit for Italy.

The Department of Trade and Commerce is arranging to send to Milan, Italy, for exhibition there, the Canadian exhibits at the Lyons (France) Fair, after the close of that exhibition.