

transportation is cleared up. However, government is fully determined that to the extent of our ability the essential requirements of the United Kingdom and our overseas forces shall be met and it is, therefore intended that meat rationing be resumed as soon as such a course will be helpful. I want to make it perfectly clear that meat rationing is being suspended, not abandoned."

In fact, in order to facilitate the resumption of rationing, the system of slaughter permits and the requirements that all carcasses be stamped with the permit holder's license number have remained in full effect.

An examination of the meat situation in Canada reveals that there is more than one way to control meat supply to the civilian consumer. As we have seen, Canadian consumption without rationing has at times been lower, and never much higher than U.S. consumption with rationing, prior to the recent reduction in U.S. allocations. While there is now no rationing of meat in Canada, the Canadian government has been taking all Grade A hogs slaughtered in inspected plants for export. The government is also requisitioning all Grade B1 hogs slaughtered in western Canada, and 65% of the Grade B1 hogs slaughtered in eastern Canada. A and B1 hogs make up 75% of the slaughter of hogs in Canadian inspected plants. That means that in western Canada the government is commandeering for export up to 80% of the hogs slaughtered in inspected plants and in eastern Canada up to 66% of the hogs slaughtered for export. In addition to this Canada is shipping overseas all the surplus beef she has available.

Some U.S. journalists visiting Canada have written of seeing complete lines of all grades and types of meat on sale in the stores. This is an error of observation which may well be excused in a man who has seen empty shelves in the butcher shops in his own cities for some time. But it is still not an accurate statements. The best of Canadian meat is commandeered for shipment overseas. The only bacon on sale in Canadian stores (and it is difficult to find) is of poorer grades. The better grades are shipped to the United Kingdom. The same thing applies to beef. Canada is shipping overseas all the surplus beef she has available.

Rationing is not needed to improve the distribution of civilian supplies in Canada, because the distribution is good. The object of re-introduction of rationing would be to make available still more food to the United Nations food pool.

It must be remembered that because of Canada's small population a per capita saving on civilian consumption which would yield in the United States an enormous volume of meat for export would yield only about one-twelfth as much in the case of Canada.

Unless the ration was very restrictive in Canada, it would not provide any worthwhile quantity of meat for export. There is a limit to what could be produced by rationing, because if it were very restrictive it might foster the black market, from which Canada has been remarkably free. A black market in meat would be hard to control in Canada, especially in the Canadian west, where small slaughterers are scattered over vast areas.

If Canada has a surplus of meat, why does she not ship it to the United States?

Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to quote from a speech made by Hon. James G. Gardiner, Canada's Minister of Agriculture