

In the three crop years ended July 31, 1946, Canada will have made a record shipment of about 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat - about 1,000,000 bushels each working day.

Meat

For several years before the war Canada had promoted the development of hog production on a sound basis. This enabled overseas shipments to be increased sharply almost as soon as the United Kingdom entered the war. The needs of the United Kingdom were such that the British Ministry of Food entered into a contract with Canada in 1939 for as much bacon as could be exported. Under similar contracts, from 1940 to 1945, inclusive, Canada shipped to Britain more than 3,000,000,000 pounds of bacon.

First known as the Bacon Board, the Meat Board was established in Canada December 20, 1939. This board has been particularly active in the negotiation of contracts with the British Ministry of Food and the supervision of the fulfilment of commitments. Other contracts handled by the board include ones with Belgium, France, the Netherlands and UNRRA. It arranges for the processing, storage and transportation of meats and meat products and regulates marketing to the extent necessary to ensure the maintenance of the volume of exports needed to meet the agreements.

Production of bacon was not increased without considerable difficulty within Canada. Western farmers were growing tremendous quantities of wheat for export, but the quantity of coarse grains being grown was inadequate to meet the requirements of farmers raising livestock. Therefore farmers in the west had to be encouraged to grow more coarse grains and less wheat. The Canadian government assisted by paying the cost of transporting the feed grains to the areas where required.

Canadian beef production increased from about 743,000,000 pounds in 1942 to better than 1,000,000,000 pounds in 1945. Exports to the United Kingdom have grown from nothing at the start of the war to more than 200,000,000 pounds in 1945.

For almost the first time Canada began in 1945 to produce enough lamb to permit exports to the United Kingdom.

During 1946 it is expected that Canada will export close to 700,000,000 pounds of meat to the United Kingdom and UNRRA.

The United Kingdom is prepared to purchase from Canada maximum supplies of bacon and hams in 1946, 1947 and 1948. The 1946 contract will be extended to provide a minimum of 350,000,000 pounds in 1947 and 400,000,000 pounds in 1948.

Dairy Products and Eggs

Feed grains are essential to farmers raising cattle and poultry. Neither eastern Canada (an area of intensive production) nor British Columbia grows enough grain to feed the large numbers of livestock raised. Consequently the federal government followed a similar procedure as in the case of hogs by paying freight rates on grains shipped to areas producing dairy products.

Exports of cheese have grown from more than 93,000,000 pounds in 1940 to the 1945 and 1946 levels of 125,000,000 pounds. The production of eggs has also increased from 235,000,000 dozen in 1942 to more than 378,000,000 dozen in 1945, while exports to the United Kingdom during the same period increased by more than 100% from 37,000,000 dozen to almost 90,000,000 dozen.

During 1946 Canada has committed itself to export 125,000,000 pounds of cheese, some 800,000 cases of evaporated milk and 100,000,000 dozen eggs.

To handle all arrangements for the export of cheese and other dairy products required, particularly by the British Ministry of Food, a Dairy Products Board was established in Canada May 23, 1940.