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Food Controller Assures Protection For Hog Producers

There is a shortage of 32,425,000 hogs in Europe. Britain, France and Italy urgently need all the hog products that the United States and Canada can possibly produce. The Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments are co-operating to greatly increase the production of hogs in Canada. In connection with this undertaking, Hon. W. J. Hanna, the Food Controller for Canada, made the following statement to a representative gathering of packers and produce men:

"The hog producer will want to know at the very outset that there is assured to him as grower his fair share of the price paid by the consumer.

"Between him and the consumer is the packer and the distributor. Both he and the consumer have the right to know that the charge for packing and distributing is in relation to the cost of these services. "In the case of flour mills, we have worked out what is practically Government control in the form of license. The only profit the miller will be allowed is 25c. per barrel on the flour. The bran and shorts will be sold to the farmers at actual cost. We are adopting a plan for control in connection with wholesale fruit and vegetable men. In the case of packing houses and cold storage plants it must mean practical and effective Government control."

CONFIDENCE JUSTILIED

The assurance to the producer of a fair share of the price paid by the consumer, considered in association with the ever increasing demand of the Allies for meat, justifies confidence in the future of the swine industry.

There is a world shortage of meat. In Europe the situation is so critical that it is now one of the vital factors in deciding the outcome of the war. And hogs, on account of their prolificacy and early maturity, provide the only way to relieve the emergency.

Some idea of the enormous increase in the consumption of bacon and hams overseas since the beginning of the war is given by a statement of the British Imports:—

In 1913 they were. 638,000,000 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. Quick action by the Canadian producer is needed. The number of hogs slaughtered at Inspected Establishments in Canada in September, 1917, show a decrease of nearly 27% compared with September, 1916. Despatches from Copenhagen state that the total prohibition of pork exports is anticipated in order to insure an adequate supply of meats and fats to the Danish population.

In view of the urgency of the situation every person who can raise hogs should seriously consider the possibility of raising at least one or two extra litters. There is an individual responsibility. 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.

SAVE THE YOUNG SOWS

Every soldier in the British Army requires ½ pound of bacon per day in order to maintain the highest bodily efficiency. Multiply this ½ pound of bacon by the millions in the Allied Armies and some idea is secured of the urgent need of increased hog production for military purposes alone.

Dominion of Canada Department of Agriculture

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