

I was struck by another example, which is even more concrete. At the Credit Union Federation in Quebec we compile statistics, from which we have drawn the following facts. In 1950, when credit was not under control, for every dollar coming into our credit unions during the year, there remained 2.5. In 1950, when credit restriction were applied, for every dollar coming into our credit unions, there remained 4.4. As to the difference between urban, semi-urban and rural centres, these were the results: in urban centres, for each dollar coming into the credit unions in 1950, there remained 4.4; in 1951, 4.9; in semi-urban centres, in 1950, there remained for each dollar coming into the credit unions, 1.8; in 1951, 2.9; and in rural centres, there remained in 1950, 1.0 and in 1951, 4.3.

What has 1952 in store for us? There is no telling. But the figures given show that credit control ensures a certain stability. It is all very well to criticize, but any government that organizes and maintains stability in a country is a good government, against which it is useless to make unfounded criticism.

There is one class of people just now which is faced with a rather distressing problem: the farmers, particularly those of Eastern Canada. Western farmers were fortunate in having a bumper crop, about which I am delighted. However, due to the American embargo, the price of meat has fallen sharply, the difference in price being proportionately much less marked for the consumer than for the producer. In certain places the prices of beef and pork to the producer went down 50 per cent, but only 10 or 15 per cent to the consumer.

Such conditions should be corrected. Distribution is much too costly, and I would add that the consumer is paying too much to the middleman.

Mr. J. E. Duchesne, president of the Apple and Fruit Society of Quebec and manager of the Fruit Division of the Federated Co-operative of Quebec, in an address given in Montreal on September 5 last, had this to say

about the growing and marketing of apples:

Since the farmer now refuses to go around more poorly dressed than the city worker and also claims the right to enjoy the comforts of mechanization and electrification, people have no more pity for him, but attack him. It should not be forgotten however, that it is not he but the middleman who gets the lion's share of the profits on the sale of agricultural products. The city consumer would benefit very little from the farmer lowering his prices. Are people aware, for instance, that he gets \$35 for a ton of tomatoes which are resold in the city for \$140 and even \$160 in the form of tomato juice?

That is an example, and not the only one.

Last year, consumers were paying potatoes \$4, \$5 and even \$8 a bag. But middlemen paid the farmers \$1.50 a bag for the same produce. Farmers or potato growers who belonged to co-operatives were more fortunate, as they managed to sell their crop for \$3 to \$4 a bag.

During the winter of 1951 consumers paid from 80 cents to 85 cents a pound for butter, and even more in certain places. But butter-makers and producers had received an average of 58 cents to 65 cents a pound. Is that not an unreasonable price spread.

The agricultural economist of the federal government, in a periodical published by the federal Department of Agriculture last June, gives the result of an investigation made into the spread between prices paid to the producer and those paid by the consumer, in the case of nine agricultural products, during the 1935-1951 period. The difference in question is that between annual average prices and not that between the maximum and minimum prices paid for these products.

The products concerned in this investigation were: wheat flour, white bread, standard beef, fluid milk, butter, ordinary processed cheese, potatoes and canned tomatoes.

An analysis of these figures indicates that, at the retail level, these items represent nearly 50 per cent of a family's expenditure for food.

The following is the table published by the federal economist in the periodical of the federal Department of Agriculture:

Year	Standard beef per pound	Eggs all grades per dozen	Fluid milk per quart	Creamery butter per lb.	Ordinary processed cheese per 1/2 lb.	Potatoes per 15 lbs.
1945	10.2	11.2	7.0	12.1	15.6	20.0
1946	10.2	11.0	7.0	12.5	15.6	19.5
1947	11.1	10.5	7.1	13.3	15.7	22.7
1948	12.7	12.0	7.9	14.1	18.1	27.7
1949	17.5	15.4	8.2	15.4	20.4	26.6
1950	18.4	14.6	8.3	15.0	20.8	28.8
1951	22.9	16.2	9.4	19.0	21.8	25.7