



# REFERENCE PAPERS

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### FOOD RATIONING IN CANADA

Rumors have been current in the United States that early this year Americans may receive a five pound increase in their annual per capita ration of sugar. Should supplies warrant such an increase in the United States, they would presumably warrant a similar increase for Canadians, according to officials of Canada's Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

They point out that there is an arrangement whereby the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom draw equal per capita shares from the world's sugar supply. As world supplies improve each partner in the arrangement will be eligible for the same proportionate increase in the amount of sugar obtained. Allocation of sugar to the three countries amounted to approximately 74 pounds per capita in 1946. The division of this 74 pound total supply between food processors, manufacturers, public eating places and individual consumers varied in each country. During the year Canadian consumers were issued ration coupons for the purchase of 39 pounds of sugar apiece. However, few housewives actually bought that much sugar for members of their homes. Other foods were included in the same ration allotment, and sugar coupons had to be surrendered for all purchases of jams, jellies, marmalade, honey, syrup and, until December 15, canned fruit.

Canadians have had ample experience at planning their food purchases according to their ration coupons, their rationing system having been in effect for the past four and a half years. A summary of the present rationing situation in Canada and its previous development follows:

#### Sugar and Preserves:

Present Situation - Sugar and preserves are now rationed together. Each ration coupon is good for the purchase of ONE of the following: one pound sugar; 4 pounds honey; 2 pounds honey-butter; 24 fluid ounces jam, jelly or marmalade; 2 quarts molasses; 4 pounds maple sugar; 48 fluid ounces maple syrup; 30 ounces table syrup. (As noted above, during 1946 Canadians received coupons for 39 pounds of sugar each, any portion of which could be taken as preserves).

Previous Development - Sugar rationing was introduced in Canada on July 1, 1942, with an allotment of two pounds per person per month. Home canning sugar was available on individual application in 1942 with no rigid limit per person; by special application in 1943 at approximately 10 pounds per person; and by ration book coupons in 1944 and 1945 at the same rate. Preserves were rationed as from September 2, 1943, with alternatives obtainable as canned fruit, honey, maple sugar, jam, jelly, marmalade, honey-butter, maple syrup or sugar. On January 1, 1946, sugar and preserves rations were combined under the arrangement which is still in force. All canned fruit was de-rationed on December 15, 1946.

#### Butter:

Present Situation:- Butter is rationed at 6 ounces per person per week.

Previous Development - Butter rationing was introduced on December 21, 1942 at 8 ounces per person per week. The ration was decreased to 7



ounces weekly March 1, 1943; to 6, January 1, 1945; increased to 7 ounces, April 1, 1945; decreased to 6 ounces, January 1, 1946; decreased to four ounces, March 1, 1946; and raised to the present level of 6 ounces weekly in June, 1946.

Meat Rationing:

Present Situation - Meat is rationed at approximately 2 pounds per person per week. (The amount of meat obtainable varies from 1 to 3 pounds, depending on the cut. Liver, kidney and other edible offals are unrationed as are poultry and fish.)

Previous Development - Meat rationing was introduced on May 27, 1943, at approximately two pounds per person per week. It was temporarily suspended March 1, 1944 and re-imposed September 10, 1945 at about the same rate.

Evaporated Milk:

Present Situation - Evaporated milk is under controlled distribution throughout Canada, with coupon rationing in some areas at 96 fluid ounces per person per month for preferred users as infants, hospital patients and those requiring it by a doctor's prescription.

Previous Development - This commodity was brought under control on October 4, 1943 and has remained so since. The areas in which coupon rationing of evaporated milk prevailed were extended considerably on November 1, 1946. At the present time approximately 70% of the population comes within coupon rationed areas for this food.

Tea and Coffee:

- Present Situation - Not rationed.

Previous Development - Rationing of tea and coffee was introduced on August 3, 1942. The allotment was two ounces of tea or eight ounces of coffee per person per two weeks. It was increased by one-third on September 2, 1943; increased to 4 and 16 ounces respectively on May 1, 1944. Both of these commodities ceased to be rationed on September 19, 1944.