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Ottawa, March 12, 1937.-This report contains a summary of the hog situation in Canada. The information concerning numbers on farms, production and intentions to market hogs was obtained from farmers in December, 1936. The survey was conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the Provincial Governments.

THE HOG SITUATION IN CANADA

Summary

The abundant and relatively low-priced supplies of feed grains which were available in Canada during the latter part of 1935 and early part of 1936 resulted in a considerable increase in hog production in all provinces. At December 1, 1936, the number of hogs on farms was estimated at 4,422,400. This is the highest figure recorded at December 1 in the six years in which the December survey has been conducted. It represents an increase of 7 per cent over the number on farms at June 1, 1936 and is 12 per cent greater than the estimated number for December 1, 1935.

The increase in numbers on farms was substantiated by records of production. Pigs saved from farrowings during the period of June to November 1936 were reported as 17 per cent greater than for the same period of 1935. All provinces reported increases in production.

The number of hogs intended for market and for farm slaughter from December 1936 to May 1937 shows an increase of 20 per cent compared with the same period a year ago. Large increases in numbers to be marketed are reported from Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Production prospects for 1937 have been affected by the shortage and high price of feed grains, particularly in the Prairie Provinces and Ontario. Farmers reported at December 1, a decrease of 8 per cent in the number of sows expected to farrow this spring as compared with the expected farrowings of last spring. Higher feed prices since the date of reporting may lead to a somewhat greater decline in farrowings than was anticipated at December 1.

During January and February of 1937, marketings continued appreciably higher than they were for the same period a year ago. Cold storage stocks of pork at February 1 were 55 per cent higher than the corresponding figure for February 1, 1936. Exports of bacon and hams and live hogs in the first two months recorded substantial gains. From April to December of 1936, average hog prices at Toronto were below those for the corresponding months of the previous year. In January of this year, prices averaged slightly higher than in January 1936. In February prices declined in response to heavy marketings and large cold storage holdings of pork.

NUMBERS OF HOGS ON FARMS IN CANADA
December 1, 1935 and 1936

	1935		Total
	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	
Prince Edward Island	27,300	13,900	41,200
Nova Scotia	31,000	15,600	46,600
New Brunswick	37,700	26,700	64,400
Quebec	350,000	316,400	666,400
Ontario	1,127,200	333,100	1,460,300
Manitoba	117,000	77,500	194,500
Saskatchewan	348,100	259,300	607,400
Alberta	522,100	293,300	815,400
British Columbia	31,300	23,200	54,500
Total - Canada	2,591,700	1,359,000	3,950,700

NUMBERS OF HOGS ON FARMS IN CANADA (Con'd)
December 1, 1935 and 1936

	1936			
	Under 6 Months	Over 6 Months	Total	Percentage Increase in Total
Prince Edward Island	27,100	14,000	41,100	...
Nova Scotia	37,800	16,500	54,300	16
New Brunswick	46,300	28,600	74,900	16
Quebec	424,300	306,000	730,300	10
Ontario	1,197,400	492,500	1,689,900	16
Manitoba	162,400	81,700	244,100	26
Saskatchewan	430,600	236,300	666,900	10
Alberta	609,700	246,000	855,700	5
British Columbia	42,700	22,500	65,200	20
Total - Canada	2,978,300	1,444,100	4,422,400	12

The greatest increase in number of hogs took place in the Province of Ontario where 229,600 more were reported, a gain of 16 per cent over the December 1935 figure. The principal commercial producing provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta showed a gain of 12 per cent in the number of hogs on farms.

NUMBER OF HOGS ON FARMS IN CANADA
June 1 and December 1, 1931 to 1936
Thousands

	June 1	December 1
1931	4,700	4,264
1932	4,639	4,125
1933	3,801	3,588
1934	3,654	3,649
1935	3,549	3,951
1936	4,139	4,422

Over 4.4 million hogs were reported on farms at December 1, 1936, which was the highest number recorded in the December surveys. It was the second year in which the December estimate was higher than June, the reverse of the usual seasonal tendency which had prevailed from 1931 to 1934. At the present rate of marketing, and with the prospect of a decrease in farrowings this spring, it is expected that the number of hogs on farms at June 1 may be somewhat less than the December estimate.

SOWS FARROWED
June to November

	1935	1936	Percentage Increase
Prince Edward Island	5,500	5,500	0
Nova Scotia	4,500	5,800	29
New Brunswick	7,500	8,900	19
Quebec	74,400	89,300	20
Ontario	154,300	164,400	6
Manitoba	17,200	23,200	35
Saskatchewan	55,200	71,600	30
Alberta	89,200	99,200	11
British Columbia	4,700	5,600	19
Total - Canada	412,500	473,500	15

STATE OF NEW YORK IN SENATE

Year	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	Total
Population	2,200,000	2,250,000	2,300,000	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	2,550,000	2,600,000	2,650,000	23,000,000
Area	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	500,000
Value	100,000,000	110,000,000	120,000,000	130,000,000	140,000,000	150,000,000	160,000,000	170,000,000	180,000,000	190,000,000	1,470,000,000

The following table shows the population, area, and value of the State of New York for the years 1890 to 1899. The population has increased from 2,200,000 in 1890 to 2,650,000 in 1899. The area has remained constant at 50,000. The value has increased from 100,000,000 in 1890 to 1,900,000,000 in 1899.

POPULATION 1890 to 1899

Year	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
Population	2,200,000	2,250,000	2,300,000	2,350,000	2,400,000	2,450,000	2,500,000	2,550,000	2,600,000	2,650,000

The population of the State of New York has increased steadily from 1890 to 1899. The increase is due to a combination of factors, including immigration and natural increase. The population has increased by 450,000 in the ten-year period.

AREA 1890 to 1899

Year	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899
Area	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

The area of the State of New York has remained constant at 50,000 from 1890 to 1899. This is because the State's boundaries have not changed during this period.

PIGS BORN
June to November

	1935	1936	Percentage Increase
Prince Edward Island	54,600	56,500	4
Nova Scotia	46,500	60,500	30
New Brunswick	71,200	86,400	21
Quebec	699,200	856,900	23
Ontario	1,573,900	1,643,900	4
Manitoba	151,800	213,000	40
Saskatchewan	468,000	605,500	29
Alberta	826,900	938,800	14
British Columbia	45,800	57,600	26
Total - Canada	3,937,900	4,519,100	15

PIGS SAVED
June to November

	1935	1936	Percentage Increase
Prince Edward Island	45,300	48,500	7
Nova Scotia	36,700	49,400	35
New Brunswick	53,300	67,900	27
Quebec	574,500	697,200	21
Ontario	1,219,000	1,315,100	8
Manitoba	112,400	162,900	45
Saskatchewan	364,900	467,400	28
Alberta	641,600	751,900	17
British Columbia	36,000	46,000	28
Total - Canada	3,083,700	3,606,300	17

With the exception of Prince Edward Island, all provinces showed increases in the number of sows farrowing from June to November. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Nova Scotia indicated large increases, which were also borne out by the records of the number of pigs saved from these farrowings. In the Prairie Provinces, the number of pigs saved from June to November farrowings in 1936 was 24 per cent greater than for the corresponding period of 1935. In the Maritime Provinces the increase was 23 per cent, while Quebec and Ontario combined indicated a gain of 12 per cent.

SOWS TO FARROW
December to May

	1935-36	1936-37	Percentage Increase (✓) or Decrease (-) for 1936-37
Prince Edward Island	7,200	6,800	- 6
Nova Scotia	6,200	6,900	✓11
New Brunswick	11,500	12,900	✓12
Quebec	136,700	145,400	✓ 6
Ontario	171,900	146,200	-15
Manitoba	29,300	26,700	- 9
Saskatchewan	92,400	79,400	-14
Alberta	131,100	112,100	-14
British Columbia	6,900	7,400	✓ 7
Total - Canada	593,200	543,800	- 8

According to the results of the survey, the chief decline in farrowings this spring will take place in the main commercial hog-producing provinces. The Province of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, because of favourable feed conditions, anticipate an increase in farrowings over last spring. For the whole of Canada, farmers reported at December 1 an expected decline of 8 per cent in the number of sows to farrow from December 1936 to May 1937. Higher feed prices and

low hog prices since the date of reporting may lead to an even greater decline than was anticipated. During the first 9 weeks of 1937, the number of sows graded was 74 per cent higher than for the same period of 1936, while total gradings were only 27 per cent greater. Thus it would appear that further liquidation of breeding stock has been taking place.

HOGS INTENDED FOR MARKET AND FARM SLAUGHTER December to May

	1935-36	1936-37	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Prince Edward Island	33,600	33,000	- 2
Nova Scotia	23,200	26,700	+15
New Brunswick	30,800	37,100	+20
Quebec	364,800	430,200	+18
Ontario	814,000	994,800	+22
Manitoba	87,200	119,000	+36
Saskatchewan	275,800	357,000	+29
Alberta	491,800	541,100	+10
British Columbia	31,400	39,300	+25
Total - Canada	2,152,600	2,578,200	+20

Farmer's intentions to market and farm slaughter hogs in the period December 1936 to May 1937 were reported as 20 per cent greater than last year. Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan indicated considerable increases in the number of hogs intended for market. Since these provinces are important contributors to the commercial output, the intentions have so far been substantiated in an increase of 32 per cent in the sales at public stockyards.

Supplementary Data

A series of charts attached to this report contain additional analytical material. The first chart shows the changes in numbers of hogs on farms from 1931 to 1936. The sharp increase between June 1935 and December 1936 was the result of a favourable relationship of hog prices to feed prices and a plentiful supply of feed grains.

The inspected slaughterings of hogs in November and December, 1936 were appreciably higher than the 1935 figures. In January and February of 1937, the difference has not been as great and will probably narrow as the season progresses. The increased output is also evident in cold storage holdings, shown in Chart 3, which were 51.4 million pounds at February 1, 1937 compared with 33.1 million at the same date a year ago.

The hog-barley ratio at Winnipeg for January 1937 was 10.0. This is the lowest the ratio has been for some years. The ratio has declined sharply from a favourable position of 28.0 in June 1936.

Chart 5 shows the weighted average price of hogs at Toronto and the price of Canadian bacon in Great Britain converted at the current rate of exchange. In order to have prices on the same scale, the price of 50 pounds of bacon has been compared with the price of 100 pounds of hog.

Marketings

The number of hogs sold at the public stock yards in Canada from December 1936 to the first week of March 1937, shows a gain of 32 per cent over sales for the corresponding period a year ago. Inspected slaughterings have recorded a gain of 42 per cent for the same period. It is likely that the rate of marketing will slow down in the late spring months, and thus the percentage gain will be somewhat less than the record to date.

The Feed Situation

The feed grain shortage is most acute in the Prairie Provinces where there were short crops of oats and barley together with a large number of grain consuming animals on farms in the fall of 1936. In Ontario, the high price of feeds which are purchased has an important bearing on production prospects. Satisfactory

feed crops in 1936 in Quebec and the Maritimes will likely permit of some expansion in hog production this spring. Importation of corn during the period August 1936 to January 1937 has totalled 17.1 million bushels compared with 3.8 million bushels for the same period of the previous year.

Hog Production in Other Countries

England and Wales

NUMBER OF PIGS - 1935 and 1936 (Thousands)

	1935		1936	
	June	Dec.	June	Dec.
Sows for breeding	494	507	483	480
Boars used for service	40	41	34	34
Other pigs (2 months and over)	2,074	2,519	2,187	2,580
Other pigs (under 2 months)	1,205	1,046	1,100	962
TOTAL	3,813	4,113	3,804	4,056

Northern Ireland

NUMBER OF PIGS (Thousands)

	January 1 1936	June 1 1936	January 1 1937
Over 6 months	86	91	102
Under 6 months	402	431	458
TOTAL	488	522	560

Denmark

NUMBER OF PIGS (Thousands)

	November 1935	November 1936
Sows	410	392
Boars	21	22
Other Pigs	2,887	3,102
TOTAL	3,318	3,516

United States

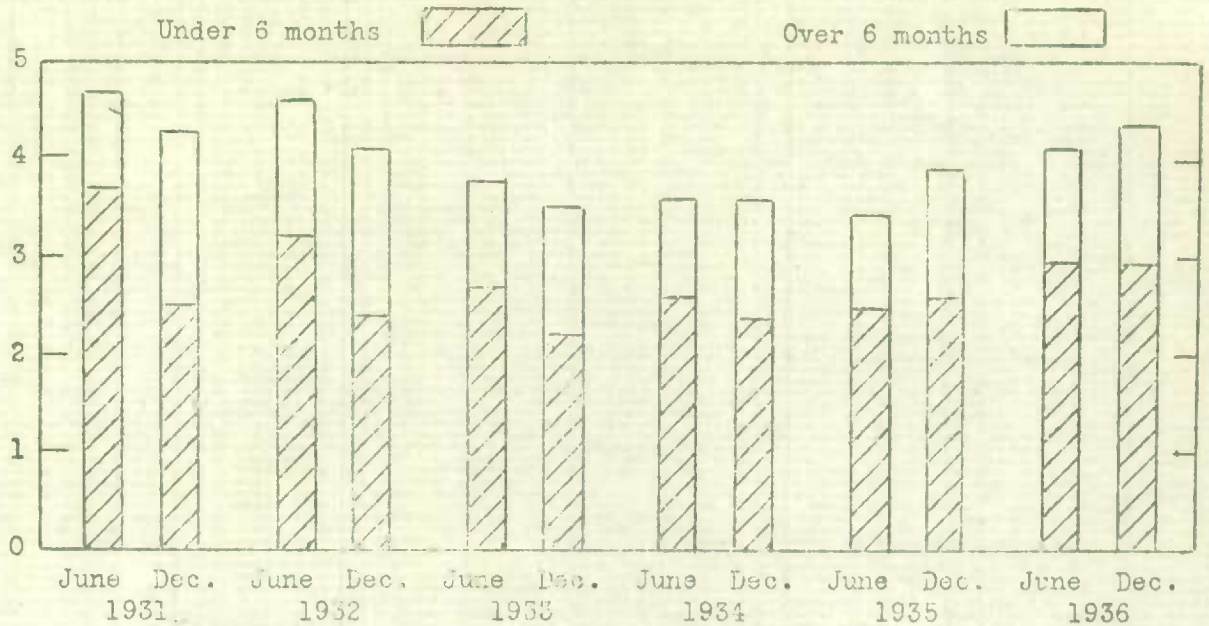
HOGS ON FARMS JANUARY 1 (Thousands)

1931	54,835
1932	59,301
1933	62,127
1934	58,621
1935	39,004
1936	42,837
1937	42,774

Chart 1

NUMBER OF HOGS ON FARMS IN CANADA
June 1 and December 1
1931 to 1936

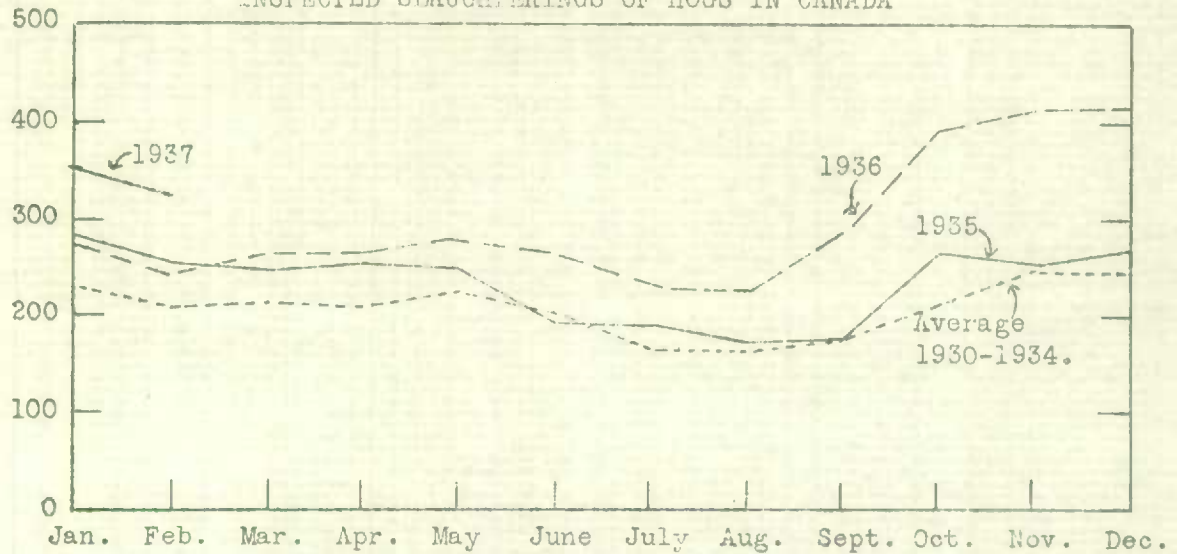
Million
Hogs



Thousand
Hogs

Chart 2

INSPECTED SLAUGHTERINGS OF HOGS IN CANADA



Million
Pounds

Chart 3

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF PORK IN CANADA

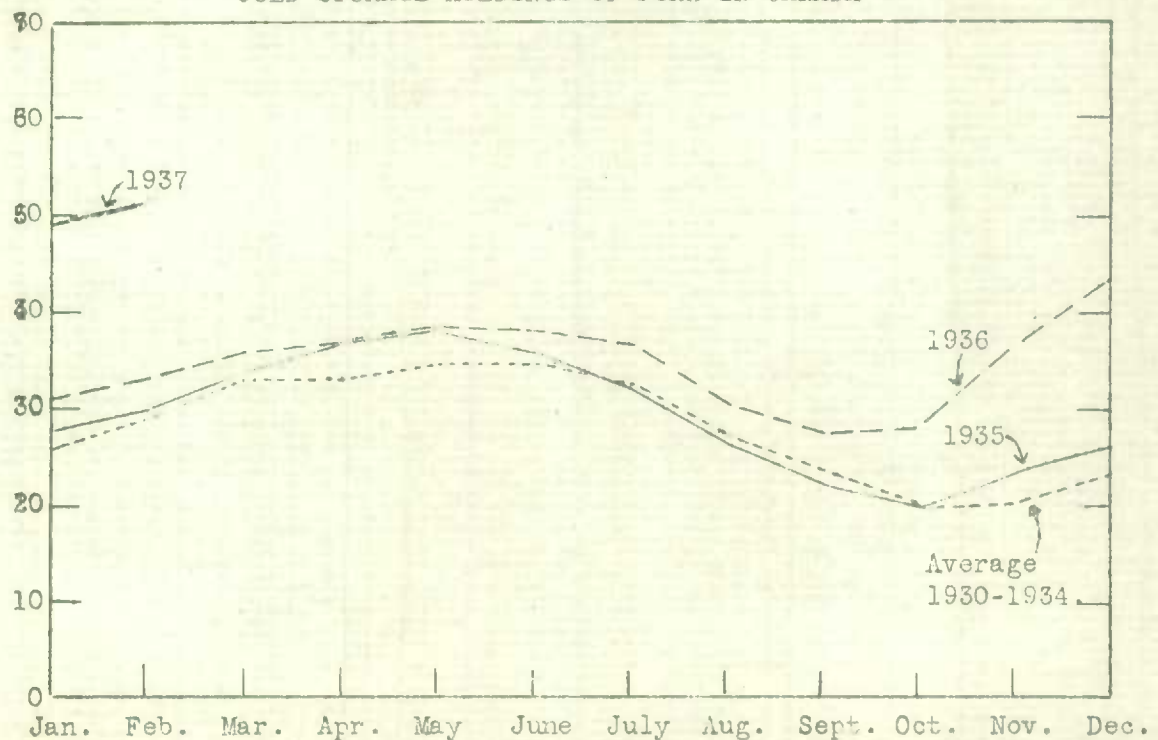


Chart 4

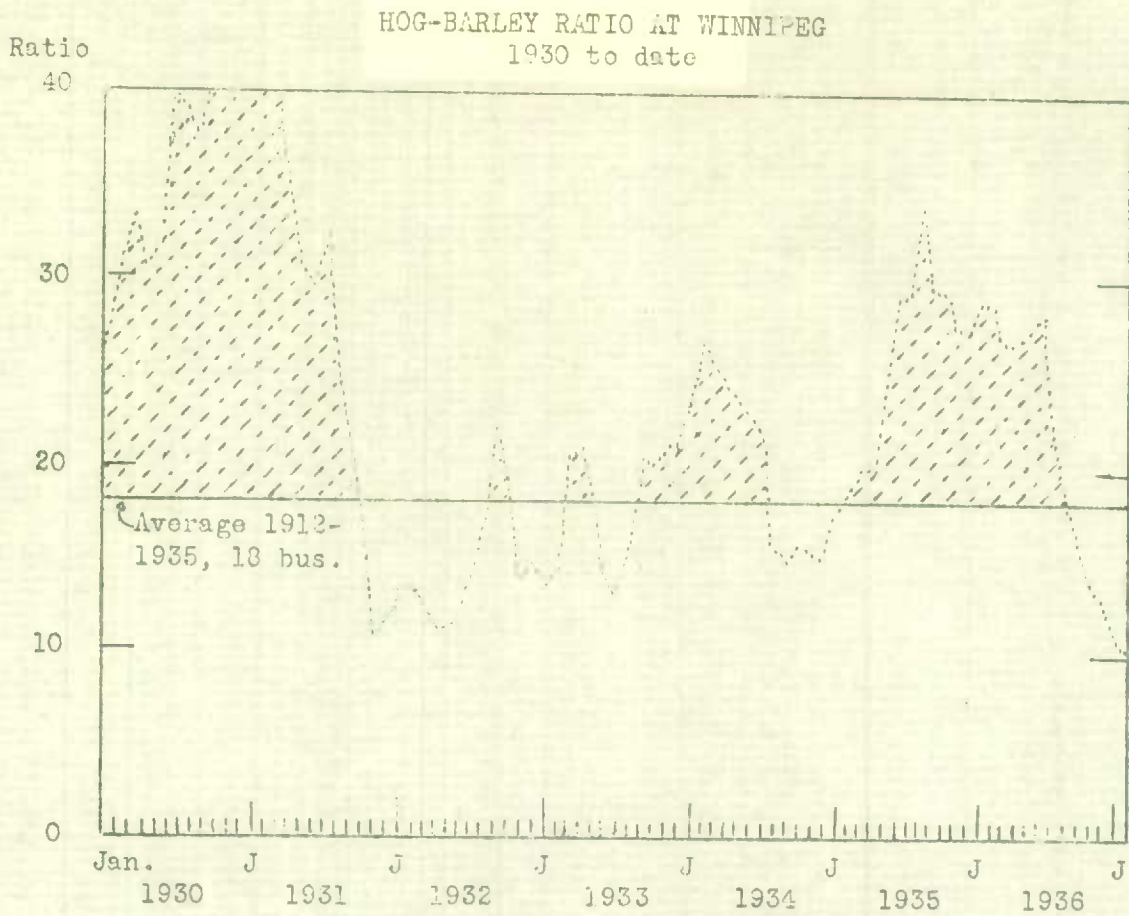
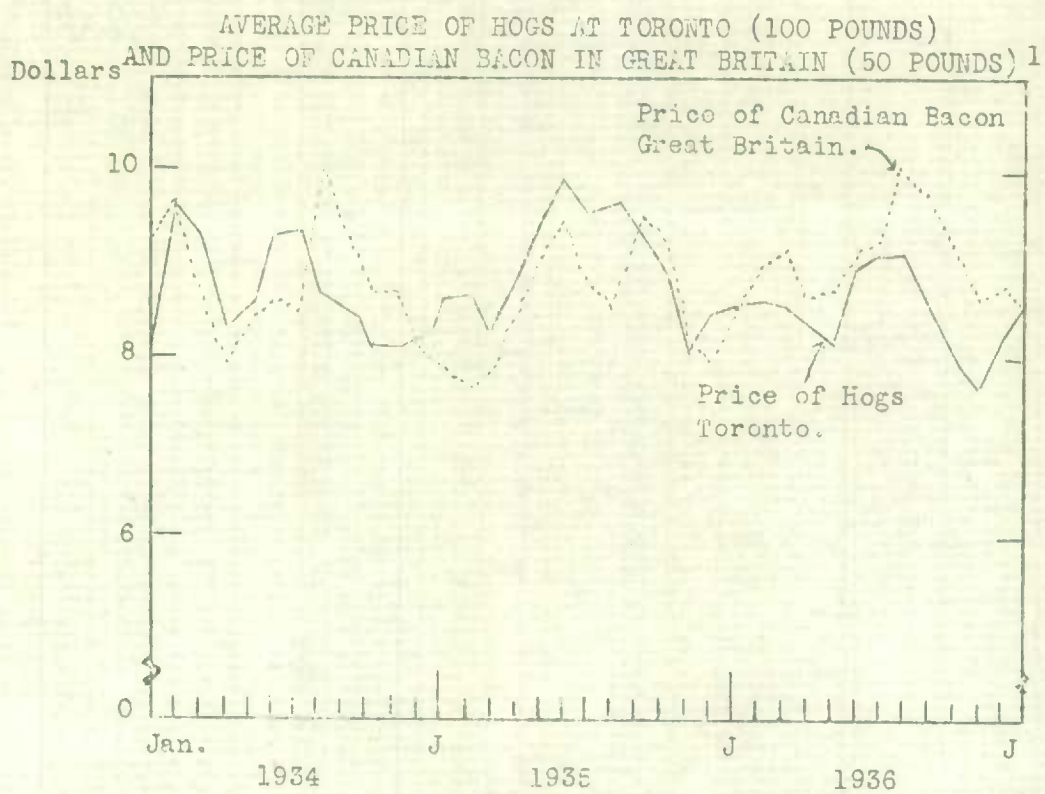
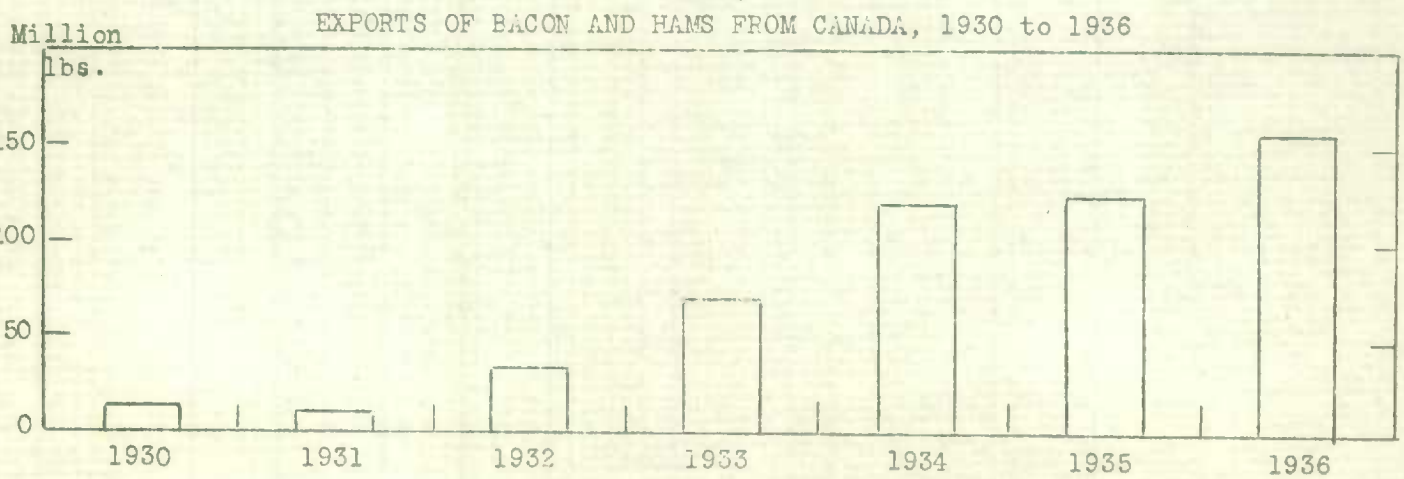


Chart 5



¹ Converted at current exchange.

Chart 6



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