

32-D-81
STATEMENT OF FOOD COMMODITIES IN CANADA, MARCH 1, 1918, AS
COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, FEBRUARY 1918, AND WITH
THE SAME MONTH OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

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The Cost of Living Commissioner of the Minister of Labour has issued his ordinary monthly statement of the quantities of food held in storage as of March 1st, 1918. His figures are derived from the returns of companies holding about 99 per cent of the total cold storage space available in Canada. They include dairy products, pickled and barrelled, as well as frozen meats, and the holdings of practically all the large fish companies in Canada.

The amount of food commodities in storage March 1st, 1918,

were:-

Butter	4,300,131 pounds
Cheese	5,886,612 pounds
Eggs	260,141 dozen
Beef (fresh and pickled)	29,984,111 pounds
Pork (fresh and pickled)	19,895,869 pounds
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	13,180,044 pounds
Mutton & Lamb	3,816,673 pounds
Fish all Varieties	13,948,408 pounds
Powl all Varieties	2,492,190 pounds

The preceding figures cover only goods reported as held in storage. To estimate the quantity of any of such goods available from cold storage companies for consumption and export, add about ten per cent to represent goods in transit and certain comparatively insignificant quantities unreported.

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The preceding table of food commodities in storage March 1st, 1918, does not include the holdings of the Harris Abattoir Company of Toronto, Montreal and Quebec.

The following telegrams have passed between this Department and that Company with reference to their statement of goods on hand March 1st.

Toronto, Ont. March 11, 1918.

Acting Commissioner re Cost of Living,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Answering monthly statement various branches being prepared will be wired to-night if possible.

Harris Abattoir Company.

Ottawa, March 12, 1918.

Harris Abattoir Company, Limited,
Toronto, Ontario.

The first of the month statements covering your Head Office and branches not yet received. Kindly wire same immediately.

W. F. O'Connor.

Toronto, March 13, 1918.

Acting Commissioner re Cost of Living,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Replying officers of company responsible for your reports have been absent from city for over two weeks and have just returned. Stop for this reason no inventory was taken at end February, writing fully.

Harris Abattoir Company.

If Harris Abattoir Company had this month reported their holdings, (according to general per centage of decrease or increase of total amount in storage) would probably have been as follows:-

Butter	160,150 pounds
Cheese	64,361 pounds
Eggs	9,179 dozen
Beef	3,530,573 pounds
Pork	776,233 pounds
Bacon & Ham	19,085 pounds
Mutton & Lamb	170,071 pounds

Amount of Fish and Powl considered negligible.

Its holdings are chiefly in Toronto. As the non-receipt of returns from this important company interrupts the continuity of the commissioner's system of recording the ebb and flow of food supplies in Canada and impairs its value he has required that approximate figures be give at once and these will be specially published later and before the appearance of next month's report.

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Comparison of holdings of February 1st, 1918, with
March 1st, 1918, show a general decrease as on hand March 1st, 1918.

The following table shows for March 1st, 1918:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Butter	41%	
Cheese	21%	
Eggs	83%	
Beef	17%	
Pork	35%	
Ham, Bacon & Smoked Meats	...	1%
Mutton & Lamb	4%	
Fish	16%	
Powl	20%	

The holdings of the firms reporting quantities of food commodities on hand March 1st, 1918, who also have reported for March 1st, 1917, show the following comparisons:-

	<u>March 1st, 1917</u>	<u>March 1st, 1918</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Butter	4,283,547	4,084,513	4.7 %	
Cheese	2,807,053	5,848,480		108.3%
Eggs	286,848	234,000	18.4%	
Beef (fresh & pickled)	28,530,290	29,649,721		3.9%
Pork (fresh & pickled)	23,946,100	19,729,402	17.61%	
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	17,503,998	11,911,472	31.95%	
Mutton & Lamb	7,109,836	3,674,021	48.33%	
Fish all Varieties	7,895,083	12,819,598		62.3%
Powl all Varieties	4,097,811	2,467,858	39.78%	

The cheese conditions remain as reported last month. The over-accumulation centres chiefly in Ontario. The commissioner notes now a disposition to accumulate large stores of fish. He does not yet pronounce this unjustifiable, but request suspension of judgment while he develops certain facts. It would be improper to suppress the figures meanwhile. If the circumstances justify it he will refer to the matter again.

The following statement shows the distribution of the total quantities of each of the mentioned commodities in store March 1st, 1918, reported according to established districts:-

	<u>Maritime Provinces</u>	<u>Quebec</u>	<u>Ontario Minus Toronto</u>	<u>Toronto</u>
Butter	148,029	1,414,607	329,554	984,537
Cheese	172,417	1,609,435	1,739,016	1,323,540
Eggs	790	78,315	15,666	60,959
Beef, Fresh	2,932,200	3,090,975	761,359	5,876,418
Beef, pickled	40,600	323,324	37,448	75,434
Pork, Fresh	93,145	356,446	717,727	1,716,314
Pork, Pickled	227,603	445,495	1,429,028	3,837,593
Bacon & Ham	606,137	2,773,911	2,386,919	6,755,675
Mutton & Lamb	658,811	802,803	117,669	1,170,880
Fish all Varieties	2,486,763	232,705	549,468	535,319
Powl all Varieties	84,440	615,063	501,953	483,731

	<u>Manitoba</u>	<u>Alberta & Saskatchewan</u>	<u>British Columbia</u>
Butter	235,818	595,271	592,315
Cheese	237,892	602,694	141,618
Eggs	31,921	56,464	16,026
Beef, fresh	6,159,099	8,074,074	1,722,738
Beef, pickled	873,701	7,600	8,341
Pork, fresh	883,213	2,489,354	369,985
Pork, pickled	1,663,002	4,960,007	706,957
Bacon & Ham	756,747	229,958	114,774
Mutton & Lamb	699,979	211,182	155,349
Fish all Varieties	1,235,174	1,108,459	7,800,520
Powl all Varieties	245,367	334,948	226,688

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Year	1960	1961	1962	1963
Revenue	100,000,000	110,000,000	120,000,000	130,000,000
Expenditure	110,000,000	120,000,000	130,000,000	140,000,000
Surplus	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)
Deficit	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Interest	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Principal	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Amortization	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Reserve	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000

Year	1964	1965	1966	1967
Revenue	140,000,000	150,000,000	160,000,000	170,000,000
Expenditure	150,000,000	160,000,000	170,000,000	180,000,000
Surplus	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)	(10,000,000)
Deficit	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Interest	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Principal	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Amortization	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Reserve	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000

The exports of the same commodities (including foreign as well as Canadian production) for February 1917 and 1918, respectively were:-

	<u>February 1917</u>	<u>February 1918</u>
Butter	48,831 pounds	402,035 pounds
Cheese	3,659,192 pounds	4,948,415 pounds
Eggs	94,891 dozen	133,712 dozen
Beef	1,487,666 pounds	10,451,058 pounds
Pork	960,733 pounds	113,314 pounds
Bacon & Ham	15,604,029 pounds	16,152,401 pounds
Mutton	8,463 pounds	10,542 pounds

The imports of the same commodities for February 1917 and 1918 were:-

	<u>February 1917</u>	<u>February 1918</u>
Butter,	33,421 pounds	18,211 pounds
Cheese	50,430 pounds	16,763 pounds
Eggs	342,425 dozen	97,418 dozen
Beef	1,254,801 pounds	569,055 pounds
Pork	11,984,875 pounds	671,425 pounds
Bacon & Ham	1,940,072 pounds	33,981 pounds
Mutton & Lamb	126,795 pounds	136,466 pounds

The exports of butter in February of this year as compared with February 1917 have increased from about 50,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds; of cheese from 3,600,000 pounds to about five million pounds; eggs from 95,000 to 134,000 dozen; beef from 1½ million to 10½ million pounds; bacon & ham from 15,600,000 pounds to 16,150,000. The export of fresh frozen and pickled pork alone show a decrease. In February 1917, there were exported 960,000 pounds, this year only 113,000 pounds. This is largely due to the fact that pork is converted into bacon or ham for export.

The increase in export of Canadian pork is however very much greater this year as the import of pork which comes chiefly from United States in February 1918 was only 670,000 pounds as compared with 12 million pounds in February of last year. The imports of bacon and ham were only 34,000 pounds this year as compared with 2,000,000 pounds last year. The imports of the other commodities also show a slight decrease. In February 1918 there were about 100,000 dozen eggs imported as compared with 340,000 dozen in February 1917.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY AND NAVAL DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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The commissioner concludes his statement as follows:-

"Some recent press references to spoiling of fowl at Winnipeg seem to call for a few words from me. The cost of living branch of the labour department has on file complete records of all fowl in cold storage, including the fowl in question. In due course and without particular or special investigation, the loss of the fowl would become known to me and I now have knowledge as to it. The fowl were overheld until it became unfit for food and was therefore destroyed, but there was a defect in the cold storage premises wherein it was contained. Otherwise, notwithstanding its age it would not have spoiled, and the proprietors were unaware of the conditions while the same were developing. This happens occasionally as a mere incident of cold storage operations, and is usually unavoidable. In saying this I do not justify the holding of fowl or other food commodities from one season past another. While this is permitted, and it is permitted so far as the law is concerned and with the exercise of care it may be done without sensible depreciation of value of the commodity, I cannot say that the mere accidental condition of the company's premises, by reason whereof the fowl went bad, renders the company any more guilty than if the fowl had been stored in another and more suitable place for the same length of time and had not gone bad at all. I am sorry if this statement shatters any theories held as to the incident in question, but can only give the facts, no matter where they lead."

(signed) W. F. O'Connor,
Acting Commissioner re Cost of Living

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