STATEMENT OF FOOD COMMODITIES IN CANADA, MAY 1, 1918, AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, APRIL 1, 1918, AND WITH THE SAME MONTH OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

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The amount of food commodities in storage May 1st, 1918, were:-

Butter	1,182,211 pounds
Cheese	3,141,771 pounds
Eggs	3,766,997 dozen
Beef (fresh and pickled)	21,592,408 pounds
Pork (frehh and pickled)	27,235,400 pounds
Bacon, ham and smoked meats	13,279,961 pounds
Mutton & Lamb	1,449,655 pounds
Fish all varieties	15,534,328 pounds
Fowl all varieties	1,640,150 pounds

The preceding figures cover only goods reported as held in storage. To estimates 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.

Goods owned by firms reporting May 1st, 1918, who also have reported May 1st, 1917, show the following comparisons:-

	May 1st, 1917	May 1st, 1918.	Increase	Decrease
Butter	994,693	873,016		12.24 %
Cheese	1,199,585	1,952,573	62.77 %	
Eggs	1,633,842	2,934,594	79.61 %	
Beef (fresh & pickled)	8,904,857	17,866,506	100.63 %	
Pork (fresh & pickled)	27,679,144	25,548,857		7.70 %
Bacon, ham & smoked meats	23,001,405	12,984,219		43.56 %
Mutton & Lamb	2,767,430	1,227,073		55.66 %
Fish all varieties	9,235,692	9,992,208	7.57 %	
Fowl all varieties	3,021,004	1,042,407		65.50 %

Comparison of holdings of April 1st, 1918 with May 1st, 1918.

The following table shows from May 1st, 1918:-

Commodity	April 1st	May 1st	Decrease	Increase
Butter	2,804,201	1,182,211	57.85%	
Cheese	4,266,207	3,141,771	26.36%	
Eggs,	276,898	3,766,997		1260.42%
Beef	30,285,941	21,592,408	28.71%	
Pork	25,335,862	27,235,400		7.49%
Bacon, Ham, Smoked Meats	13,328,750	13,279,961	.37%	
Mutton and Lamb	2,933,231	1,449,655	50.58%	
Fowl all varieties,	2.090,038	1,640,150	21.53%	
Fish all varieties,	14,721,956	15,534,328		5.51%

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

	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario Minus Toronto	Toronto.
Butter,	36,388	220,612	102,818	234,175
Cheese,	105,993	988,385	611,093	865,819
Eggs,	15,430	881,696	1,290,464	375,639
Beef, fresh	2,249,454	3,410,557	363,188	3,792,884
Beef, pickled	130,000	33,889	122,716	101,067
Pork fresh	64,458	420,277	632,505	1,725,193
Pork pickled	283,480	2,123,954	1,450,481	6,376,244
Bacon & Ham & Smoked Meats,	676,482	2,803,207	2,406,472	5,905,569
Mutton & Lamb	36,840	536,417	44,950	271,369
Fish all Varieties	2,019,756	990,126	593,029	555,048
Fowl all varieties,	65,956	363,758	496,076	366,053

	Manitoba	Alberta & Saskatchewan.	British Columbia
Butter,	202,605	197,387	188,226
Cheese,	121,242	348,275	100,964
Eggs	168,782	484,921	550,065
Beef fresh	4,068,738	5,997,877	1,279,438
Beef pickled	24,428	9,847	8,325
Pork fresh	2,345,386	2,505,461	531,892
Pork pickled	2,816,487	5,310,221	649,361
Bacon & Ham & Smoked Meats,	1,016,761	384,554	86,916
Mutton & Lamb	319,601	216,355	24,123
Fish all Varieties,	1,094,290	747,809	9,534,270
Fowl all Varieties	95,765	107,783	144,759

COST OF LIVING BRANCH

Department of Labour.

..... May 20th, 1918.

Stocks of food in Cold Storage.

Canada has ample stocks of produce in storage, with due economy of use, to meet our own reasonable requirements and still keep up, and perhaps increase, our unusually gratifying record in supplying the needs of the overseas fighting forces.

At this time when the Allies are in extreme need of foodstuffs it is particularly vital to know that stocks Canada has in store. It is gratifying to find large stocks here if we also find that they are kept moving. The reports for May 1st show that foods are being kept moving reasonably well, but that there is still room for greater movement in view of the extraordinary demand at presenttin Europe.

Our stocks of butter are low and have decreased since April. Stocks of eggs are increasing as it is right they should at this season of the year when the new crop is coming in. The very low figure in egg holdings on April 1st indicates that the storages were entirely cleared of last year's stock. Cheese has also decreased markedly since last month. In this we see the results of the recent Order of the Canada Food Board causing the sale of unnecessary accumulations and stopping the holdings of old stocks of produce over the season of new production.

Our stocks of beef are larger than a year ago, but they are being moved rapidly. Our stocks of pork are not so large as a year ago, judging by the records of the firms reporting this May and a year ago, but they have increased above last month. Mutton & Lamb are in storage in less quantities than usual. Taking the meat situation as a whole, we find there are large stocks, large movement and an opportunity for a still larger overseas shipment.

This export has been centralized in the hands of the Allied Provisions Export Commission and thereby our own consumers as well as the Allies are being saved still higher prices which would result from the old system of competitive buying by a dozen different commissions bidding against each other. This Commission has wired to us that up to the present they have been taking availbale surplus of pork products, beef, cheese and butter and that they shall undoubtedly require all that Canada can spare of these products. They are being fully advised as to all produce available for their purchase, so that the movement of stocks may be further facilitated.

R. J. McFall,

Acting Commissioner.