FOOD IN COLD STORAGE JUNE 19, 1918.

The Cost of Living Branch reports to the Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minster of Labour, as follows, concerning food in cold storage:-

Reports form the cold storage companies for June 1st, indicate and increase in quantity in store of Butter, Eggs, Pork, Mutton, Lamb, and Fish; and a decrease in the quantity of Cheese, Beef and Fowl, compared with May 1st, of this year.

As compared with June 1st, 1917, we have more Butter in store, more Beef, and more fish. We have less Cheese, Eggs, Pork products and fowl than a year ago. The most striking comparison is in the case of beef, of which we have 111. 72% more than on June 1st, 1917. Since the Purchasing Commission of the Allies is fully aware of this fact, and we have the statement of these gentleman to the effect that a large proportion of this stock is already under contract to them, we find no grounds for any charge of hoarding.

The most striking feature recently in the market situation of storage products has been the great rise in the price of beef. There has been a general rise in all beef products throughout the Dominion, but the west, starting from Port Arthur and Port William, has suffered the worst. Naturally the consuming public has resented the rise very much.

The matter has been carefully investigated with the view to detecting profiteering, and while the merchants in some localities have apparently used the general rise in prices to cover an undue increase, we have not been able to find any evidence that the general increase throughout the country was due to unlawful action on the part of the meat packers. The increase is general throughout the whole of North America, and is fully as marked in the case of live cattle as in the case of meat. On ascertaining these facts, we might have stopped, for this office has no jurisdiction over the farmers, but we have been able to go farther and have found, that the increased price is due entirely to the war situation; particularly to the fact that the Purchasers of the United States Army and Purchasing Commission of the other Allies, have considered that the increased price to the farmer was necessary to stimulate the production of more beef on the farms. The necessity arose on the demands of shipping facilities to place the United States Army in France, with the consequent lack of ships to bring as much meat as formerly from South America.

The necessity has arisen for North America to provide a larger proportion of beef, and it was not thought possible to do this at the former price. The increase was given more to stimulate production in the future than to hasten selling in the present. The result has been that theprice of live cattle went up in all markets several cents, and that the wholesale price of the best meat by the carcass rose accordingly.

It is impossible to make an exact statement for the country as a whole, but the evidehce available indicates that the rise was most evident in the price of live animals and in the retail price. Apparently, if any of the dealers have taken advantage of the situation to raise the price unduly, it is the retailers.

This is probably due in part at least, to the fact that the wholesalers have large stocks on hand, on which they are not allowed by the Canada Food Board to advance there prices. It is now unlawful for wholesale dealers to make more than a certain limited percentage of profit on his meats, no matter what change may come over the market. It is noteworthy that wholesale prices of beef have advanced very much more in the United States than they have in Canada.

In the United States the increased cost of the carcass has been taken up mostly by added charges for the cheaper cuts with consequent added burdens upon the labour classes. The evidence shows that such was not the case in general in Canada, but that the best cuts were advanced as much as the common cuts.

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

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

Butter	2,251,673 pounds
Cheese	2,966,997 pounds
Eggs	8,422,588 dozen
Beef (fresh & pickled)	19,333,470 pounds
Pork (fresh & pickled)	21,218,944 pounds
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	14,721,221 pounds
Mutton & Lamb	1,507,824 pounds
Fish all varieties	16,154,305 pounds
Fowl all varieties	904,075 pounds

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

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

	June 1st, 1917.	June 1st, 1918.	Increase	Decrease.
Butter	1,439,781	1,689,260	14.93%	
Cheese	3,102,210	2,190,098		29.41%
Eggs	6,568,873	5,911,113		10.02%
Beef (fresh & pickled)	8,125,422	17,203,918	111.72%	
Pork (fresh & pickled)	31,829,362	29,458,903		7.45%
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	18,557,039	13,113,987		29.35%
Mutton & Lamb	1,466,731	679,596		53.67%
Fish all varieties	8,857,154	9,265,535	4.61%	
Fowl all varieties	3,542,344	770,072		78.27%

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

COMMODITY	MAY 1st	JUNE 1st	INCREASE.	DECREASE
Butter	1,182,211	2,251,673	90.46%	
Cheese	3,141,771	2,966,997		5.55%
Eggs	3,766,997	8,422,588	123.58%	
Beef (fresh & pickled)	21,592,408	19,333,470		10.47%
Pork (fresh & pickled)	27,235,400	31,218,944	14.62%	
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	13,279,961	14,721,221	10.85%	
Mutton & Lamb	1,449,655	1,507,824	4.01%	
Fish all varieties	15,534,326	16,154,305	3.99%	
Fowl all varieties	1,640,150	904,075		44.88%

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

	Maritime Provinces	Quebec	Ontario Minus Toronto	Toronto
Butter	32,172	1,119,821	233,732	423,658
Cheese	79,049	1,595,738	406,741	498,962
Eggs	136,233	2,371,129	1,686,115	1,389,280
Beef, fresh	1,247,684	1,620,030	272,868	6,585,622
Beef, pickled	91,400	47,199	53,535	335,152
Pork, fresh	55,125	396,313	795,762	2,086,796
Pork, pickled	303,084	2,388,165	1,344,597	8,103,112
Bacon, Hams & Smoked Meats	608,225	2,602473	2,903,804	7,145,740
Mutton & Lamb	520,596	273,659	23,714	90,541
Fish all varieties	1,988,639	1,226,192	840,286	489,783
Fowl all varieties	54,030	180,392	338,172	190,875

	Manitoba	Alberta & Saskatchewan	British Columbia
Butter	189,215	151,839	101,236
Cheese	144,844	173,394	68,269
Eggs	699,927	1,252,429	887,475
Beef, fresh	3,225,925	5,285,169	537,506
Beef, pickled	34,953	9,403	7,924
Pork, fresh	2,227,440	3,604,750	447,631
Pork, pickled	3,034,899	5,789,238	642,032
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	971,808	410,607	78,364
Mutton & Lamb	152,688	143,428	313,198
Fish all varieties	885,898	727,613	9,995,894
Fowl all varieties	40,183	39,059	61,382

COMPARISONS BY DISTRICTS JUNE 1st, 1917 & 1918.

MARITIME PROVINCES

	1917	1918	Decrease	Increase
Butter	17,264	16,332	4.82	
Cheese	4,205	36,409		765.85
Eggs	82,956	45,973	44.59	
Beef	105,936	202,212		107.87
Pork	153,923	307,219		99.59
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	711,058	604,367	15.01	
Mutton & Lamb	13,215	11.983	9.32	
Fish all varieties	2,053,976	1,164,758	43.30	
Fowl all varieties	16,835	11,819	29.80	

QUEBEC

Butter	718,509	793,227		10.39
Cheese	2,517,494	1,255,734	50.12	
Eggs	1,971,345	1,609,249	18.37	
Beef	622,784	970,356		55.80
Pork	1,278,307	1,904,917		49.01
Bacon, Ham &,Smoked Meats	2,471,758	1,224,940	50.45	
Mutton & Lamb	263,900	171,299	35.09	
Fish all Varieties	51,918	51,996		.15
Fowl all varieties	768,528	144,739	81.17	

COMPARISONS BY DISTRICTS JUNE 1st, 1917 & 1918.

ONTARIO.

	1917	1918	Decrease	Increase.
Butter	216,314	201,253	6.97	
Cheese	235,860	249,953		5.97
Eggs	1,821,563	1,289,348	29.22	
Beef	206,521	283,146		37.10
Pork	3,213,582	2,106,585	34.45	
Bacon, Ham & Smokedq Meats	2,996,380	2,896,979	3.32	
Mutton & Lamb	35,908	10,298	28.67	
Fish all varieties	88.994	138,395		55.50
Fowl all varieties	1,107,373	323,694	70.78	

TORONTO

Butter	275,056	399,790		45.34
Cheese	190,199	362,364		90.51
Eggs	1,027,571	1,202,428		17.01
Beef	4,104,807	6,969,943		69.79
Pork	10.901,183	9,609,763	12.68	
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	10,749,620	7,119,326	33.78	
Mutton & Lamb	579,280	68,487	88.18	
Fish all varieties	80,127	194,607		142,87
Fowl all varieties	486,808	186,577	61,68	

MANITOBA

Butter	52,208	85,208		63.20
Cheese	35,609	115,311		223.82
Eggs	655,761	575,472	12.25	
Beef	477,663	2,472,394		417.60
Pork	3,764,334	5,249,298		39.44
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	1,285,582	985,487	23.35	
Mutton & Lamb	358,939	153,720	57.18	
Fish all varieties	542,338	881,520		62.54
Fowl all varieties	435,277	31,367	92.80	

COMPARISONS OF DISTRICTS JUNE 1st, 1917 & 1918.

ALBERTA & SASKATCHEWAN

	1917	1918	Decrease	Increase
Butter	103,840	108,593		4.57%
Cheese	92,110	127,475		38.39%
Eggs	723,374	900,718		24.51%
Beef	1,992,678	5,771,520		189.63%
Pork	10,558,480	9,198,418	12.89%	
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	311,312	233,296	25.07%	
Mutton & Lamb	180,998	139,758	22.79%	
Fish all kinds	360,352	659,824		83.10%
Fowl all kinds	506,521	22,799	95.51%	

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Butter	86,590	84,857	2.01%	
Cheese	26,733	42,852		60.29%
Eggs	286,303	287,925		.56%
Beef	615,033	516,347	16.05%	
Pork	1,959,553	1,082,703	44.75%	
Bacon, Ham & Smoked Meats	73,687	77,466		5.12%
Mutton & Lamb	34,491	124,051		251.66%
Fish all kinds	5,679,449	6,174,437		8.71%
Fowl all kinds	221,002	49,077	77.80%	

Canadian Supplies of Produce in Cold Storage.

July 15, 1918.

The Cost of Living Branch of the Department of Labour makes the following report to the Honourable Minister of Labour concerning goods in cold storage throughout the Dominion.

The stocks of meat in storage this month shows a decrease compared with the preceding month. This is especially true in beef and is doubtless due very largely to overseas shipment. A Comparison here with last year, judging from the limited list of firms reporting then, indicate a somewhat larger supply on hand than a year ago. The quantities in each case, however, are small. In the case of pork products, all available data indicate smaller supplies than last July.

We have increased quantities of butter, cheese and eggs, a natural thing, since this is the time in the year in which we lay by supplies of these articles. Unfortunately, this increase above last month does not give as great a supply as our stocks of last summer. In the case of fish we have a substantial increase above last month and at the same time more than last year.

The stock of the following firms is not in this month's statement:-

Lockeport Cold Storage,	Lockeport, N. S.
Booth Fisheries Co.,	St. Andrews, N. B.
Gunns Limited,	Montreal, Que.
James Fish Co.,	Toronto, Ont.
Regina Storage & Forwarding Co.,	Regina, Sask.
Edmonton Cold Storage Co.,	Edmonton, Alta.
Calgary Storage & Cartage Co.,	Calgary, Alta.