

BIGGER DEMAND NOW FOR MEAT

Signing of Armistice Is One Reason Why Prices Are High

Chicago, April 18.—The American Meat Packers' Association, through its Bureau of Public Relations, issued the following statement, today, regarding present meat prices and the probable trend in the future. The Association's membership includes large and small packers.

"The situation to-day in the meat industry is just about what Herbert Hoover and other Food Administration officials said it would be, as far back as the first of the year," says the statement.

"That high prices are caused by heavy demands rather than any control aimed to stimulate production, has recently been illustrated very clearly in the case of hogs. When the minimum price fixed for hogs was removed, the Food Administration predicted that the prices might go still higher. The prediction is now being verified.

"High prices will continue for a long time. Each day that brings final peace nearer, means a greater call on this country for meat. The supply of meat is dependent first of all on the supply of live stock. European herds have been reduced by war. To that extent, world production of live stock is crippled.

"Live stock on farms in the United States at the beginning of this year exceeded the number at the beginning of 1918 by 1,036,000 cattle, 4,213,000 hogs and 963,000 sheep.

More Mouths to Feed
"But the armistice, instead of having reduced the demand for meat, has given us more than 200,000 additional mouths to feed, either wholly or in part. As shipping becomes available, an increasing number of hungry nations will be accessible for provisioning.

"Great numbers of meat animals have been dressed since the first of the year. Hogs are now coming in to American markets in dwindling quantities and in lesser numbers than a year ago. Yet pork products must form a large part of our exports. The price of hogs remain high.

"Statistics now available as to the effect of war on foreign herds, indicate that swine in Italy has decreased from 2,508,000 in 1908 to 1,670,000 in 1913; in France, from 7,037,000 in 1913 to 4,168,000 in 1917; in Germany, from 25,592,000 in 1913 to 12,000,000 in 1918; in the United Kingdom, from 3,940,000 in 1914 to 2,448,000 in 1918; in Denmark, from 2,497,000 in 1914 to 513,000 in 1918, and in the Netherlands, from 1,350,000 in 1913 to 1,850,000 in 1917. Germany sucked meat animals out of the countries she occupied, according to Mr. Hoover. Belgium lost a third of her hogs and more than three-fourths of her cattle. Cattle decrease severely in many other countries.

"Before the war, England imported seventy-five per cent of her bacon. About half of the imported bacon came from America and the other half from Denmark and Holland.

"But during the war, a shortage of feedstuffs left the swine herds of Holland and Denmark just adequate for domestic supplies. These countries cannot resume export until they obtain sufficient feedstuffs.

Millions Depend on United States
"The numbers of liberated peoples, who were inaccessible before hostilities ceased, but whom the United States now will help to feed, include, according to a very recent statement by Mr. Hoover, nearly 7,500,000 in Belgium, 20,000,000 in Poland, 12,000,000 in Czechoslovakia, 15,000,000 in Rumania, 12,000,000 of 12,000,000 in Greater Siberia, and 20,000,000 in Finland, Armenia and other countries.

"This takes no account of the food being sent into the Central Empires, in order to avert anarchy and governmental insolvency.

"Mr. Hoover estimates German shipping around 20,000,000 tons. This ill gradually become available for food cargoes. As it does, a larger and larger part of the demand for food can be reached.

"The brunt of meat export and production will be borne by the United States, South America and Australia. Live stock in Argentina has not increased as much as one could wish. Australian herds, hurt some time ago by drought, are now being replenished. Our own live stock has not increased commensurately with foreign needs.

"In countries where disorder is now raging, there is a tendency for peasants not to market their products.

Demand Exceeds Supply
"The whole situation for some time to come, then, probably will be one in which the demand for live stocks and its products greatly exceeds the supply. This means that live stock will continue to bring high prices. Cheap bacon and cheap beef cannot be made from expensive hogs and costly cattle, more than live stock can be raised cheaply on high priced feedstuffs with expensive labor.

"How keen is the foreign demand is shown by the fact that when the Austrian Food Bureau fixed maximum retail prices effective in Vienna January 1, it set first-class beef as high as \$2.84 a pound.

"If order comes out of the Russian chaos, the world demand will be still further augmented. Horseflesh, which was selling in Moscow for half a cent a pound in 1914, is bringing \$1.69 in 1919.

"Low meat prices must wait until European production is in good swing again. Meanwhile, American farmers and packers can only continue their strenuous efforts and full co-operation with Governmental agencies, to keep production at the maximum and prices at the minimum possible."

HE SLIPPED WHERE JOHN QUINCY ADAMS FELL DEAD

Washington.—In the floor of the floor of the old house of representatives there is a metal disc marking the spot where John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, dropped dead.

"Now, here's where John Quincy Adams fell," a guide explained to a party of sightseers.

"I slipped myself," one lady was heard to confide to her neighbor.

DRUG TRAFFICKER DEPORTED

Tientsin, April 18.—It is reported that the Japanese drug store to which ten pounds of morphine seized by the customs were addressed has been closed up and the manager deported from China for three years by the Japanese authorities.

French Gratiated to President Wilson, Says the Echo de Paris

Paris, April 18.—The Echo de Paris says that at no time has the understanding between France and the

United States been closer, and that the French government is completely satisfied with the attitude of President Wilson.

"The time has come to destroy the legend tending to represent President Wilson as adopting regretfully such a solution," says the Petit Parisien, in commenting upon the settlement of the question relative to the left

bank of the Rhine by the council of four. "There may have been diversities as to methods, but there was an agreement on principle, and an agreement on the realization of that principle is bound to follow.

"Not the least interesting feature of the prolonged discussion was to see President Wilson apply himself passionately to the task of solving

the problem and still not injuring the rights of France. He uttered a phrase one day which France ought to know. He declared with an accent coming from the heart, 'It would be the sorrow of my life if the great peace we are making should be jeopardized by any difficulty between France and America.'

into the war for France remains our great friend."

CHINA'S 1918 SALT REVENUE

Peking, April 18.—It is officially announced that the net salt revenue paid into the Group Banks during 1918 amounted to \$71,589,603, an in-

crease of \$962,354 over that paid in during 1917. All obligations secured on the salt revenue were fully met.

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