

# FARMERS URGED TO PREPARE FOR BIG DEMANDS OF FUTURE

## Minister of Agriculture Says Bacon, Cheese Are Big Items

### WHEAT STORE IS AID

Winnipeg, Nov. 16. — (CP) — Greater concentration on the production of bacon, beef and dairy products was urged on farmers by Agriculture Minister J. G. Gardiner last night as he outlined a war-time agricultural policy for the man on the land.

#### Surplus Is Blessing

Mr. Gardiner, who urged the farmer to consolidate his position to prepare for changes peace might bring, spoke before the annual dinner of the United Grain Growers, limited. His speech was broadcast over a network of prairie radio stations.

The minister described Canada's huge wheat surplus as "a blessing to the British Empire" during these difficult times and called on the farmer to bend his efforts toward planning for greater quantities of cheese, bacon, beef and eggs. Britain has shown increased interest in such products since the outbreak of war.

"It will take us two years to get into the swing of greater production in beef and dairy products," he said. "We should, therefore, start to plan now, and as a matter of fact we have already done so."

#### Predicts Great Demand

There was no increased demand right now from Britain for cheese, butter or beef. "We can rest assured, however, that if the war continues over a period of two years or more that by the end of a two-year period greater demand will be made upon our supplies than can be even estimated at present.

"No mistake will be made, whatever the future has in store, if the production of cheese, bacon and eggs is increased. I would particularly emphasize bacon and cheese.

"I am firmly of the opinion that whether we can realize the desired price at present we should keep bacon and cheese going forward confident that it is the best long-time policy."

Canadian cheese producers could not find their way to accept a price level similar to that extended New Zealand and Australia, but the British food ministry had allowed the trade in Britain to go on purchasing Canadian cheese at a price higher than the food ministry price.

#### Prepared for Agreement

However, Canada is prepared to enter an agreement when "it is thought to be in the common interest of our producers and British defence that we should do so."

Mr. Gardiner explained that the British food ministry controls distribution of pork products at an established price and it eventually might, therefore, be necessary for Canada to direct production and price through an understanding with processors and producers.

In referring to the 500,000,000 bushels of wheat still in the Dominion, Mr. Gardiner said about 125,000,000 of this would be needed in Canada and "if armies overrun the wheat fields of Europe every bushel of that surplus will be required."

"If peace terms are made soon or late which are lasting, people will go back to normal production of other things and every bushel of our wheat will be required to feed people in times of peace just as it was from 1936 to 1937."

British millers who were using a standard mix containing 10 per cent. Canadian wheat, were said to be willing to increase the Canadian content to 50 per cent. or more if provided with the grain at a price reasonably close to other wheat and also if guaranteed sufficient to maintain production of flour at that standard mix.

*#149 was  
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