

a basic commodity.

"Much could be said about the cost price squeeze. According to information provided by the Economics Branch of our Department, in 1949 (a base year frequently used for comparison purposes) prices for good steers and grade A hogs in Toronto were \$20.65 and \$30.42 per cwt. respectively. No. 1 hard wheat averaged \$2.05 per bushel and corn sold for \$1.35.

"By the spring of 1965, sixteen years later, the yield on three-month Treasury Bills had increased 725%. The average weekly wage for automobile and other transportation equipment workers increased 131%. Prices of commodities and services purchased by farmers increased 51%. The price increase for farm products during these sixteen years was one percent.

If agricultural prices had kept up with the Treasury Bill yield, the average prices for livestock and grain in the spring of 1965 would have been: good steers \$170.00 per cwt.; Grade A hogs (dressed) \$250.00 per cwt.; No. 1 hard wheat \$16.90 per bushel and corn \$11.15 per bushel. Had agricultural prices kept up with increased wages for automobile workers, prices in the spring of 1965 would have been: good steers \$47.70; Grade A hogs \$70.30; No. 1 hard wheat \$4.70; and corn \$3.10.

"Consumers must be realistic. In the 1961 census, 121,333 were listed as farmers in Ontario. We are now told there are less than 80,000, and this may be reduced in the next few years to 60,000. For the past five years, 1,917 Canadian farm workers have been leaving agriculture each month. In 1965 there were less than half as many farm workers on Canadian farms than there were at the end of the war. Thousands of efficient farmers have gone out of business in the last 10 years; others have continued to stay on the farm because farmers are proud of their soil, their homes and their way of life. On the farm they are pretty sure of their meals. You have heard about rural poverty. It is now a major problem. In recent months you have probably heard more than ever before about unrest in rural areas. If we lose production, imports will cost more money. Shortages of some foods have already become a reality; and there will be more!"

Modern Milk Marketing

Mr. J. L. Baker, Ontario Dairy Commissioner, explained why a single Milk Marketing system is being set up to take the place of a system for each product — butter, cheese, fluid milk. "In Ontario," Mr. Baker said, "there are over 30,000 milk producers. Without some system of marketing control, each of these

producers would be throwing his product on the open market and in effect, would have to take what he could get for it. At times, too much milk going into one kind of product resulted in overproduction of this product with a weakening of prices; while at the same time we could have produced and sold more of other dairy products, had the milk been processed into them—into cheddar cheese, for example . . . A new authority will provide for the diversion of milk away from those products in overproduction to those in underproduction, and thus provide a more stable market in the dairy industry."

Mr. Baker said the new system will also provide for the control and regulation of the marketing of milk as well as for the quality. It will establish prices which the purchasing plants must pay the province for both fluid milk and for cheese. It will also develop a more efficient system of transporting milk, doing away with some of the overlapping of milk routes. Of special interest to the women was the statement: "The Milk Marketing Board is aiming for the production and sale of the highest quality milk it is possible to produce."

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TIED

By Mabel Freer Loveridge

They let my brother go where fancy led;
They gave, to me, a little house to sweep.
"He's like his restless dad," they always said,
While I had hens to feed and bees to keep.
Through all the years I played a quiet part
In that small town with all its rigid bars;
While all my brother's letters hurt my heart
With talk of ships and roving caravans.

I braided mats and stitched the endless
seams;
I washed the dishes, and I brushed the
crumbs;
And no one knew that, in rebellious dreams,
I heard a temple bell and jungle drums.
They never thought, though it may well be
true,
A daughter can be like her father, too.

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OBSERVATION

By Elizabeth-Ellen Long

On wings of gossamer goes the fly.
The hop-toad wears a jeweled eye,
Lizards are carved from greenest jade,
The serpent's back is rich brocade,
In veils of lace the spider hides
And fish have sequin-patterned sides,
The mouse's coat is velvet-soft,
Twin rainbows lift the moth aloft,
The beetle's shell is ruby glass,
The snail trails silver through the grass,
The caterpillar has gold bars
And glow-worms shine like little stars,
For howsoever small or low
They are, or in what paths they go,
You'll find but few live things abroad
Without some beauty-mark of God!

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