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OTTAWA REPORTS

That The Ceiling Prices On Apples Will Stabilize Prices During the Marketing Season

The ceiling prices placed on apples formed one of the main orders established by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board during the past week. According to the Board, the order made very little change in the prices that were prevailing in the industry at the time the order was announced. The main effect of the order will be to stabilize prices for the period during the marketing season when prices generally rise.

In the light of a short crop this year and of increases in the costs of production, the Prices Board feels that the prices set by the order will give growers in the three main producing zones in Canada a satisfactory return.

Provision was made to allow dealers to dispose of stocks already on hand and they were given until October 9 to do this, regardless of the fact that the order went into effect September 22.

* * *

Growers and shippers who sell apples direct to consumers through the public markets or from door to door will be entitled to the same price that retailers receive in their own districts. That is they receive their basic growers' price, plus both the wholesale and retail mark-ups. Sales to retailers are to be made at the wholesale ceiling price.

Included in the first group for the purposes of the order are the Gravensteins of Nova Scotia, all the members of the McIntosh family, the Fameuse and the Snow, the Northern Spy, the Golden Russet, the Delicious, the Newton and the Winesaps. The second group includes all the other varieties.

* * *

In the zoning, Ontario and Quebec have been placed together under the order. A uniform ceiling price has been set for this zone which is to be the grower's or shipper's ceiling pricea at all distributing points in Ontario on the south of the main line of the C. P. R. as far west as Sudbury. This is also the basic ceiling price at Montreal.

The Maritime Provinces form zone two, and Kentville, Nova Scotia, headquarters of the Nova Scotia apple marketing board and centre of the Annapolis valley apple industry, is the basic price point.

Zone three is British Columbia where the prices are set on the basis of the standard box wrapped and on a f.o.b. Kelowna basis.

In all three zones, the wholesale and retail ceilings are set on the basis of the basic ceiling price at shipping point, plus transportation costs wherever necessary, and plus mark-ups of 12½ per cent of the selling price for wholesalers and 20 per cent of the selling price for retailers on unbroken packs and 25 per cent where retailers have to break packs into broken lots of apples for sale.

Shippers and dealers may add storage and shrinkage allowances after December 1st at the rate of 30 cents a barrel per month, or 25 cents a hamper or crate.

"Flying Flea"

Details on the performance of Britain's secret "Flying Flea" were made public by the Air Ministry last week for the first time, although the 'plane has been in action on all fronts since the war began for artillery spotting and observation work.

The tiny 'plane, a low-wing monoplane, has a maximum speed of 125 miles an hour and can take off from roads, fields or wherever there is a 50-yard runway.

The "Flying Flea" is unarmed and depends entirely on manoeuvrability to escape enemy fighters.

THE WAR · WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

In Allied Air Superiority Lies The Promise of Ultimate Victory

After magnificent victories which drove the invader back for hundreds of miles but failed to crush him, the Russian summer offensive appears to be slowly grinding to a halt because of autumn rains and stiffening German resistance. The Red Army continues to advance into White Russia and the Germans are evacuating their last positions in the Caucasus; but Moscow also reports that the major part of the front along the Dnieper River is being "stabilized." This would mean that the Germans have escaped a threatened catastrophe and that hopes for a further Russian advance in force might have to be postponed until the Red Army is able to launch another winter offensive, says the New York Times.

Air Front Carries On

But one front carries on irrrespective of rain or mud or the season. That is the air front, which the Allied advance in Italy is steadily expanding in range and effectiveness. Despite low clouds and fogs which made September a bad bombing month, the British Royal Air Force was over Nazi-dominated territory every day and twenty-five nights last month. Though the total bomb load it was able to drop decreased by nearly one-third as compared with the previous month, the United States Eighth Air Force was able to exceed all previous records. Berlin Munich, Hannover, Kassel, Frankfort and many other towns have felt its blows. And during the last four days and nights the air attack has been pressed home with even greater vigor.

3,000,000 Nazis Tied Down

But so new and so debated is this front that the world in general, and the Russians in particular, keeping their eyes glued to the struggle on the ground, are prone to overlook both its size and the effect it already has produced. According to the best estimates, the air front alone has tied down some 3,000,000 of Germany's badly strained manpower—1,000,000 for anti-aircraft guns and 2,000,000 for related tasks. Numerically, and disregarding quality, this figure begins to approach the total of German soldiers engaged on the whole Russian front. And the manpower and productive energy required to maintain this front on the Allied side is of similar proportions.

Bombs Plus German Winter

The air front has knocked out the industrial capacity of some of Germany's leading cities. According to the most conservative estimates it has reduced Germany's war production capacity by at least 15 per cent and is continuing to reduce it instead of permitting the enemy to recuperate. The effect of this will become more noticeable when German supply reserves begin to run out. It has forced Germany to shift from bomber to fighter production and to concentrate the larger part of her fighter strength in the west. Above all, it is the one front which is bringing the war home to Germany herself, with telling effect on German morale. And this effect should increase when to the blast of the bombs is added the severe cold of a German winter.

Loss of War Averted

How much all this has helped to relieve pressure on the Russians cannot be calculated in figures. But there can be no doubt that the share of the air front in Russia as well as other Allied victories on land has been substantial and sometimes even decisive. For a land front without sufficient air coverage is as vulnerable today as a similar naval front on the sea. The air front alone will not win the war, but it has already averted the loss of the war. And in the Allied air superiority, which is growing despite all German countermeasures, lies the promise of ultimate Allied victory.

Corsica Is Ours

It will not be long before Hitler feels the loss of Corsica. The island commands the European coast of the western Mediterranean as Crete, commands the eastern coast. Crete, however lies at the tip of the Balkan peninsula. Corsica rises near the top of the Italian boot like a salient thrust at the German "blood line" Hitler is building on the River Po. Bastia, where the French are still mopping up, is only fifty miles from Italy and 110 miles from the French coast. It is within 240 miles of Marseilles and less than that from Rome. Bombers from this anchored carrier could sweep all southern Germany. Unfortunately, Corsica is a tangle of mountains. The airfields there are few and small. But they probably can and will be developed.

Perhaps what happened to Corsica gives us a preview of what will happen in France. When the Germans started to withdraw they found themselves struggling through an angry population already armed. Many were ambushed and annihilated before the French "Goums" and American Rangers arrived from Africa. There is a trail of German blood along the whole length of the island. Getting out of Bastia was like escape through a burning doorway.

Allied Prisoners Reported Free

The Morocco Radio said 20,000 American and British prisoners had been liberated by the Italians and have joined Italian patriots despite Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's offer of 1,800 lire reward for each prisoner handed over to the Germans.

SCOUTING . . .

Overheard at the wedding of a former Boy Scout and a "Wren". A fellow Scout wishing the bridegroom "All the best"—with the hope that he wouldn't be "wren-pecked!"

* * *

In a letter received at Dominion Headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association at Ottawa, Lady Baden-Powell, widow of the founder of the Scout Movement, and Chief Girl Guide of the world, expressed the hope to make a tour of Canada after the war.

* * *

When hooligans made trouble in a section of Trinidad, British West Indies, and police reserves were not large enough to handle the situation, 76 older Scouts, Rover Scouts and Scoutmasters were enrolled as special constables. The trouble has been cleaned up and the Scouts complimented by the Commissioner of Police for their splendid service to the community.

* * *

A British Boy Scout, now serving as an officer with a Ghurka Regiment fighting the Japs who has just been awarded the Military Cross, writing to his mother said: "My Boy Scout Training has proved invaluable out here. It is knowing how to take care of yourself in the jungle that means the difference between life and death when you are fighting in this country."

Harvesting Frogs' Legs By The Bushel

The story is told about the Alberta farmer whose crop failed to grow because of too much rain, a strange thing there. His fields were drowned out. To make matters worse, a plague of frogs arrived to inhabit the pools that day round his farm. Then suddenly winter came, as it does in Alberta, and just as the frost hardened the surface of the sloughs, the frogs leaped into the water and were frozen solid with their hind feet in the air. The farmer merely took out his lawn mower and cut himself 10 bushels of frog legs to the acre and lived lusciously through the winter.

—Winnipeg Free Press.

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