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FARM NEWS

**MEAT CONSUMPTION
TRENDS IN 1952**

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics recently released the following estimates of per capita consumption of meats in Canada in 1952, with corresponding averages for 1935-39 in brackets: beef 44.8 lb. (54.7 lb.); veal 6.7 lb. (10.8 lb.); mutton and lamb 1.9 lb. (5.6 lb.); pork 62.2 lb. (52.8 lb.); offals 5.4 lb. (5.8 lb.); canned meats 7.2 lb. (1.9 lb.)

The estimates are based upon the production in inspected channels, which is definitely known, plus estimates of the amount produced in non-inspected channels and killed on farms. The latter figures are never definitely known, but can be approximated from census data and other records. At the moment previous estimates for 1951 and other recent years are being revised to make them more comparable with 1952 figures.

It is of interest to note that compared to pre-war consumption figures, pork and canned meats show quite sizable increases, while consumption of beef, veal, lamb and offals has declined. The substantial price rise in beef relative to pork since the war, placed pork in a strong competitive position for a share of the consumers dollar but recently beef prices have been returning to a more normal relationship.

In the United States, despite relatively high beef prices, per capita consumption of beef has increased more over pre-war figures than pork. This is attributed by some authorities to the American preference for beef over pork, in that the excessively fat cuts from the hind hogs is a factor. Recently meat-type hogs have been commanding a premium on U.S. markets.

**WORLD HOG NUMBERS
TURN DOWNWARD**

Estimates compiled by the U.S. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations indicate that the recent downward trend in hog population on this continent is general. World numbers at January 1, 1953 are estimated at 301 millions compared to last year's record total of 307 millions. This is the first year since 1946 that world hog numbers declined. The present figure is only about 4 per cent higher than the pre-war 1936-40 average, while at the same time human population of the world has increased by close to 15 per cent.

At the beginning of 1953 Europe, Asia and South America all showed slight increases in hog population compared to 1952, but de-

creased hog numbers in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Australia and New Zealand more than offset the increases shown in a few countries.

An estimate of world cattle numbers at January 1, 1953 has not yet been published, but it will be surprising if last year's record total of 821 millions is not again exceeded.

**COST OF 1953 LIVESTOCK
PRICE SUPPORTS**

Finance Minister, Abbott's statement in the House of Commons on March 27th was the first official indication of the probable cost to the Canadian Treasury of the 1953 price support program for cattle and hogs, although substantial surplus holdings still remain to be disposed of.

In the case of beef the Prices Support Board exported some 70.2 million pounds of carcass beef to the United Kingdom at a cost of \$31.4 millions. For the New Zealand beef which Canada took in exchange and sold in the United States net proceeds amounted to some \$8.4 millions, leaving a net loss of \$23 millions on this operation. In addition, the Board bought and canned 1.5 million pounds of boneless beef from the buffer zone, most of which was shipped to Greece. Total loss on this product was slightly over half a million dollars.

Other price support operations of the Board included the purchase of 850 head of cattle in Western Canada which were placed on community pastures and later sold approximately at cost, the supplying of nearly 2.5 million pounds of beef to Canadian troops in Korea, and a net loss to the Board. Thus the total loss realized on beef support operations up to March 31, 1952 was about \$23.5 millions, with 14.8 million pounds of carcass beef, 5.9 million pounds of boneless manufactured beef and 28,562 pounds of frozen offals still remaining in the Board's hands.

In the case of pork total losses to date include about \$6 millions on sales of 25 million pounds of canned pork, and about \$2.7 millions on frozen cuts sold to the trade, including storage and handling charges. At March 31st the Prices Support Board still held something over 70 million pounds of canned pork and 10 million pounds of pork cuts. What further losses will eventually be realized on these products cannot yet be determined. The upward trend in pork markets since the close of the year has already enabled the Board to dispose of its surplus pork holdings to better advantage than at one time appeared likely.

**SASKATCHEWAN SWINE
BREEDERS' SALE**

The recent strength of hog prices has greatly stimulated the demand for breeding stock. Apparently many producers feel that it is a good time to lay stress on quality. The 28th annual spring sale of registered bred sows held at Regina on March 25th by the Saskatchewan Swine Breeders' Association reflected the current optimistic trend, for the average of \$137.65 was the second highest in history. The champion sow netted a record \$400 for the owners, Charles Hartton & Son of Belle Plaine, Saskatchewan.

Reports from hog survey correspondents across the country indicate that the demand for bred sows and feeder pigs is very keen at present, with prices sharply higher and not too many available.

**Double-Crossed By
Signs of Zodiac**

Russian dispatches have given the birthdays of Stalin and Malenkov, notes Napier Moore in the Financial Post. It is interesting, because it seems to be the first time they have been made public.

The probable reason is the Russians don't want to take any chances with having astrologers plotting what signs of the Zodiac might do to them. They were well aware of how the British used such information against Hitler, in psychological warfare.

Long before the news became public property, British Intelligence knew that Hitler believed in astrology, that he followed the advice of astrologers as to when, because of the conjunction of stars and planets, the time would be propitious for this or that move.

So the British enlisted the services of a well-known European astrologer, Louis de Wohl, who had fled from Nazidom. De Wohl would figure out what the German astrologers were telling Hitler as to "aspects" for this or that venture, and the British were alerted as to the possibility of Hitler taking some important action within a certain period of time. Whether or not you believe that the heavenly bodies affect human traits, character and destiny, the fact remains that de Wohl was right much more often than he was wrong, reports Moore.

SPRING AT LAST

My grandmother used to tell of a woman she knew when they were both young women homesteading on the prairie. "I am always so glad," the neighbor told my grandmother one April day, "when the house is clean, the garden planted and the baby born. Then I know that spring has come."

Fashion Hint



This trim suit is made of a mixture of wool and orlon and its wonderful pleats are permanent! Although it's very tailored, it's still feminine. You'll notice the new boxy waistline. Some pleated skirts on sale recently are washable — an advantage of living in this day and age! While pleated nylon skirts are not new, these latest fabrics, made with a variety of synthetics, appear woven and warm. You will see these fabrics used more and more.

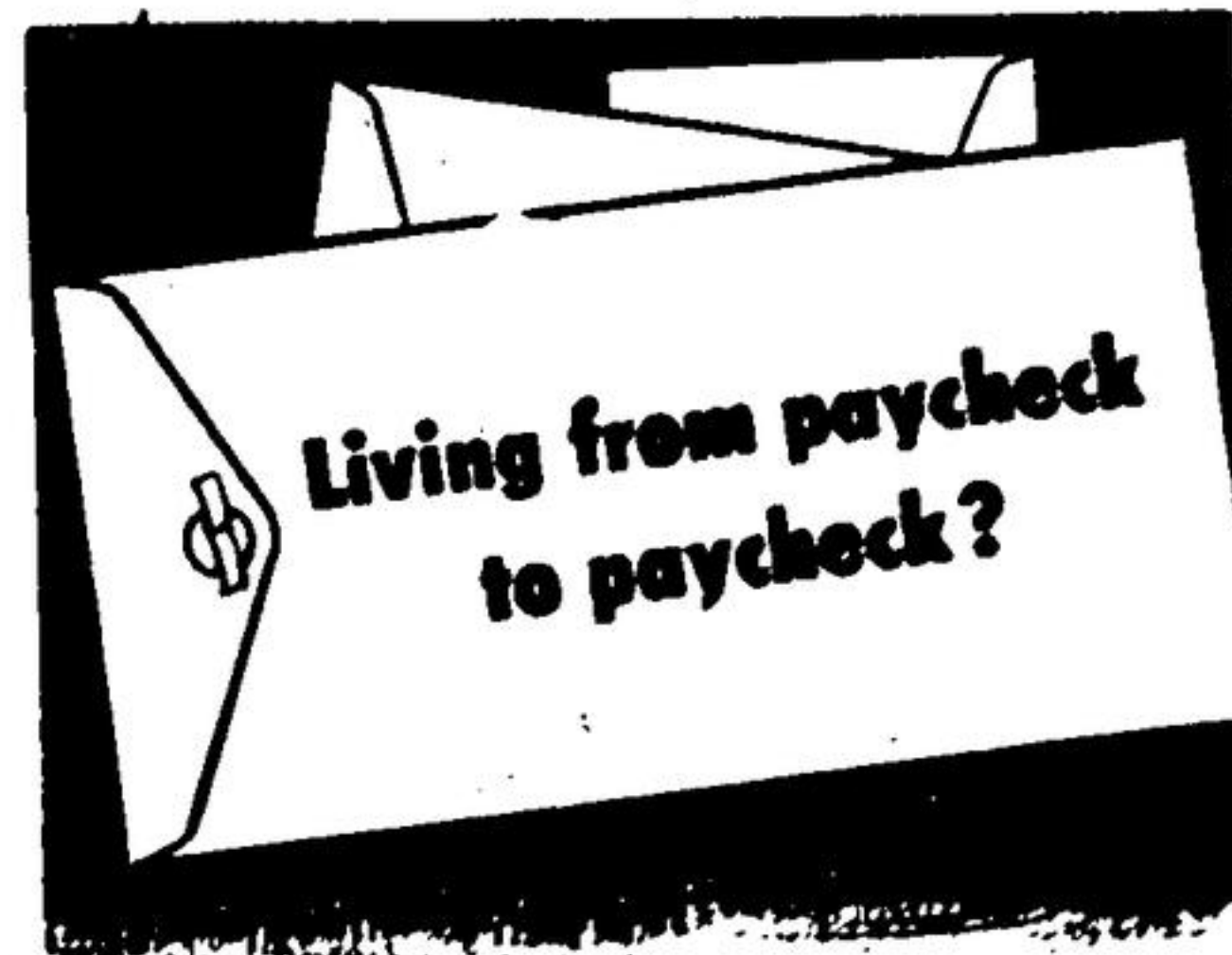
**Famous Pudding Is
Much Like Sausage**

"Why does nobody ever speak of white puddings nowadays?" said Gilbert Harding, when a "black pudding strainer" had been one of the occupations that the team had to guess in the famous British Broadcasting Corporation television program, "What's My Line?"

The British viewing public, its heart stirred by the thought that Mr. Harding had not tasted white puddings for so long, decided to remedy the deficiency. White puddings poured through his letterbox in small packets, and arrived by parcel post in large boxes. In all three hundred and eighty-two of these tasty Scottish morsels reached his flat until in his next program he was forced to ask the people not to send him any more for, much as he liked white puddings and glad as his friends were to accept some from him, three hundred and eighty-one of them took a lot of eating.

A black pudding is a concoction of various grains, fat and flavoring mixed with a liberal quantity of pig's blood, packed in skins like sausages and boiled. White puddings are something akin to black, but for them the filling is all oatmeal, mixed with suet, onion, salt, pepper and sugar and the pig's blood is omitted. They are more of a Scottish speciality and are not so often seen South of the Border.

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