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MEAT RATION CUT

LONDON, Oct. 6 - (Reuters) - Instead of getting a promised bonus in the meat ration this week, Londoners will have their ration cut to about four-fifths the normal amount, the London Wholesale Meat Supply Association said today. The normal weekly meat ration is 4d. (about 21 cents).

Some butchers are able to change their coloring according to the temperature and humidity.

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Butter Situation Under Discussion In Parliament

Following are excerpts from the Hansard report of the discussion on the butter situation in the House of Commons on Sept. 30:

Mr. Argue: "While the Minister dealing with farm production figures, I wonder if he could inform the house what stocks of butter are on hand and whether or not he thinks those stocks are excessive? Does he expect the Government will be able to get rid of that butter? Will the floor price under butter be continued for another year?"

Mr. Gardiner: "A long-term record is about 63 million pounds of butter in storage at the time of year and, in previous years, that butter has been held by various concerns. This year, on a similar date, there are 66 million pounds of butter in storage. The Government holds about 46 or 47 million pounds of that and the trade holds the remainder."

"I may say that the trade has taken much more into storage since the announcement in August of our intention to market the butter at a price that would give us a clearance above the 58-cent floor price. After that statement I presume that the trade has been granted that they will be permitted to do the same and will, therefore, carry on business in the usual way."

"The Government's intention is not to go into the wholesaling or retailing of butter. We have all the records of the stock these companies have held in storage in the past and we have records of what they required in order to supply their customers. From time to time these companies will be supplied with butter and the butter will be sold at wholesale and retail in the same manner it has been previously. Our estimates indicate there will be no great difficulty in connection with the handling of the butter. We have not experienced any difficulty in connection with the trade or anyone else in the handling of it up to date and we have no reason to believe we will."

Further Figures

"I may give some further figures which may be of interest to the committee. We have now about 15 million pounds more butter in storage, held by both the government and the trade, than we had at the same date a year ago. It will be recalled, however, that we had to purchase 15 million pounds of butter in order to supply our own market. From this it will be seen that we have no more butter this year than was made available last year."

"To answer the question more fully, I shall read the figures with regard to butter similar to those I read with regard to the other products a few moments ago. In 1938, butter production amounted to 360 million pounds; in 1944, it was 403 million pounds; and in 1948, 407 million pounds. In 1938 the domestic disappearance was 345 million pounds; in 1944, 337 million pounds; and in 1948 375 million pounds. The exports were very small, being 4 million pounds for the first year, 10 million pounds for the second year; and 8 million pounds for 1948. The surplus we had in Canada in 1938 was 45 million pounds; in 1944, 41 million pounds; and in 1948 it was 32 million pounds."

"It would seem that our position now is not any different, to any considerable extent at any rate, from what it has been in any one of the fifteen years I have been in the department. I am sure it is not much different from what it was 20 years before that."

Mr. Harkness: "I want to ask the Minister if he thinks he was quite fair in relating the stocks of butter on hand at the present time to the stocks that were on hand on the same date in previous years? He must realize, as everyone else does, that people are now able to buy margarine which I am sure will have quite an effect on the disappearance rate of butter. I should like him to comment on that particular phase of the matter."

Mr. Gardiner: "The Minister has the estimate of how much butter is going to disappear as compared with the disappearance rate in the past? This is the season when butter that was accumulated during the summer is released to the market. I am sure the Minister does not want us to expect that the same thing that happened in the past will happen today, and that this butter will rapidly disappear."

Floor Price

Mr. Gardiner: "The same thing is not going to happen this year as happened some years ago when other governments dealt with oleomargarine. We have seen to that. A floor price has been put under butter. I am not going any further into the matter than to say the same thing did not happen this year with regard to butter as happened when oleomargarine was brought in before. At that time butter was up, as I recall it—and I am speaking from memory now—around 70 cents a pound, and before they got through with the experiment it was down in the twenties."

"This time butter was held up around 70 cents a pound when oleomargarine was introduced; and there is no doubt in my mind that, if the government had done nothing about it, butter would again have gone down to at least 40 cents and might have gone down further. But the government put a floor under it and kept it at 58 cents during the summer."

"The policy that is being followed is one of stabilizing the price;

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"In other words, there is some regulation upon it. While the farmer benefited during the summer months by the fact that the price did not run down, the consumer will benefit during the winter months by the fact that it will run away up out of all proportion to what it should be."

Not Sure

"To answer the other part of the question, as to what difference oleomargarine has made, I am not too sure. Last spring everybody was telling me that no one knew the difference between oleomargarine and butter, but along in the middle of the summer oleomargarine went down from something over 40 cents to around 30 cents while butter was holding at 58 cents. Some people must have known something about it."

"I was just telling someone on the floor tonight that I had something to do with a massive Great Dane dog that was fond of butter spread thickly on it; but being Scotch, she came to the conclusion that she was not spending so much money, so she went and got a pound of oleomargarine and spread the bread with it. The dog sniffed at it, put his tail between his legs and went and lay down in a corner as far away as he could get from it. In other words, if individuals do not know the difference between butter and oleomargarine, dogs do."

Consumption Decline

"I do not know whether or not oleomargarine is entirely responsible for the lower consumption of butter during the last few months, as compared with the months immediately preceding, is down about 3 million pounds. That does not mean that the long-term average, but it is down by 3 million pounds. That is shown by the records that we are able to compile. Our records are confined to the production of butter in any part of Canada where they should be producing butter to be marketed farmers ought to be able to make a profit at the present level."

Former P. E. Islander Dies In Florida

The death occurred at the Morell Hospital, Lakeland, of Mr. William J. McKay. He was stricken with a heart attack on July 6, and died the following day in spite of all the tender care and nursing that he received.

Mr. McKay was born in Clinton, P.E.I. in 1864 and was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McKay of Clinton. David Finlayson, where he was associated with the H.J. Heins Co. in Portland Maine. During the First World War he served overseas with the American Army. After the war he moved to Florida and in 1932 he became Secretary Treasurer of the Mulberry Lumber Company Inc. Mulberry Lumber Company Inc. was a position he held until his death. In 1933 he married Mazie Peddy daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Peddy of Mulberry.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church Lakeland, a past president of the Mulberry Kiwanis Club, past master of Masonic Lodge in Bethel Maine, and a member of the Egypt Temple and Tampa.

The funeral services held from the Duke St. Funeral Home on July 9th and were conducted by the Rev. L.G. Gebbs pastor of the First Presbyterian Church assisted by Rev. T.S. Boehm Pastor of the First Baptist Church and A.M. Chaplain No. 91 A.F. and A.M. conducted services in Oak Ridge Cemetery where interment took place. Pallbearers were: Dr. Henry F. Jones, Dr. C.B. Weeks, W.H. Gabeler, H.H. Ailsopp, Allan T. Cole, Jay C. Smith, L.N. Pippin, Sr. Marvin Walker, C.W. Palmer, and C.F. Howe.

There are left to mourn besides his sorrowing wife, two daughters, Ann Velda, and Maggie Jane two sisters, (Mrs. M. P. L. Jordan) and Sadie (Mrs. P.L. Jordan) both of Portland Maine; two brothers; Bert L. of Clinton, Prince Edward Island and Percy of Pittsburgh Pa.

Some of our people down there are charging us too much."

No Pegged Price

Mr. Gardiner: "There is no pegged price, but there is a floor price. Last spring we said that for a twelve month period we would take delivery of butter at 58 cents a pound, grade A. If anyone else wanted to get the butter he had to pay at least 58 cents for it. They might in some cases have to pay a little more than that, but they would have to pay at least 58 cents, because we were on the market all the time to take it at 58 cents. We had about 46 million or 47 million pounds of butter, and we will probably have a little more before the winter season comes on. Everyone else who has butter has about half that amount, or not quite half that amount."

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that butter. If anyone is selling butter at 75 cents where he should be charging only 65 cents for it, some trader there will find that out and will apply to the government for butter. If he gets butter from us under the policy we are following it will be at 58 cents, plus the freight to the point to which it has to go, and all other costs of setting it down in that place. This leaves us with our return of 58 cents, grade A butter. The butter will be regraded and put out at its proper grade and at whatever the price is in relation to 58 cents.

"Just stating what I would do if I were doing it — they usually ask me about these things — if we found that a certain individual, after getting butter down there, could retail it and get the same profit as men are getting elsewhere across Canada by selling it at 65 cents, let us say, and if he were selling it at 75 cents, he would not get any more butter from the board. The butter would go to those who were selling at reasonable prices to the consumer.

"If butter is out of line in Newfoundland, we will be looking very shortly for places to put our surplus butter when it comes in, and we will look to Newfoundland as well as to other places."

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Margin of Profit

Mr. McLure: "Margarine is manufactured from oils which are imported. It should be easy to find out the margin of profit on margarine. The Department of Agriculture must know that it is different from manufacturing a pound of butter. Different things go into it. These people are buying the oils which twelve months in any part of the Government took all the duties off so that they could make it as cheaply as possible and get as high a margin of profit on it as they could. We have the figures of this committee would learn that it does not cost 20 cents to manufacture the finest margarine that is put on the market."

Mr. Fulton: "That is still no good."

Mr. Higgins: "Did I understand the minister to say that he had a list of the average retail price of butter in the different provinces?"

Mr. Gardiner: "I presume what my friend has in mind is the average price in each province."

Newfoundland Sales

Mr. Higgins: "Yes, that is what I meant. What would the average price be in the province of Newfoundland?"

Mr. Gardiner: "The table which I put in dealing with the setting of the floor price, it takes 58 cents at Montreal as the base. Basing it on 58 cents at Montreal it is about two cents lower in Winnipeg, which makes it 56. It is 2.2 cents lower in Regina which makes it about 55.1-2. As we go west it goes up again in British Columbia. The reason for that is that their butter is largely supplied from Alberta; that is the butter which is brought in from the outside. Going in the opposite direction from Montreal, it is one cent higher in Halifax. When the table to which I refer was made up, Newfoundland was not one of us. I am sorry I am not able to give the figure for Newfoundland."

Mr. Higgins: "What price does the minister believe it should sell at in Newfoundland?"

Mr. Gardiner: "Well, whatever the profit margin is in the freight costs as between Halifax and the island of Newfoundland."

Mr. Higgins: "If the figure is ninety-five cents would the Minister consider that high?"

Mr. Gardiner: "Yes, I would say it is very high."

Mr. Stick: "Is the price of butter pegged in Canada, and what is that price? I ask this question because I understand something was mentioned a moment ago about the price of butter in Newfoundland being ninety-five cents retail per pound. I know it was ninety-five cents before the union, but the wholesale price is now seventy-five cents. I am asking this question because, if I am given the pegged price, I can figure out exactly what the price should be in Newfoundland, and find out if

Marketing Act

Mr. Fulton: "On this item, is the Minister able to say anything in connection with the marketing act which was introduced at the end of last April, at the end of the session of the previous parliament? Have any requests been received from the provinces for application of dominion authority in the marketing of any of their produce, or has the act been applied as yet?"

Mr. Gardiner: "There have been three occasions on which it has been applied. The Nova Scotia apple marketing board made application quite early, and they were granted the authority; the Ontario fruit board which I am sure also made application and were granted authority; and only today I signed an order in council granting the authority to the vegetable producers of British Columbia."

Cost of Production

Mr. McLure: "What is the cost

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