

WARTIME SHIPMENTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

(Million Pounds)

Year	Cheese		Evaporated Milk	
	Contract	Actual Shipments	Contract	Actual Shipments
1940-41.....	78.4	93.1	50.4	36.1
1941-42.....	112.0	115.4	28.8	30.9
1942-43.....	125.0	142.1	32.1	32.1
1943-44.....	150.0	116.2	14.4	14.4
1944-45.....	125.0	122.2	14.4	14.4
1945-46.....	125.0	126.5	33.6	33.6

NOTE.—All shipments of cheese went to the United Kingdom. Some of the evaporated milk was shipped to the United Kingdom but in later years the bulk was shipped direct to military establishments for use by the troops.

In addition to the United Kingdom's demands for dairy products, Canadian farmers throughout the war period were faced with a sharp rise in domestic consumption of fluid milk and a steady increase in the demand for creamery butter. Total milk production increased generally throughout the country; the most striking increase occurred in the Prairie Provinces where a favourable price relationship between grain prices and the prices of dairy products provided a strong incentive. This increase, however, was not maintained throughout 1945 mainly because of drought conditions in parts of the prairies.

The average farm value of all milk produced more than doubled during the war period. To maintain production generally and to prevent diversion from one use to another, various subsidies were paid under the authority of the Agricultural Food Board and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board while rationing of butter was imposed in order to regulate consumption.

Eggs and Poultry.—Immediately following the outbreak of war, the tendency was for the United Kingdom to increase purchases of eggs from those European countries immediately adjacent to enemy countries, and it was not until these sources of supply had been cut off that purchases in Canada were sharply increased.

Egg shipments were in the hands of private firms until May 1, 1940, but from that date forward the British Ministry of Food became the sole importer and on Apr. 15, 1941, the Special Products Board of Canada assumed control of all exports of eggs from Canada. Shipments in 1940 were almost 11,000,000 doz. while for 1941 they were 16,300,000 doz. Beginning in 1942, the United Kingdom found it necessary to accept only dried eggs and arrangements were made to set up in Canada processing plants for the drying and handling of eggs. By 1943 a new contract with the United Kingdom was arranged; this called for Canada's largest total export of eggs up to that time and involved the purchase of 9,000 tons of dried egg powder, the equivalent of 63,000,000 doz. eggs. Under a contract covering 1944-45, the British Ministry of Food undertook to purchase a minimum of 7,500 tons of dried eggs with the option of accepting additional quantities of shell eggs. Total egg production during 1945 reached the figure of 374,000,000 doz. and it is probable that during 1946 production will be maintained close to that level.

EGGS SHIPPED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1941-46

(Expressed as Shell Eggs)

Year	Doz.	Year	Doz.
1941.....	15,336,600	1944.....	79,929,750
1942.....	37,535,940	1945.....	89,945,100
1943.....	33,642,810	1946*.....	86,000,000

* The United Kingdom has agreed to take up to this quantity.