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MEAT PACKING

Skinner Packing

Omaha's Independent Packing Plant

From Journal of Commerce, New York, November 20, 1919.

SHORTAGE OF MEAT MENACES ENGLAND

Likely to Lead to Profiteering on Large Scale, Parliamentary Secretary McCurdy to Food Ministry Avers.

LONDON, Nov. 1 — Parliamentary Secretary McCurdy to the Ministry of Food, in addressing a meeting at Loughborough charged that there is a world shortage of meat.

"I want to speak quite frankly about the food problems of this country as they will affect the future cost of living," said Mr. McCurdy.

"First there is the problem of supplies. It is quite a mistake to think that there are inexhaustible supplies of food in the world available for our future needs. In the United States the surplus of foodstuffs that is available for export to this country is steadily diminishing.

"Other countries from which we used to draw our supplies have been so devastated and unsettled by the war that for some years they will be unable to send us anything, and perhaps unable to supply their own needs fully.

"Future sources of food supply for Great Britain have yet to be established. New sources of supply have to be found, and a far-sighted policy is necessary if we are to avoid disturbance of our supplies and a further disturbance of our industrial life in a few years hence.

"We shall have to grow more food at home; we shall have to encourage the development of food production in the British Empire, not as a matter of preference but as a matter of necessity.

"Do not imagine that the United States or South America, or all the existing resources of the British Empire, are sufficient for our future needs or that a policy of free trade and laissez-faire will see us through. It will not.

"Already in 1914 the home production of beef and mutton in the United States was insufficient for the home consumption. If we take all kinds of meat produced in the United States the figures suggest that the United States will in a measurable number of years cease to be an exporting country and be a competitor with us for supplies from other countries.

"For some years Europe will need to import far larger quantities of meat if the peoples of Europe are to be properly fed.

"Before the war we imported into this country a million tons of meat and bacon every year. Home supplies amounted to 1,000,000 tons. Our home supplies are down, owing to reduced stocks of pigs and sheep. We shall want to import more than a million tons of meat next year, and the rest of Europe will want at least three million tons or as much of that as Europe can find means to pay for.

"There will not be enough meat in the world available to supply the needs of Europe next year. All the exportable surplus meat supplies of Australian, New Zealand, South America and South Africa together amount to no more than 1,200,000 tons.

"The total is barely sufficient to meet the needs of the United Kingdom alone, to say nothing of any one else.

"A scramble for meat imports appears inevitable if Europe has any money next year with which to buy food. It is a situation full of menace."



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