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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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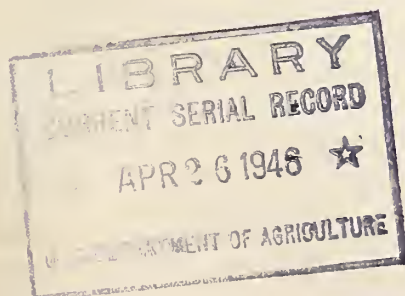
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FOR RELEASE

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L A T E N E W S

The Argentine Government on April 17 announced a bonus or increase of 5 pesos per 100 kilograms (about 40.5 cents per bushel) over the previously set basic wheat price for a period of 30 days, beginning April 16. The new price to producers of 20 pesos (about \$1.62 per bushel) applies to grain of the 1945-46 crop, No. 2 wheat basis sacked, on board cars at Buenos Aires. At the same time prices for domestic milling were set at 12 pesos (about 97 cents per bushel). Millers' purchases are to be limited to the amount bought in the past year. Purchases for milling or for export must be made through the Grain Regulating Board. The measure was expected to move considerable quantities of wheat from farms into position for export.

An official Italian statement on the food situation in that country, issued April 7, gives statistics showing that the daily ration of bread for each Italian citizen is 200 grams; that the macaroni ration which was 2,000 grams per month, had to be reduced to 500 grams; and that 240,000 short tons of cereals originally assigned to Italy have now been reduced 82,500 tons. As to the black market, the statement said that in Rome, which has a population of around 2 million there are sold daily 4,000 kilos (1 kilo - 2.2046 pounds) of white bread. Added to the rationed quantity, these black market sales would increase the 200 gram daily ration to 202 grams. It was pointed out also that 40,000 people in Rome buy bread on the black market; 50,000 obtain flour directly from the country; and the remainder of the inhabitants live only on the ration.

This season's Chilean wheat crop is provisionally estimated at from 5 to 10 percent below the second estimate of 8,806,485 metric quintals (1 quintal - 220.4 pounds). The decrease is due largely to abnormally wet, cloudy weather. A tight wheat situation near the end of 1946 and recourse to limited imports to maintain an adequate stock position for 1947 are considered possible. Because of a relatively small oats crop which was 22 percent below last year's crop, exports of oats may be prohibited.

Living costs in Sao Paulo, Brazil, have been rising rapidly. Milk prices in the last few days have risen 1 cent per liter (1 liter - 1.0567 quarts). It is reported that within the next few days prices will again go up 2 cents per liter. Eggs which were now 75 cents per dozen will go up in the very near future to \$1.00 to \$1.10 per dozen. All other foods, especially vegetables, have been rising at almost the same rate.

Mexico's sugar deficit was relieved by the conclusion recently of negotiations for the annual purchase of 110,000 short tons of raw sugar from Cuba over a 3-year period. In exchange, Mexico is reported to have agreed to ship to Cuba 24,000 short tons of chickpeas and to have granted that country other concessions, notably duty-free entry of 3 million cigars.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, CRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

ARGENTINA EXPECTS
SMALL CORN CROP

The Argentine corn crop now being harvested is placed at 149,598,000 bushels, according to the first official forecast of probable production. Though larger than last year's small harvest, a crop of that size would be one of the smallest of recent years and considerably below general expectations. Available information on prospects had pointed to a crop of 200 or more million bushels, with unofficial estimates ranging from 200 million to 240 million bushels.

If the crop outturn should be as small as forecast, further export offerings may be expected to be virtually withdrawn. Carry-over stocks at the beginning of the crop season (April 1) are estimated to be negligible and existing commitments would absorb the estimated surplus from a crop of that size. Domestic needs are placed at around 75 million bushels, and export commitments already made are reported at about 80 million bushels.

The production as reported would mean two successive bad years and three very small crops since 1941-42. The crop harvested a year ago was only about 117 million bushels and the 1942-43 production only 76 million, compared with the average of 325 million bushels for the 10 years ended with 1941-42.

ARGENTINA: Corn acreage, yield per acre, and production,
1945-46 with comparisons

Year <u>a/</u>	Acreage		Average yield per acre		Production
	Planted	Harvested	Planted	Harvested	
	<u>acres</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>Bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>
	1,000	1,000			1,000
Average -					
1932-33 to:					
1941-42	15,521	10,979	20.9	29.6	324,525
1942-43	10,226	4,367	7.4	17.5	76,499
1943-44	10,903	9,144	31.5	37.6	343,681
1944-45	9,927	5,077	11.8	23.0	116,745
1945-46	b/ 9,916	c/	15.1	-	d/149,598

From official sources.

a/ Dates refer to crop years, the crop being planted principally in September-October, and the main harvest period usually covering March-May.

b/ Third estimate. c/ Not available. d/ First estimate.

This section is continued on page 234.

A marked reduction in corn acreage since 1940-41 has been a factor in the lower crops. In addition considerably below average yields appear to be in prospect for the current crop, as was true of the small crops of last season and 1942-43. On the basis of the production forecast, either acreage abandonment has been much above average or per acre yields are turning out much lower than was indicated by earlier reports.

Locusts have constituted a threat to the crop, with many conflicting reports as to the extent of the damage. The generally cool summer was reported to have kept the insects largely in the North and extensive locust damage is reported in some districts north of Rosario.

NEAR-RECORD RICE CROP IN ARGENTINA

The first official estimate of the 1946 Argentine rice production is 7,750,000 bushels (225 million pounds milled) against the final estimate of 6,807,000 bushels (200 million pounds) last year. Although the 1946 return is not as large as the record crop harvested 2 years ago, it is more than double the prewar (1937-1941) average of 3,332,000 bushels (95 million pounds). Acreage is estimated at 122,000 acres, a decrease of 5 percent from that of last year, but the harvesting of above-normal yields compared with low yields a year ago is expected to result in a large production.

Argentina imported an average of 40 million pounds of rice annually during the 5 prewar (1937-1941) years, but, even though consumption has increased since that time stocks from the 1945 crop were sufficient in January to establish a rice-export quota of 22 million pounds.

LARGER RICE SURPLUS AVAILABLE IN EGYPT

As a result of an upward revision in Egypt's 1945 rice harvest, the exportable supply has been raised to 440 million pounds, or 110 million pounds more than was originally agreed upon by Great Britain and Egypt to be obtained from the 1945 crop. All the exportable surplus is expected to be purchased by the British Ministry of Food. Prices are paid at the mills gross weight, the maximum fixed wholesale price for white rice at the mills being \$5.35 per 100 pounds, the same as that in effect during 1944 and 1945. Total cost delivered to warehouses in Alexandria or Port Said, including a 1-percent commission to London rice brokers is \$5.44 per 100 pounds.

A rice crop of 42,454,000 bushels (1,240 million pounds milled) was produced in Egypt in 1945, compared with 39,908,000 bushels (1,170 million pounds) a year ago and with the prewar (1937-1941) average of 31,429,000 bushels (920 million pounds), according to the Ministry of Agriculture. The 1945 acreage equalled 654,000 acres against 643,000 in 1944.

FATS AND OILSINDIA'S CASTOR-BEAN
OUTPUT DECREASES

India's castor-bean crop for 1945-46 (harvested from January to April) amounts to 118,000 short tons from 1,237,000 acres, compared with last year's revised estimates of 147,000 short tons from 1,468,000 acres. These figures represent decreases of 16 and 20 percent in acreage and production, respectively, from those of last year, and 3 and 15 percent from the preceding 5-year average. The campaign to produce more food in India accounts for the decline in castor-bean output.

TOBACCOBRAZIL'S TOBACCO
EXPORTS INCREASE

Leaf tobacco exports, chiefly dark air-cured and cigar leaf, from the State of Bahia, Brazil, amounted to about 53.9 million pounds in 1945, compared with 55.8 million a year ago. Exports of leaf from Bahia during the prewar (1937-1939) period, averaged 60.9 million pounds annually. The bulk of Brazil's exports of tobacco originate in the State of Bahia.

During 1945, 16.8 million pounds of leaf tobacco were exported to Spain and 12.7 million to Argentina. France, Belgium, and North African countries, also purchased considerable quantities of leaf in 1945 after being cut off from Brazilian supplies for several years owing to wartime conditions.

Prices for leaf tobacco from the 1945-46 crop, delivered at packing houses, have ranged from 9.5 cents per pound for lower grades to 16 cents per pound for better quality leaf. The current market situation is regarded as excellent due to continued heavy purchases for export at favorable prices and the establishment of credit arrangements with important European markets.

CHILE'S TOBACCO OUTPUT
AND CONSUMPTION LOWER

Both production and consumption of tobacco in Chile have declined in recent years. In 1945-46, about 5,567 acres were planted to tobacco in Chile, compared with 6,667 in 1944-45 and with the 5-year (1939-40 through 1943-44) average of 9,075 acres. Favorable weather conditions have prevailed throughout most of the tobacco-growing areas, and the outturn from the 1945-46 harvest is expected nearly to equal the 10.5 million pounds produced in 1944-45, according to a report from the American Embassy at Santiago. Tobacco production averaged 15.9 million pounds during the 5-year (1939-40 through 1943-44) period.

The bulk of Chile's leaf tobacco is produced in the Provinces of Aconcagua, Talca, O'Higgins, and Calchagua. Most of the leaf consists

of low-quality dark and cigar types (Paraguay and Havana), although small amounts of flue-cured and Burley are also grown within the country. Reports of farmers' contracts with the Chilean Tobacco Company for the purchase of 1945-46 crop leaf state that the steady rise in prices in recent years has been continued. Prices for Paraguay and Havana types from the 1945-46 harvest are expected to average 5.7 cents and 5.8 cents per pound, respectively. Contracts call for an average price of 18.3 cents for flue-cured leaf, production of which is expected to reach about 150,000 pounds during the current season.

The domestic outturn of leaf is nearly sufficient to meet local consumer requirements, and only small quantities are imported, principally from the United States and Cuba. Imports of leaf during the first 11 months of 1945 totaled 95,000 pounds, chiefly of United States origin, compared with 75,000 pounds during the full calendar year 1944. Reports indicate that increasing demands for Cuban-type cigarettes will encourage greater importations of leaf from Cuba.

Chile's consumption of tobacco products apparently reached a peak in 1941 and has declined irregularly in recent years. In 1945, according to records of manufacture, about 4.2 billion cigarettes were produced, compared with 4.6 billion in 1941. The number of cigars manufactured totaled only 2,199,000 in 1945, compared with 5,291,000 in 1941, and the number of packages of smoking tobacco declined to 1,910,000 from 6,299,000 in 1941. Most of the country's consumption is in the form of cigarettes, cigars, and smoking tobacco. No significant quantities of chewing tobacco and snuff are produced domestically, although small amounts are imported.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

BELGIAN FLAX AREA SMALLER THAN 1945

Early reports indicate that the Belgian flax area for 1946 may be less than 50,000 acres, or only about 82 percent of the 1945 acreage. The contract price offered by the Belgian Government for flax fiber remains the same as last year. A more settled condition since the close of the war has removed some of the fear of general inflation, and as long as the flax fiber supply equals or exceeds the quantity that can be consumed with the available labor there is no expectation of purchases above the contract price. Prices for flaxseed have, in fact, dropped sharply within the past year.

Spinning mills were reported to be operating at approximately 50 percent of capacity during January 1946. Production during January reached nearly 2.3 million pounds, compared with an average of about 1.1 million pounds per month during the last half of 1945, and a monthly average of 1.5 million during 1938. Mill consumption of flax fiber is hampered by labor shortages rather than by lack of raw materials.

* * * * *

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

COTTON: Prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specified markets

Market location, kind, and quality.	Date: 1946:	Unit of weight	Unit of currency:	Price in: foreign currency:	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria (spot)	:	Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	4-11:	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	31.75	26.51
Giza 7, F.G.F.	4-11:	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.75	30.68
Karnak, F.G.F.	4-11:	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.00	30.05
Bombay (May futures)	:	Candy	:	:	:
Jarila.....	4-12:	784 lbs.	Rupee	459.75	17.66
Bombay (spot)	:	Candy	:	:	:
Kampala, East African...	4-12:	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.66
Buenos Aires (spot)	:	Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	4-13:	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1730.00	23.36
Lima (spot)	:	Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	4-13:	101.4 lbs.	Sol	129.00	19.57
Recife (spot)	:	Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 5.....	4-12:	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro:	92.00	14.92
Sertao, Type 5.....	4-12:	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro:	95.00	15.41
Sao Paulo (spot)	:	Arroba	:	:	:
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	4-12:	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro:	119.50	19.38
Torreón (spot)	:	Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16".....	4-12:	101.4 lbs.	Peso	99.25	20.14
	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

ARGENTINE COTTON
EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Cotton exports from Argentina totaled 110,000 bales (of 478 pounds) during the 7 months ended with February 1946 and exceeded those for any entire season since 1940-41. Exports to the United Kingdom during this period amounted to 38,000 bales, or slightly more than half of the Argentine cotton reported to have been purchased in recent months by the British' Government. Destinations of the remaining 72,000 bales are not yet reported except for 10,000 bales exported to Chile before the end of December and 2,000 to 3,000 bales each to Cuba, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Switzerland.

The third official report placed 1945-46 cotton acreage at 881,000 acres, or 6.7 percent less than the third estimate of 944,000 acres last year. Private sources estimate production this year at 460,000 bales, compared with the abnormally small crop of 332,000 in 1944-45 and the record crop of 553,000 bales in 1943-44. Damage to this year's crop, by locust and other insect pests was considerable following detrimental periods of drought at planting time and excessive rain more recently.

ARGENTINA: Exports of cotton by countries,
average 1934-1938, annual 1939-1944
(Equivalent Bales of 478 pounds net)

Countries of destination	Year beginning August 1						
	Average: 1934-1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Belgium	2.2	1.0	0	0	0	0	0
France	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	42.0	15.0	.2	0	0	0	0
Italy	2.4	21.3	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	9.6	32.6	132.9	a/	0	0	0
United Kingdom.	31.0	35.1	1.2	0	0	0	0
Japan	4.0	b/	.3	0	0	0	0
Netherlands ...	c/10.6	.2	0	0	0	0	0
Cuba	b/	b/	b/	0	1.9	26.3	10.2
Bolivia	b/	b/	b/	0	0	1.9	4.2
Chile	b/	b/	b/	0	0	8.6	14.6
Uruguay	b/	0	.1	.3	0	6.2	9.0
Venezuela	b/	0	b/	0	12.9	1.3	0
China	b/	4.6	2.7	0	0	0	0
Other countries:	35.4	11.1	.4	0	.4	.7	1.2
Total	130.5	120.9	137.8	5	15.2	45.0	39.2

Compiled from Boletín Mensual de Estadística Agropecuaria and Cámara Algodonera de Buenos Aires.

a/ Less than 50 bales. b/ If any, included in "Other countries."
c/ One year only.

Cotton consumption in Argentina for all purposes during the year ended February 28, 1946, is estimated at 346,000 bales (about 98 percent by mills), compared with 335,000 bales the previous year. Mill consumption has risen steadily (except in 1938) from a level of 44,000 bales in 1933. Six new mills have been put in operation since the end of 1942 making a total of 32 in 1945, and raising the total number of spindles from 395,644 in 1943 to 430,000 in 1945. This expansion of the cotton textile industry is attributed to increased production of cotton in Argentina and its availability at relatively low prices, waiving of import duties on mill machinery for manufacturing firms using only domestic cotton, and the scarcity during war years of cotton goods normally imported. In 1944 cotton goods produced by Argentine mills represented 81 percent of the total supply and imports 19 percent, compared with 39 percent and 61 percent, respectively, in 1938.

Cotton carry-over in Argentina (February 28) was reduced from 477,000 bales in 1945 to about 323,000 in 1946. The reduction is attributed largely to the fact that the 1945 crop (picked during March to May) was about 14,000 bales less than local consumption although exports during

1945-46 (March-February) totaled 117,000 bales. About 23,000 bales were destroyed. A further reduction in stocks is expected this year if the current rate of consumption and exports is maintained. Average quality of the cotton now in stock is somewhat lower than that in 1945.

Prices between May 1945 and February 1946 remained at a level equivalent to 17.56 cents per pound for type B (basic grade) at Buenos Aires. Increased sales of cotton for export beginning in February and a consequent reduction in stocks apparently caused a rise in prices to around 23.5 cents by the middle of April. Government loan prices were renewed this year on the 1945 basis, equivalent to 13.5 cents for type B, but very little additional cotton was placed under loan. A processing tax of 15 centavos per kilogram (2.03 cents per pound) was imposed in February 1942. This was reduced to 10 centavos (1.35 cents) a year later, but was raised to 20 centavos (2.70 cents) on April 1, 1944, a price still in effect. Funds derived from the processing tax since its establishment had reached a cumulative total of 37 to 40 million pesos (\$11.0 to 11.9 million) by the end of 1945. This fund provides a reserve to cover possible losses in connection with the loan program, but in 1945, 3 million pesos (\$893,000) of it were authorized for construction of cotton warehouses and grading facilities in the producing areas.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN ALMOND REPORT READY

The mid-season Mediterranean Basin almond report, revising the report entitled "World Shelled-Almond Output Largest Since 1938" dated January 14, 1946, is now ready for release. Owing to the length of this article, the information will be published as a separate release. Copies may be obtained upon request to the Division of Foreign Information and Statistics, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CANADA'S WOOL OUTPUT MAY SHOW SHARP DROP

Canada's wool production in 1946 is expected to show a sharp drop compared with the peak production of 1945, according to a report from the American Embassy in Ottawa. This forecast is based on sheep numbers at the end of 1945 (December 1) and on estimated slaughter in 1946.

Total production of shorn and pulled wool for 1946 is unofficially estimated at 17.5 million pounds, a reduction of 11 percent from 1945 and slightly under 1943 production.

The number of sheep shorn in Canada, as in the United States, normally bears a close relationship to sheep numbers at the end of the preceding year. The preliminary unofficial estimate of the quantity to be shorn

this spring, based on a 13-percent decrease in sheep numbers and on an average fleece weight of 7.6 pounds, the same as in 1945, indicates a shorn-wool clip of 12.7 million pounds, compared with 14.5 million pounds in 1945 and 15.1 million pounds in 1944. This is considerably under the goal of 13.2 million pounds set for 1946.

The quantity pulled from slaughtered sheep in 1946 is unofficially forecast at 4.8 million pounds, compared with the revised estimate of 5.1 million pounds pulled last year.

The increase of 23 percent in inspected sheep and lamb slaughter in 1945 apparently indicates a tendency to liquidate, and present indications are that slaughter will continue at a high level this year. The reduction of sheep on farms is a result of the tendency of Canadian farmers to reduce livestock numbers, and in the case of western farmers, to place increased emphasis on grain production, states the report. Furthermore, wool prices are not guaranteed beyond the end of 1946, and farmers anticipate reductions for which they are preparing by cutting down the volume of their operations. The bonus of 2 cents per pound, which the Canadian Government has been paying for all clean grades of wool where the Provincial Government agrees to grant an equal bonus, was continued in 1945 with all Provinces except Manitoba participating. No announcement concerning 1946 has been made, but it is generally understood that the bonus system will continue.

CANADA: Wool production and related figures,
1946 with comparisons

Year	Sheep on farms : previous : Dec. 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool pro- duction	Average weight of fleece	Sheep slaughtered under inspection	Wool pulled	Total shorn and pulled wool produced
	: 1,000 head	: 1,000 head	: Million pounds	: Pounds	: 1,000 head	: Million pounds	: Million pounds
1942 ...	2,254	1,669	12.9	7.7	825	3.6	16.5
1943 ...	2,483	1,867	13.9	7.5	889	3.9	17.8
1944 ...	2,733	2,007	15.1	7.5	949	4.2	19.3
1945 ...	2,822	1,917	14.5	7.6	1,169	5.1	19.6
1946 ...	2,456	a/1,668	a/12.7	a/ 7.6	a/1,100	a/ 4.8	a/17.5

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
a/ Unofficial estimates.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

DISTILLERS' GRAIN
USE CUT IN CANADA

Canada's savings of wheat during 1946-47 as a result of reduction in use of wheat for alcoholic beverages are now forecast at about 4.5 million

bushels. Wheat conservation measures announced in mid-March included a provision for a 50 percent reduction in the amount of wheat used in distilling. That provision was implemented on March 19 by passage of an Order-in-Council amending the Wartime Alcoholic Beverages Order.

By the terms of the Order, the quantity of spirits produced from grain or malt during the year ending March 31, 1947, may not exceed 50 percent of the production for the previous 12 months. Monthly production must likewise be limited to 50 percent of that for the corresponding month of the preceding year. In addition to savings in wheat, smaller quantities of other grains would also be made available for other uses.

CUBA'S FLOUR IMPORTS LARGEST ON RECORD

Cuba's imports of wheat flour during 1945 amounted to 2,208,000 bags of 200 pounds, the largest flour imports on record, according to recent reports. All flour imported during 1945 was from the United States, whereas ordinarily a small amount also enters from Canada. The large imports were attributed to increased purchasing power in the country and to the special subsidy in effect until last October.

Imports during 1945 were at an usually heavy rate through September. Beginning with October, when the special United States subsidy was terminated, imports were insignificant and continued small through January 1946. The movement increased in February and rose further in March, with imports reported at 197,000 bags for that month. The peak of the heavy movement was reached in July and August when imports were reported at 316,000 and 328,000 bags, respectively.

With the termination of the special subsidy, importers were unable to buy abroad and sell locally under existing price ceilings. As a result of the decline in imports, stocks at the end of the calendar year were reduced somewhat below normal.

The Cuban Government faced with the alternative of raising the ceiling price of bread or subsidizing imports, on January 5, 1946, announced a new subsidy on flour. The measure provides for importation of up to 864,492 bags. The subsidy amounts to \$2.54 per bag on hard spring wheat flour and \$2.00 on hard winter wheat flour.

Actual purchase of almost the full amount of flour was reported during January. To qualify for the subsidy, however, purchases must be shipped by June 1, 1946.

* * * * *

LATE NEWS (con't)

Delivery to the People's Granary in Italy of 6 percent of the grain which Italian producers were authorized to retain from the 1945 crop for family consumption, was called for in a decision of the Interministerial Committee for Reconstruction late in March. This decision was taken in order to make additional grain available to reduce the gap between probable supplies and requirements for the non-farm population during the next few months. It was estimated by the Italian press that about 110,000 short tons of wheat could be added to the supply by this measure on the basis that there are about 10 million persons entitled to producers' retentions and that 6 percent of their retentions would amount to about 10 kilograms per person. (1 kilogram - 2.2046 pounds).

An agreement to deliver to France 440,000 short tons of Russian wheat and 110,000 tons of barley was signed in Moscow on April 6 by the Government of the USSR and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, according to the Moscow press of April 8. The deliveries are to be made during April, May, and June this year. The press statement pointed out that the Soviet Government decided to come to the aid of France as its Ally and to sell it from its limited reserves the quantities of grain referred to since Great Britain was not able to supply France with bread and the United States could not fully guarantee French bread needs.

The outlook in Argentina for profitable hog feeding is steadily worsening, owing to a continuation of the advance in corn prices which has taken place during the last 6 months. Some breeders are seriously talking of destroying litters of the farrowing season at hand and hogs on feed may not be finished to usual weights.

Every farmer in Hungary must produce some cereal (wheat, rye, barley, millet, or oats) on at least half of his arable land, according to a recent decree. The decree also provides that farmers must surrender a specified quantity of cereals, potatoes, oilseeds, and livestock according to the acreage of arable land tilled. Compulsory surrender is not required from farmers who can prove that it was impossible to produce crops due to war damage to their farms. Moreover, if the yields of a crop drop more than 20 percent of a fixed normal average, the farmer will be entitled to a reduction in his surrender obligations.

In a recent statement to the people of Austria, Chancellor Figl emphasized that the Austrian Government with the collaboration of all political parties was exerting its maximum effort in solving the food difficulties. Success can only be guaranteed, he said, if the population conscientiously collaborates in order to overcome the crisis of the next few weeks. He appealed to farmers to deliver their last seed reserves and claimed that nobody needs to starve even though nobody has an abundance.

The British Ministry of Food announced an increase in the weekly allowance of milk for nonpriority consumers from 2-1/2 to 3 pints effective April 7. The allowance of milk for nonpriority catering establishments was increased correspondingly from 7-1/2 to 9 pints per 100 hot beverages served. This seasonal increase in the milk allowance was made two weeks earlier than in 1945.