

PRICE COMPARISONS

preponderantly to Europe. Lard has competition from other food fats, and the availability of vegetable oils and fats tends to limit the range of lard price swings. Also, low prices on lard make for a wider foreign demand at any time. Corn prices and hog prices of course influence lard prices. On the other hand, the export of lard and the other pork products is of sufficient dimensions for foreign demand factors to make themselves felt at times in the domestic hog market.

So far as the different price factors can be evaluated in connection with lard in the world markets, it seems that production in the United States and domestic demand in the United States are the chief factors affecting prices at Chicago, though foreign demand is of sufficient importance to exert noticeable influence on the Chicago market. The close correspondence between Chicago prices and the European prices, however, is doubtless in the long run due to the predominating influence of the prices in the great producing market.

BACON

Bacon, constituting something like 15 per cent of the total meat and fat yield of the American lard-type hog, is one of the chief products in the international meat products trade, particularly in Europe. England has for years been the great bacon buyer in the international market, and the United States and Denmark are the great suppliers. On the continent Germany is the bacon market of chief consequence—though far behind England. Italy usually leads the list of the other European countries; most of the countries in western Europe are importers of bacon in small amounts, but the Netherlands have occasionally been heavy purchasers. On the supplying side, after the United States and Denmark, Canada and Ireland are the only producers of importance in the international trade. These other countries produce more largely the lean, bacon-type hogs, for the British bacon market. Ireland figures as an importer of a good deal of other bacon, while shipping heavily of her own bacon to the British market.

CHIEF FOREIGN MARKETS OF THE UNITED STATES

In the international trade in bacon the United Kingdom has always been undisputed as the buying market of first importance. In recent years that market has taken from about 40 per cent to upwards of 50 per cent of our bacon exports. The only other