

All Great Lakes shipping will halt in three weeks or so due to weather. Meanwhile, Canadian Wheat Board member Charles Gibbings predicts further west coast strikes, starting as soon as next week. Inspectors belonging to the Public Service Alliance of Canada are being urged by their president Clause Edwards to reject a Conciliation Board recommendation of a 12.5 per cent pay raise from their employer, the federal government.

NO CREAM ON THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING?

Nov. 21 (IPS)--British workers, who already have had sugar taken out of their watery tea, now are being told that they may not have cream on their Christmas pudding this year. Playing on British sentimentality about Christmas, the British press has stirred up panic that there will not be enough milk left over to make into cream.

Milk output of the once thriving British dairy industry has been falling at the rate of five per cent a month, a result of the steeply rising cost of cattle feed in 1974--itself a direct result of the Rockefeller oil hoax and manipulated speculation on grain.

As early as last February, milk production declined. Dairy farmers responded to the rising price of feedgrain by getting rid of a number of their older cows, slaughtering them and selling the feedgrain at the high prices. They cut back on investment in their herds and economized on cow rations, which led to dropping milk yields per cow. These measures have resulted in an irreversible destruction of the British dairy industry.

Now with milk supplies low, butter production has ceased to reserve supplies for the more profitable cheese market. In early December, all cheese making will stop so that all milk can be channeled into bottled milk and cream for the crucial five-day holiday period leading up to Christmas! It is unclear what will happen to cheese production after that point; the Milk Marketing Board and dairy companies' Christmas emergency plan could be a move to stop British cheese production permanently. Butter production is not scheduled to start up again until the spring. Presently plants are idle--plants in which companies invested \$250 million in the past three years to expand exports to the rest of the Common Market--and supplies are being rationed to the trade.

Livestock May Starve

The situation in the livestock industry is no brighter. A survey of the Agricultural Ministry has confirmed the worst fears of farmers: that their cattle may starve this winter. A report on the cattle feed situation showed a drop in hay produc-

tion of 10 to 30 per cent in England and Wales, with the biggest falls in areas which normally export hay to other regions. The cut undoubtedly will doom many animals to starvation or malnutrition this winter. The rate of calf slaughter had already risen to 17,500 at the end of October as compared with 4,000 last year.

Far from hiding the situation in which consumption of meat, milk, butter, cheese, and sugar is under attack, the press has stepped up the psychological attack, aiming to reduce the hungry working class to a fascist mob. The press recently reported the death of a frail old woman from injuries she received when she was knocked to the ground in a rush to get sugar at a South London supermarket.