

although advanced areas, are already nearly fully equipped with tractors and other inputs of mechanized agriculture.

Based on research already completed by the U.S. Labor Party, the tractor needs of these sectors can be estimated. In the United States, to bring into production an additional 100 million acres of good land now lying fallow, about 1.5 million new tractors will be needed. Similarly, for Eastern and Southern Europe, to bring these areas of fertile soil but labor-intensive agriculture to the levels of maximum yield another 2.5 million tractors and associated equipment will be necessary. By far the largest immediate potential for expanding agricultural production, and thus the largest immediate necessity for mechanization, lies in the Soviet Union, where six million tractors, one million combines, and three million new trucks are necessary.

Rapid Food Increase

On the basis of these inputs of some 10 million new tractors and other equipment, together with necessary expansion of fertilizer production, production of vital grains in the Soviet bloc countries alone could be tripled, adding 400 million tons per year to total world production and completely eliminating starvation and gross malnutrition worldwide through massive exports to food-deficit areas. Together with the contributions of Southern Europe, Australia, and the United States and Canada, more than 600 million tons of grain, an increase of nearly 50 per cent in world production, would be possible. Crude estimates indicate that such an expansion in the number of tractors, trucks, and combines could be produced in about two years if 50 per cent of U.S. and Western European auto production were converted over to agricultural inputs.

Obviously, this is not quickly enough, especially when it is considered that the production of nearly 150 million tractors will be needed to similarly mechanize the entire world's agricultural production and supply an optimal diet to the entire world population. To accomplish this task, massive new production of tractor factories and massive expansion of the workforce in tractor, truck, and fertilizer production is essential.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SABOTAGES FOOD PRODUCTION

Jan. 2 (IPS)--Informed sources in the Canadian Department of Agriculture stated today that ten million bushels of wheat, barley, and oats are being stored as "reserve" feedgrains in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In a related move aimed at sabotaging Canadian food production, yesterday the Canadian government imposed a 30 per cent freight increase for slaughtered meat and other foodstuffs. Provincial government officials are warning that the rate increase will wipe out many livestock farmers, further decimating the

1/5/75

IPS AR7

country's agricultural sector, one of the world's key food exporters.

Transport Hoax

The government-controlled grain is being stockpiled as part of Rockefeller's genocidal policy of grain hoarding. The government's cover story, that the grain is being reserved in case of "transportation difficulties" in the coming months, is nonsense. Great Lakes shipping, closed for the winter, and expensive and inefficient rail service, make it obvious that this grain will go nowhere. As for possible "transportation difficulties," the only one which occurred in Canada last year was the mysterious disappearance of hundreds of boxcars used for shipping grain, which New Solidarity exposed as a hoax.

The government's hypocrisy is blatant--and criminal. The grain reserves could avert the agonizing death-by-starvation of 100,000 people in the famine-ridden Fourth World for at least a month. If diverted to Canadian livestock farmers, the grain supplies would alleviate the grave shortage of cattle feedgrains which is threatening the country's meat supply.

The effects of the freight rate hike and the grain withholding will be devastating for farmers, consumers, and workers in the meat-processing industry alike. It will force cutbacks in meat production, send meat prices sky-high, and cause widespread layoffs in related industries.

Livestock Industry Collapses

Indicating the impact which the rate hike will have on the livestock industry, an Alberta Agriculture Department marketing adviser commented that it would "seriously hurt farmers." The Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister warned that farmers in his province stood to lose \$6.5 million as a direct result and predicted that it would force many into bankruptcy.

An extremely tight credit squeeze combined with skyrocketing feedgrain prices has already forced cattle ranchers to the wall. The country's future meat supply is threatened since farmers, unable to maintain their cattle to maturity because of prohibitive feed prices, are sending calves to slaughter.

The higher freight costs will compel many livestock producers to expand this practice, reduce their herds, pass on their increased costs to the consumer, or go out of business altogether, further jeopardizing meat supplies.

On top of this, meat quality is falling, as farmers revert to grass-grazing their cattle, instead of feeding them grain; the country's feedlots, where cattle are normally sent for fattening before slaughter, report a 30 per cent drop in population since last year.

Because farmers are being forced to sell off their herds, temporarily glutting the market, the prices they are getting for them have sharply fallen to 14-21 cents per pound, compared to 28-33 cents last year. Pork production is in even greater danger, with government officials estimating that 1975 output will drop 10-20 per cent.

The rate hike also threatens to gut the Alberta meat processing industry, which handles 40 per cent of the country's meat. A wave of layoffs will hit the industry as farmers begin to send live animals, rather than slaughtered ones, to slaughter yards in the east.

FAMINE PROSPECTS IN INDIA, PAKISTAN WORSEN

Jan. 5 (IPS)--Following last year's famine in India--the worst in 30 years--this year's early crop promises to fall far short even of 1974's tiny yield, severely exacerbating the already disastrous food situation in the Indian subcontinent. Late and inadequate rainfall, coupled with Rockefeller-engineered fuel and fertilizer shortages and a dangerous wheat rust, ensures that India's total harvest for 1974-75 will fall 10 to 12 million tons below last year's and 17 to 19 million tons below the 110 million tons needed for bare subsistence in the country. In Pakistan, last year's wheat harvest of 7.5 million tons is certain to fall well below seven million this year, more than a 10 per cent decline.

India's main summer-fall crop was severely damaged by the floods of last summer, and the harvest was officially reported at 55.5 million tons, down from 65 million last year. Last year's spring crop was a dismal 22 million tons, reduced from the 27 million tons of two years before by a combination of fertilizer shortages, fuel shortages, and the wheat rust. This year, a very late rain--which delayed the winter wheat planting throughout the India-Pakistan wheat belt areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and the Punjab by a crucial month--means that a vastly reduced area had to be planted in wheat, and that the average yields will be lower due to the shorter growing season.

Compounding the crisis, the major dams of the subcontinent--the Bhakra in the Indian Punjab and the Mangala in Pakistan--are far below normal in water because of skimpy rains. This will directly reduce water for irrigation and also severely reduce the hydroelectric power available to run pumps for the tube wells which supply water needs not covered by the dams directly. As a direct result of Rockefeller's Oil Hoax, there is no fuel to run generators and pumps for land irrigation. Moreover, the Bhakra Dam provided the power for the major fertilizer plant in Nangal, where output correspondingly will be down.

The destructive effects of the wheat rust in India will further reduce the crop. With the right weather conditions, the rust