

**TIN PRICE HIGH**

**High Canned Goods Prices Charged to Good Will Policy**

By SAM DAWSON

New York, July 12 (AP)—Credit part of the money you spend for canned goods to the dollar crisis abroad and Uncle Sam's good will policy.

Americans are spending about \$65 million a year for the tin to coat their cans of fruit, vegetables and beer. Tin might cost considerably less, if the law of supply and demand were allowed to operate.

But the price of tin is being held at \$1.03 a pound in spite of growing surplus. It's a part of our aid to dollars—short Britain, which controls a third of the world tin output, and our good-neighbor policy toward Bolivia, another chief tin source.

From the American-British fiscal parity in London comes word that we have promised to speed up buying of strategic minerals for our government stockpile—that means dollars for Britain and security for us in time of war.

With the new food packing season at hand, the price of tin is up for much debate among American businessmen, particularly since most other metal prices have skidded this year, and the world now mines more tin than it uses.

The U.S. buys all the tin we use from the British, the Bolivians and the Dutch. Britain sets the price by what it pays the Malayan mines, and our agreement with Bolivia is tied in with this price. About 170,000 tons of tin will be mined this year and consumption may not top 138,000 tons. The international study group says the surplus will grow in the next few years.

The tin that the reconstruction finance corp. buys is sold through the commerce department to American manufacturers of cans, solder and bearings. So far, the world surplus is no burden because we, and others, are putting it into strategic stockpiles.

The British want to keep the price of their Malayan tin high for the obvious reason that thereby they can get more dollars to help them balance their dollar area trade books. They would do the same with rubber, probably, except that our large production of synthetic rubber forces down the price of natural rubber in Malaya.

Just before the war, tin brought 50 cents a pound. In 1932 it was only 21 cents. In those days, American consumers did their own buying, rather than through their government, but they dealt in large part with foreign cartels that kept a firm hand on production and prices of tin and rubber.

Congress has just passed, and the President signed, a renewal of U.S. government control over tin imports and the allocation of tin among domestic users for another 12 months. The government also controls the operation of the big tin smelter at Texas City, Texas.

The British and Bolivians insist the price of tin is not too high. They say mining costs have gone up—both labor and machinery is higher than pre-war. A price cut, they argue, would mean a drop in production.

The American tinplate industry is no longer plagued by shortages—there is no longer any moaning by food packers about tin being allocated for beer cans.

This summer the food pack is likely to be smaller than last. This is due to fairly large inventories left over from last year's pack. To move this surplus, canners have trimmed prices. They now say they plan to pay farmers less this year, and to be more choosy in what they buy, since they plan to can less.

The weather, however, could still play hob with their plans. In fact, the drought in the east already has restricted eastern canner activity and sent Californians scurrying to revise upward their quotas for vegetable packs this summer.

In the meantime, the housewife can benefit from the lower prices on canned goods. She can also tell herself that part of her food bill is a contribution to our foreign relief program through the maintenance of \$1.03 tin.



**Ill Children Found in Cabin**

Portland, July 12 (AP)—Two youngsters were in a hospital here today after seven brothers and sisters, aged 10 years to 14 months, were found alone in a 12-foot square cabin east of the city.

The sheriff's office said a two-year-old girl had lobar pneumonia and a 14-month-old sister

also was ill. The others nursed sores attributed to malnutrition. Parents of the children were believed in the Pendleton area, selling berries picked east of Gresham over the week-end. A neighbor was supposed to be caring for the youngsters, but the sheriff's investigators said the woman was employed elsewhere all day.

The family moved to Oregon recently from Red Bluff, Calif.

Wolves apparently mate for life, and the father aids in rearing the family.

**Red Cross Reports Made at Meeting**

Routine reports featured the meeting for the board of Marion county chapter, American Red Cross, last evening.

The home service department reported a caseload of 160 for the past month, with \$545.95 extended in loans and grants. Much of the caseload was assistance to veterans in making out and filing claims. The financial assistance was given to veterans or their dependents and servicemen or their dependents.

**Fire Conditions in Linn County Critical**

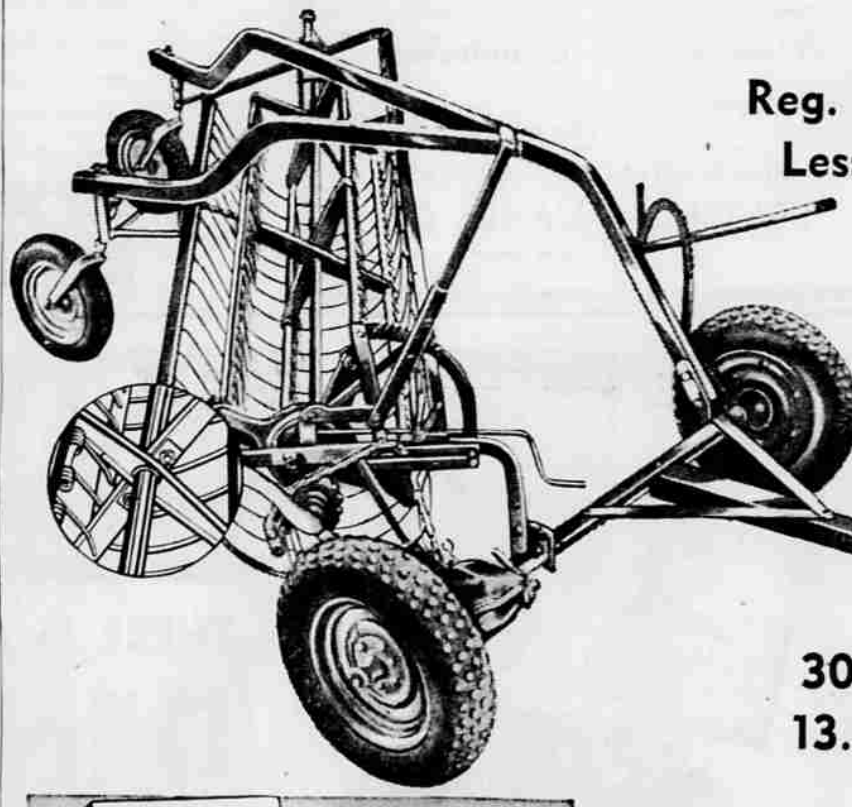
Albany, July 12—Linn county fire conditions were classified as "critical" Monday by E. G. Brutscher, dispatcher at the Linn county fire warden's office in Sweet Home. Brutscher stated that humidity at Sweet Home dropped to 33 per cent Sunday and was expected to drop below the 30 mark Monday afternoon. If it does all logging operations in the area will cease.

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