

Assails Black Markets as Aiding Foe

By GILBERT MILLSTEIN

Black market meat operators are depriving the Government of the meat it needs for our armed forces and lease-lend shipments, it was revealed yesterday.

Announcing plans for an intensive drive against meatleggers, Buell F. Mabin, Food Distribution Administrator in the northeast region, said the "black market operators are selling our soldiers, our Allies and our war workers down the river by cheating them out of the meat that is as necessary to the war as bullets."

Enforcement Rules.

All available resources are being mobilized to enforce the new regulations requiring licensing of slaughterers and livestock dealers, which become effective March 31, Mabin said.

"Unless black markets in meat are eliminated," he added, "the war will be prolonged and will needlessly cost the lives of thousands of Americans."

Guarding against any wartime lowering of food standards, the City Health Department yesterday seized and embargoed, 30,000 pounds of a butter substitute known as "Victory Spread."

A total of 29,481 pounds of it was placed under the ban at two plants of Breakstone Bros., Inc., dairy manufacturers at 195 Franklin St. and 120 Willis Ave., Bronx. The remainder was found in stores and jobbing houses in Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn, according to Health Commissioner Ernest L. Stebbins, where an embargo also was placed on it.

Milk Fat Content Less.

The commissioner declared that the "Victory Spread" contained only 70% milk fat content, whereas the city sanitation code requires 80% for butter. Furthermore, according to Deputy Commissioner Sol Pincus, the spread was being sold for at least 5 cents a pound more than the 57-cent OPA butter ceiling.

The product, he said, was nothing more than whipped butter with a water content higher than that permitted by law.

Pincus said the Health Department "is considering prosecutions" of the Breakstone firm and that federal authorities were investigating the spread under provisions of the Adulterated Butter Act, which assesses a 10-cent-per-pound tax on products that do not meet butter standards.

State Officials "Interested."

The deputy commissioner said also that New York state authorities were "interested" in the situation.

A general denial of any wrongdoing was issued by Louis Josephson, president of Breakstone Bros., who said: "OPA's markup price or-

Faces 16 Years For Coffee Theft



(Associated Press Wirefoto)
Fred D. Meyers

DETROIT, March 8 (AP).—Charged with theft of two pounds of coffee, Fred D. Meyers, a machinist, faced the possibility today of 16 years' imprisonment. Detectives said Meyers, who has a police record, admitted the theft when they arrested him leaving a market. He told them he had run out of rationing coupons.

der for butter omitted any allowance for the whipping operation. Breakstone has therefore offered Victory Spread, a pure and nutritious product, clearly labeled as to contents of 70% butter fat. We have secured OPA's approval of the method for pricing this product. No customer can be deceived, and will buy it only if he or she wants the commodity."

Mayor Had Warned.

An OPA spokesman denied having approved a price for the "Victory Spread." It was added that Breakstone Bros. had submitted an application last week but that it had not yet been passed upon.

The Health Department's action

Vegetable and Fruit Guide

Here are today's conditions facing New York City housewives seeking fresh fruits and vegetables (based on wholesale receipts as catalogued by the Food Distribution Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture):

Plentiful.

Apples, carrots, lettuce and mushrooms.

Moderate.

Anise, artichokes, red cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, escarole, potatoes, onions, parsley, peas, tomatoes, avocados and citrus fruits.

Light.

Green beans, brussels sprouts, green cabbage, beets, endives, peppers, radishes, rhubarb, green onions, greens (spinach, kale, etc.), strawberries, grapes, pears, pineapples, asparagus, squash, eggplant and sweet potatoes.

followed by 24 hours Mayor LaGuardia's announcement in his Sunday radio broadcast that an em-

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