

RATIONING REGULATIONS A WASTE OF ENERGY IN CANADA

Food Controller Puts His Faith in Increased Conservation by the People



HENRY B. THOMSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOOD CONTROL BOARD, PHOTOGRAPHED AT HIS DESK IN OTTAWA

In an address to members of the University Club, Ottawa, Henry B. Thomson, food controller, said that as far as he could see at the present time it would be a waste of energy to put drastic rationing regulations into effect in Canada. "If conditions get worse it may come to that," he said, "but if this country produces to the limit, I trust that it will not be necessary."

"We have had many letters advocating that Canada be put upon rations," Mr. Thomson continued. "Card-rational systems may be workable in congested countries, where you have full control of the supplies and there may be in such cities as Montreal and Toronto populations sufficiently congested. Still, if

card rationing were established, it would have to be operated upon a Dominion-wide basis, and not merely in one or two districts. It would be very difficult to operate such a system the Dominion over. How would you enforce the rationing system among the farming population? "Mr. Haana's policy was to put it up to the people, and I think 90 per cent of the people are absolutely right. A certain number are sitting back, waiting all the period comes when they expect to be forced to do what they ought to do, but the question is: What would the rationing system cost to force these few people? Is it worth it?"

The people are getting conversant with the food situation. Statements from Baron Rhonda, the British Food Controller, are growing more emphatic every day. Spring is approaching. The greater production campaign has been launched. Soon we can get at it."

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sequently it had been judged unwise to increase the milling extraction for flour beyond 74 per cent, because to do so would mean leaving more of the wheat berry in the flour and less in the offal for mill feed.

Price Fixing a Failure. "The panacea of fixing prices has failed," said Mr. Thomson. "In New York last summer, the Food Control Board fixed the price of milk. The result was that the State administration had to take over the situation. In December, Mr. Hoover himself had to grapple with it. Because, since September, when the price of milk was fixed, the farmers, finding the price did not pay, butchered 70,000 milk cows for beef. The result of that was that milk in New York city went to 20 and 21 cents a quart. Fixing prices of milk in New York has gone by the board. Fixing profits is another matter."

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