

LEST STARVATION ENSUE.

Mr. Hoover Emphasizes Need of Food Conservation.

In a statement to members of the United States Food Administration, Mr. Herbert Hoover says in part: "The food situation in Europe is far graver than when the preliminary survey of the food supply of the world for this year was made. . . . The harvests of our Allies have proved less than we had contemplated, and the great curtailment of shipping by the submarines during the last few months has further prevented them from access to more remote markets. Beyond the demands of the Allies there is a call upon us by the friendly neutrals for food supplies, and if we can not at least in part respond to these neutral calls, starvation on an unparalleled scale must ensue.

"Food has now taken a dominant position in the war, and we must ask the American people to sacrifice far more than was at first thought necessary. We have exported the whole of the surplus of the wheat from this harvest after reserving to ourselves an amount sufficient for our normal consumption of seed and flour until the next harvest, and therefore the amount of wheat flour that the United States can contribute to mix with the war bread of our Allies during this winter will be simply the amount that our people reduce their consumption month by month. In other words, every grain of wheat or its products that the Allies receive from the United States from now on will be exactly the amount which our people have saved each month on their behalf.

"The Allies to-day ask for 25 per cent more meat and fats (pork, dairy products and vegetable oils) than we consider our monthly production permits us to send them without trenching on our own supplies, or, on the other hand, unless we can consume less. Due to the shortage in shipping, our available sugar supplies must be less than normal from the present time forward.

"Thus every particle of diminished consumption by the American people is one particle more for the soldiers, men, women and children of our Allies and for the starving people in other countries. This is a personal obligation upon every one of us toward some individual abroad who will suffer privation to the extent of our own individual negligence.

"If we are to reduce the consumption of the few products which we should export abroad, we will need to eat a larger proportion of many different foodstuffs which we

can not export and which we have at home. For this reason we **MUST NOT** waste **ANY** foodstuffs. A great many individuals in our population eat far more food than is necessary to maintain their health and strength. In this emergency only the simplest of living is patriotic. We want no person in the United States to eat less than is required for good health and full strength, for in this emergency America requires every atom of the productive power of our people. While many can eat less, all of our population can substitute other foodstuffs for the few that are vitally needed for export.

"We must not overlook the fact that Russia collapsed not because of the Germans on her borders but largely because of the failure to organize and feed her own citizens, and, if we are to emerge victorious from this war, we can not risk the collapse of another of our Allies from this same cause. **There is no waste of food among any of our Allies—there is the most drastic reduction in their consumption; there is actual privation among their women and children; there is starvation in Belgium.**

"The problem of saving in food is a local and individual one, so that more precise and definite rules just to all cannot be formulated. It is a matter for the conscientious consideration of every individual that he or she should eat only that which is necessary to maintain bodily health and strength and unselfishly to select those foodstuffs the use of which relieves international necessities. In this winter of 1918 lies the period when there will be tested in this great free country of ours the question as to whether or not our people are capable of voluntary individual self-sacrifice to save the world."

In the United States no compulsory measures have been taken, as in Canada, to curtail the consumption of beef and bacon in public eating-places and to require that substitutes be provided for white bread. Much has been accomplished, however, by voluntary co-operation. The Food Administration has recently asked the people of the United States to make Saturday of each week a Porkless Day and to limit the household consumption of sugar to 3 pounds for each person per month, in addition to the previous voluntary measures of food conservation which they had been urged to observe.