

TALKS TO JOURNALISTS.

There are probably 1,200 editorial writers in Canada. Ours is an anonymous journalism, and it is, therefore, the influence of these writers which the Canada Food Board bespeaks. The aid they have already given is immeasurably useful. To keep on giving it predicates a high patriotism of the type that holds to the end.

But the man who knows what newspapers have done since war began assumes their patriotism. In the hands of the editorial writers chiefly lies the changing of unwilling followers of Orders issued from Ottawa into cheerful co-workers in a Dominion-wide war measure. They can combat negligence and selfishness; they can enlighten by showing the end to which the measures are directed. They can, above all, suppress that brilliant but easy form of criticism—fault-finding.

We have a right now to speak of the technicality of food control. Only those who have had the technical training in the hard, grim course of the last eighteen months know how sensitive its mechanism can be. Is it fair to judge the stream by the bubbles on the surface? So long as voluntarism remains, as it must in Canada, the chief force among the people, so long will there be defects and difficulties.

Editorial writers are asked to give this new form of knowledge the same considerate treatment they would aerial flight and undersea navigation.

Writers will find surprising light and field for comment in the statements by Dr. J. W. Robertson given in this issue on food conditions in Italy and France, especially; they will find ample scope for a study of economics on his remarks on farming in England under war. So long as that is the state in Europe, so long must food control go on here.

Then there are the present sugar distribution difficulties. Writers can tell the public the why and the wherefore; can teach the people to take what is its first dose of a rationed commodity with a good grace.

Everything cannot be done by a small publicity staff at Ottawa. The moral obligation in national work is shared by every moulder of opinion. It will be the aim in these columns to give monthly "pointers" of special use to men in active newspaper work—a calling in which more than any other R. L. S.'s words are true:—"If a man love the labour of his hand, the gods have called him."

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INTER-ALLIED FOOD COUNCIL.

An Inter-Allied Food Council, consisting of the Food Controllers of the United Kingdom, United States, France and Italy, was set up to co-ordinate the food programmes of the Allied countries, and provide one general food supply scheme which would eliminate competition in purchase and transport. Acting immediately under the authority of the Council is the Inter-Allied Food Council Committee of Representatives, with headquarters in London, and to whom the Council has delegated wide powers. This Committee is constituted as follows:—

- Chairman—Sir John Beale, K.B.E.
- United Kingdom—Major the Hon. W. Astor, M.P., and Mr. W. H. Beveridge, C.B., with Captain J. R. Brooke as an additional member.
- United States—Mr. J. B. Cotton and Mr. L. P. Sheldon, with Mr. G. S. Jackson as an additional member.
- France—Major R. Filloux and Mons. Genestal, with Mons. Destombes as an additional member.
- Italy—Commendatore Professor Attolico, C.B., and Signor Nimmo, with Lieutenant Amadio as an additional member.

BUTTER OVER-STOCK SEIZED.

The Canada Food Board has seized and forced the sale of 392,800 pounds of creamery butter stored by the Dominion Fish and Fruit Co., Ltd., Quebec.

The Dominion Fish and Fruit Co., Ltd., without permission and in spite of remonstrance from the Canada Food Board, held a greater quantity of butter than was reasonably necessary to supply its own Canadian requirements, based on last year's sales to the ordinary trade.

Under the waste order the Canada Food Board seized 392,800 pounds of the 632,800 pounds the company had in its possession, and gave it the option of having the excess butter confiscated or sold to the Dairy Produce Commission for shipment to Great Britain and her allies. The company choose the latter alternative, and the butter is now on its way to Britain.

The accumulation of butter during the recent butter producing season for Quebec storage was in competition with the purchasing agents of Great Britain and her allies and prevented needed supplies reaching them.