

CAUSING GRAVE ANXIETY.

Official Communication Regarding Food Supply Received from French Officials.

The Food Controller has arranged for fortnightly cables from the British Ministry of Food, dealing with the food situation in England and France. In the first of these, the British Food Controller transmitted the following report from French officials with regard to conditions in France for communication to Canada.

"The supply of breadstuffs is causing grave anxiety. Imports are very short. Our bread card machinery has been completed but the present lack of cereals will not permit of its application. Sugar stocks are equal to the present sugar card allowance of one-half kilogramme per head per month (1 1-10 pounds as compared with a monthly per capita consumption of more than 7 pounds in Canada). There is a great shortage of farinaceous foodstuffs such as macaroni. The consumption of meat has been restricted by high prices to within the limits of the available and greatly depleted stocks. Butter is very scarce and milk even more difficult to obtain. Oils and fats are practically unobtainable."

"THE MOST URGENT NEED."

National Council of Women Appeal to all Federated Associations.

Mrs. Rhys D. Fairbairn, Corresponding Secretary of The National Council of Women, has written to each of the Federated Associations urging their co-operation in the work of food production and conservation. She says in part:

"The Food Controller has addressed a special appeal to The National Council of Women in which he urges them to throw themselves with vigor into a campaign to educate the public as to the absolute necessity of food conservation and food production at this most critical period of the War. The President asks you to respond promptly to this appeal from the Government.

"You are urged not to let a week pass before taking action to call your officers together and to plan publicity work to the uttermost reach of your organization. Many of our Federated Associations are already working along these lines,—so much the better,—but let us all, at once, unite upon this as the most urgent need of the moment."

The National Council of Women is planning to send out literature regularly in order to keep the Federated Associations informed of the progress of the campaign.

CITY PEOPLE MUST HELP.

"Grow Your Own Vegetables" is Slogan for Urban Dwellers.

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has sent a circular letter to officials of all urban municipalities in the Province, urging backyard and vacant lot cultivation, poultry keeping, etc, this year, in order that the farmers may be able to devote a larger proportion of their land and energies to the production of foods for export. The letter calls attention to the vital importance of increased production. It continues: "To the farmers is committed the task of raising food for export, and their efforts should not be now hampered by our dependence upon them for things we ourselves can provide. Vacant lot gardens, home grown poultry and the humble 'pig sty' will do war service."

The Department states that a man in the city, town or village who can assist in farm work should be on the farm but those whose occupation prevents participation in farm work can render a service of national importance by utilizing sufficient spare time to produce a maximum quantity of garden produce. The circular suggests that this is a matter of serious consideration for officials of all urban municipalities especially and that everything that it is possible for them to do to encourage this work should be done.

"There should be in every city, town and village an association which stands for food production," the circular continues, "and it should receive the assistance and support in a practical way of all municipal representatives. This movement is, in Saskatchewan as well as in Great Britain and elsewhere, of national importance. Indeed in Great Britain the producer of an acre or more of vegetables is exempt from military service while so engaged. Gardeners should devote their facilities to the production of vegetables capable of being canned or stored in their natural condition rather than to the production of flowers, however worthy the latter may be under normal conditions."

IN THE SUBMARINE CLASS.

Dr. W. F. Westbrook, Chairman of the British Columbia Branch of the National Committee on Food Resources, in a recent address made the following statement: "We are in the same class as submarines if we do not do everything in our power to conserve and produce. The net result otherwise is that we are interfering with the food supply for our soldiers and our Allies."