

A TERRIBLE POSSIBILITY.

Sir Edmund Walker says the Danger of Famine is Very Real.

"Difficult as the problem may be, we must produce more, and we must eat less, otherwise some of those who are dearest to us across the sea must starve and we may lose our chance of dictating a peace, the nature of which shall be a guarantee that our children shall not have to fight again for those liberties which are now in jeopardy."—Sir Edmund Walker.

Sir Edmund Walker, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, speaking at the annual meeting of the shareholders on January 8th, said in part:—

"One of the most valuable foods for the soldier is bacon. He can apparently do more fighting on it than on anything else. . . If we fail in producing greater quantities of bacon than ever before, we shall fail in our duty to the soldiers. In this country we have been occupied in an effort to place the blame for the high price of an article, which, beyond any doubt, we ought not to consume in large quantities just now, and we have apparently forgotten that the price has gone up mainly because bacon is vital to carrying on the war and that if we do anything to lessen the efforts of the producers, the price will certainly be much higher next year than it is now. IN ENGLAND WELL-TO-DO PEOPLE ARE STANDING IN LINE FOR THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES, AND THEY, AT LEAST, ARE LEARNING THAT THE TALK OF FAMINE IS NOT A STORY TO FRIGHTEN CHILDREN WITH, BUT A TERRIBLE POSSIBILITY. The harvests have not been plentiful and the danger is as real as the menace of the submarines.

"Nothing in the end is to be gained by

blaming the Premier or the Food Controller, the provision dealer or the farmer, for high prices which are not merely a result of the war but a result of war requirements so peremptory that the question of cost almost disappears. The conditions arising out of the war are at the bottom of most of our troubles. We have been told that we should save money. It is even more necessary that we should eat less, again not so much that we need to save for ourselves, but because IF WE DO NOT EAT LESS OTHERS ACROSS THE SEA MUST GO HUNGRY.

"If we have men, money and food we shall win. If we fail in any of these we may lose. Individual tests, particularly in hotels and restaurants, show that very large savings can be made wherever the effort is made to that end, but the difficulty is to make advice, or even regulations of the Food Controller, effective in a country which produces food largely in excess of its own requirements and where economy in the use of food is thought to be evidence of a mean and sordid disposition. It is not, however, enough that we should eat less but that we should as far as possible replace some article of food, especially white bread and bacon, with others."

A TEST OF CITIZENSHIP.

War Diet Means a Changed Diet Regardless of the Cost.

The Winnipeg Tribune, discussing Food Saving, says editorially: "The primary duty is to save those things that are needed by our soldiers, such as bacon, sugar and wheat flour. The goods which we must substitute may cost as much, or even more, but in order to attend to the primary needs of the men at the front we must forego much of the food to which we have been long accustomed. A war diet may mean increased cost or it may not, but it does mean a changed diet. We should use more substitutes, not because these things are cheaper, but because wheat is needed for export. We should eat more fish, fruit and

game, not because of its market price, but because beef and pork are needed in Europe. The first duty of Canadian citizenship is to produce as much as possible and to consume as little as possible of those things so essential to our enemies across the seas

"The man who is unwilling to accept a different diet in order to spare wheat, sugar, and bacon is disloyal to British citizenship and adds so much more to the social burden. In other words, he adds to the cost of the conflict and lengthens out the struggle as surely as does any German whose rifle has added to the length of the casualty list. Conservation is not merely a public question. It is more: it is a personal matter and no one can escape the duty and responsibility."