

FOOD AS A PRIME PEACE FACTOR.

In a cablegram from London to the Canadian Press, Mr. John W. Dafoe, says: The food situation in Europe is a matter of much moment to inter-allied interests because there is a close connection between the solution of this problem and the conclusion of an early and satisfactory peace. Within the past six weeks inter-allied food agencies have been carrying on extensive inquiries into the actual conditions in enemy and neutral countries. There is going on in Switzerland at present an important unofficial conference between the food officials of the various countries in which the whole food situation for the continent is being considered.

"Some of the European countries are known to be in great need. Among the allied and friendly peoples perhaps the Serbians and the Czecho-Slovaks are in the greatest danger of real privation, but all the European neutrals require to import foods. Of the enemy nations, Austria appears nearest the brink of starvation. Reports from Germany are conflicting and contradictory, but the known facts indicate that the home-produced foods there will not suffice in full beyond April.

"The United States, Canada, Australia and the Argentine are the countries which have considerable exportable supplies, and the partial liberation of shipping will permit these supplies to be brought to Europe in sufficient quantities to enable all actual needs to be met, if an efficient system of distribution is adopted.

"The conditions under which foods can be obtained and distributed become a political instrumentality among the first importance. They may be used in bringing about and maintaining stable and desirable forms of government, and plans are in process of elaboration for the purpose of dealing with the whole situation effectively and promptly. In these matters the Prime Minister of Canada and the members of the Canadian Peace Conference Mission are taking their parts. Moreover, in carrying out of the programme of the Inter-allied Food Council for the supplying of food to allied countries, which continue to have the first claim on the exportable surpluses, many matters of importance to Canada have come up from time to time, and the representations made on behalf of Canada on those questions are welcomed.

"Adjustments have been made and action taken affecting Canadian bacon and lard and packers of offals. In peas, beans,

apples, canned vegetables, etc., Canada has become one of the chief sources of supply, and her partnership in furnishing food is recognized as having been a sound and strong support to her co-operation by means of her army."

\$1,500,000,000 FOR WAR'S AFTER-MATH.

A cablegram by the Associated Press from Europe on January 4 says President Wilson's first legislative recommendation based on his study of conditions in Europe, looks to the relief of distressed populations "outside Germany," which are threatened with starvation.

There will be a request for immediate appropriation of \$100,000,000 to supply food to liberated peoples in Austria, Turkey, Poland and Western Russia, who have no recognized Governments, and are unable to finance international obligations.

The President's message said that food shipments worth \$1,500,000,000 must be made from the United States to Europe in the next seven months. An international organization, directed by Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, will supervise the distribution of the supplies. The appropriation will take care of the population in other districts notably in Eastern and Southern Europe, which have been ravaged by war.

AGRICULTURE ON COMMERCIAL BASIS.

The French Minister of Agriculture and Food recently informed representatives of the press that the future prosperity of France, depended on the quality of its agriculture. The war had taken men into other districts and brought them into touch with other nations whose methods of agriculture were entirely different from their own, and the experience thus gained would be of great service in reorganizing the home industry. This was important, as agricultural over-production would be required after the war. Credit and insurance must be made available to the agricultural labourer, who must be trained to take an intelligent interest in his work and must have his life rendered less monotonous. The cinema must be used for instruction.

Unless something is done quickly to make agricultural pursuits more attractive, the younger generation will drift into commercial establishments, with disastrous results for French agriculture.