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Food Conservation IN BRITAIN.

Margarine.

2 lbs. weekly for average family of four; then about 1 lb. weekly for 10 weeks and have been without, next 3 weeks averaging 3-4 lb. weekly.

Co-operators, not able to get any for weeks. Mrs. X., postman's wife, 1-2 lb. this week, family of 8. Often refused at multiple shops because didn't buy tea and sugar there. Family of 2 gets 1-4 between them a week (starting last week).

Sugar.

Co-operators have had only 1-4 lb. per head for 6 months.

Retailers in competitive firms have unfairly distributed sugar. Peaks at Highbury sold 2 lbs. of sugar to each customer on December 22nd as "mas boxes," customers were told, no 2 lbs. last week. Probably supplies released on reported approach inspector. Middle class customers, with large orders, no difficulty about sugar and margarine. My sister at Bradford no difficulty also another at Golders Green, only last few weeks had smaller supply of margarine.

Milk.

Average 1-2 pint per family of 4. Milk sellers giving short measure.

Meat.

4-hour queues common during last two weeks. Last two Sundays quite common for weaker women, tired out, who cannot stand long, to have bladders for Sunday's dinner (about 1-2 bloater per person) and about 1-4 lbs. sausage meat in the week if lucky enough to see it displayed.

Rich customers and better off workers are served first every time. Cases of Hardship and Queue Incidents.

Factory girl in Highbury, living alone, no fat for 3 weeks. "Took"

half-day to go margarine hunting. Employer bullied her and said she was wasting "his valuable time." She answered: "The half-day was more valuable to me, as it meant my food, which means my livelihood, for without it I cannot work."

Mrs. B. had brother home on leave who went to the Home and Colonial shop in Holloway, with his ration paper. Ration refused, although plenty of food in shop. He went home and then went to Food Controller's office. They, after being worried, gave him a paper which entitled him to call in a police officer to employ who refused him. A day was wasted and the small family's supply eaten into by soldier. His sister has husband at front and mother with Old Age Pension, for whom she has to wait in queues as well, there is one child of three. They were able to get 1-2 lb. margarine some weeks, but have not had any for last three weeks. His sister overheard conversation of two women. One said: "I am all right for 'marg' this week. I have bought 6 lbs. and the Mappole will have some next Monday, and I shall get another lb." Soldier's wife said: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself." To which came the reply, "Mind your own business, we must fight for ourselves these times."

Mrs. C., about 60, very frail, said she always arrived too late at queues. Her husband had been ill, but had lately got work at making dugouts for factories. They had no "marg" for three weeks and he was "fed up" with only having bread and jam.

Buying up in unequal quantities was, until this week, encouraged by multiple firms to enable them to sell out quickly.

Several women at Finsbury Park said to me in margarine queues: "What are we fighting for, if women and children are treated like dirt, what price victory when we are starving. Will that bring back our health?"

Peckham Soldiers.

Four soldiers just home from front were angry at sight of queue, saw margarine under counter of multiple shop, dragged it out, after leaping over counter and threw it over to women. The ringleader said to the manager, "Now you can arrest me." He would not, and the policeman said neither would he as "I am in sympathy with you."

Women often have influenza after waiting, and many pregnant women in my neighborhood have fainted, through long standing and undernourishment.

Women are bullied by school attendance officers for keeping children home from school to wait in queues, although mother is too ill to go. Girls in munition factories and women on tubes and trams often tell me, "I always get home when 'marg,' meat, bacon and sugar are sold out." Women living alone with no children to wait have gone weeks without fat of any kind.

Incident at Wood Green.

Last week a "Co-op" woman overheard women in a queue talking and found they came from Holloway, Finsbury Park, Bethnal Green and Elephant and Castle, and had come to buy margarine to sell again. She had with the police officers' help their addresses taken and only local people served.

I believe that a growing number of working people are doing on very small quantities of food, partly owing to muddle of governmental departments, and partly owing to the fact that pushing, strong women make a business of food hunting.—Workers' Dreadnought.

CO-OPERATION INCREASES IN BRITAIN

The British Co-operative Society has now a membership of 3,600,000. The increase in 1915 was 210,574, and 255,416 in 1916. The Society has a paid-up share capital of \$20,000,000. Their deposits in the penny bank was increased from \$10,840,315 in 1915 to \$12,735,955 in the year 1916. Increase of trade during the year was \$75,000, making a total of \$95,000,000. The total retail trade in 1915 was \$608,442,750. The average purchase per member in 1915 was \$157.05 in 1916 it rose to \$172.85. The total amount of wholesale and retail trade in 1916 amounted to \$942,105,120. The output at factory prices in their English plants in 1915 being \$45,546,590, and increased to \$81,837,545 for 1916.

Their Scottish factories increased during the same period from \$14,035,235 to \$23,940,520. The profit in 1915 was \$24,800,430, and increased to \$81,675,395 for 1916, after deducting 30.60 per cent. for capitalization. The number of employees also increased during the same period from 109,449 to 115,651. The total number of employees in both wholesale and retail departments for 1916 amounted to 158,715. It is interesting to note that the Society has now affiliated with the Labor Party. In every department of the Society an appreciable advance has been made, as compared with privately owned enterprises, and their affiliation with the Socialist Labor group is very significant at the present time owing to political unrest.

Writers seldom write the things they think. They simply write the things they think other folks think they think.—Elbert Hubbard.

THE BOLSHIVIKI--What Is It?

[ED. NOTE.—This Manifesto is written by a Bolsheviki, from information received from Petrograd, and is contributed to the cause of Socialism, in the sincere belief that the Bolsheviki Socialists are the pathfinders to a happier and better existence.]

From press and pulpit came loud condemnation of the so-called Bolsheviki in Russia, and yet the same press and pulpit spares itself no effort in hiding from the masses all knowledge of what the movement really signifies, and what its historic mission.

In order to fully understand the Bolsheviki (which in Russian means majority), it is necessary to understand the government that preceded it. In this way do we gain a proper historical perspective which will enable us to judge for ourselves what relationship the Russian social upheaval bears to similar upheavals in England when Magna Charta was demanded, or again, when Cromwell broke the arrogance of the British monarchy, or again, when the prospering American Bourgeoisie (capitalist) threw off the yoke of George III.

In order to understand the social system of any given period in the solution of human progress, it is necessary to examine the fundamental economic structure on which that social organism is based, and to enquire into the method of administration. By the economic aspect we mean the method employed in securing livelihood (food, clothing and shelter), or, in other words, the method of production. By the administrative aspect we mean the government, or method of administering the productive forces so as to insure continuous subsistence with the greatest amount of leisure for the ruling class, and the establishment of laws, rules, morals and customs in

keeping therewith. To simplify this reasoning, we will draw a simple diagram of the feudal system as it once existed in England, in France, and in Russia on the outbreak of the present war.

FEUDALISM.

Economic Aspect.

Land is the dominant factor in production, and the chief source of subsistence. The land is owned by big landlords, and agriculture is carried on by peasant communities who work for a bare subsistence, being slaves to the land which they do not own.

Eighty-five per cent. of the population are engaged in agriculture, and the remaining 15 per cent. constitute the professional and middle classes, and the rising capitalist and his wage-workers. These latter are virtual slaves to the industries they do not own.

The agitation for reform and political representation is carried on against the feudal regime by the rising commercial element, or capitalist; and, in order to strengthen their position, they enlist the moral support of

Administrative Aspect.

The administration of feudal rule is conducted by a Czar or autocrat having arbitrary power, and supported by a caste of nobles who share in the system of private ownership in the essentials to life and gain subsistence therefrom. The nobility performs no useful labor, but holds in its command the army and navy, which constitute the force necessary for the protection of their interests.

In opposition to this system stands the rising Bourgeoisie or capitalist, who, having acquired wealth and power from his private ownership and control of industry, seeks now also to control the government, to make laws and to establish customs for the conservation of his own interests as opposed to those of the feudal caste.

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