

The Canada Food Board

If it were possible to dissect the collective mind of the Canadian people at this moment it would be found that a large part of it was taken up with the Canada Food Board, or rather with the orders that emanate from that august body, and particularly the later orders which more or less affect directly every householder and every eater in the restaurants and other public places; and if it were still further possible to analyse the mind of the average citizen it would be found that many peculiar conceptions have been formed of what the Food Board really does, should do, and why, to warrant its existence. One would think, for instance, that the necessity for such a board in Canada is obvious to all, and yet such is the contradictory nature of the human mind, as cultivated in a democratic and free country, that the idea of being restrained in one's eating is inwardly, if not outwardly, resented; notwithstanding such restraining means the release of necessary foods for our armies and allies. This resentment is just our little ego that knows not the spirit of self-control and all that it means, and which certainly would not give up anything until compelled by a still stronger force or spirit of sacrifice. It is to help strengthen this sacrificial spirit that the Food Board issues its orders.

THE CONVENTION CITY.

This year the convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities, being held in Victoria, B. C., is fortunate in many ways, particularly to Eastern delegates, who will have the opportunity of visiting a number of cities on the route and see for themselves the wonderful progress made in our Western centres. Indeed, to those who have never been West, or at least for a number of years, each stopping place will be a revelation. They will find that in civic up-to-dateness the cities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia will have much to teach them—each with its own pride, its own optimism and its own confidence in the future. The delegates will find, too, that the Western cities, like the Eastern, have found themselves in the new national spirit that has spread itself across the land. Some would call it the war spirit. It is. But it is more. It is the manifestation of the determination to win out not only in the war but in the great future of the country — materially, socially and economically.

The consumation of the long trip will be in the city of Victoria. And it will be worth it all. Splendidly situated on a beautiful harbor the capital city of British Columbia presents a picture not easily forgotten. This ever-green city is worth seeing at any time of the year, but especially so in July when the convention meets. Then nature will be at her best. The great masses of foliage and flowers, the fine buildings, the splendid streets, all combine to make the picture delightful and restful to the eye. This together with the hospitality that will be showered upon the delegates by the council and citizens will make the city of Victoria long remember-

The object of the Food Board is to get all the wheat, beef, pork and other necessities possible to the eastern ports of Canada for shipment to Europe. The members know to a bushel the quantities of grain in Canada and they know the average home consumption. They know the necessities of our troops and our people across the seas, and they know too that if the Dominion is to send its fair proportion in this hour of need the Canadian citizens will have to reduce their normal consumption of certain foods to almost half. To do this has not been a particularly popular job and yet the Canadian Food Board by appealing to the better side of the people has been enabled to release proportionately more food for Europe than has the United States Controller. Very few court proceedings have been considered necessary though the Board has large powers to enable it to put its orders into force. All of which means that we as Canadians are fast killing that little ego of self, though it is not dead yet, as one can witness every day in the dining and tea rooms of the hotels, but still the Food Board, through the ability of the chairman (Mr. H. B. Thomson) and the clever publicity propaganda of its educational bureau is rapidly getting the confidence of the citizens to that point when the orders will be followed not only to the letter, but in the right spirit.

ed by those who will be fortunate enough to be able to attend the Convention.

REGISTRATION DAY.

On June 22 all persons in Canada over 16 years of age must be registered. This is essentially a war measure and in keeping with the determination of the Federal Government to mobilize the man and woman power to better enable this country to do its share towards winning the war. This determination all loyal Canadians cannot help but back up, and though we may not all agree with the system to be used, so long as it attains its object it does not matter much about the means. The great difference between the system to be adopted in the new registration and in the National Service registration, which was a fiasco, is the difference between personal and mail service. The Registration Board, under the chairmanship of Senator Robertson, are depending principally on volunteers—about 50,000 men and women—and while there may be a few breaks, the fact that each volunteer worker is to be responsible for the filling up of 100 cards should in itself be sufficient inducement to each citizen to do his or her part in making the present registration a success.

In this national service the municipal councils can help much and we would ask every municipal man to read very carefully the appeal of Senator Robertson, who as well as being chairman of the Registration Board is the representative of labor in the Federal Government. The Senator has great confidence in the support of the municipal councils and, as we have already told him, we know that that confidence is not misplaced.