

Canadian Food Bulletin

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The Canadian Food Bulletin is published under authority of the Canada Food Board, for the information of official organizations co-operating in the work of food control, and of other bodies or individuals interested. The information published is carefully prepared to ensure accuracy of all statements so that it may be a permanent and useful record of the work of the Food Control organizations in Canada.

BE MORE THAN A "DESTROYER OF RATIONS."

The cities and towns of Canada must supply the labour which is imperatively needed to increase this country's production of food during the present year. There is no other source of supply, and the time has come when every city man should consider his individual duty in regard to this problem of food.

"Unless the situation had been critical we should not have resorted to compulsory rationary," Lord Rhondda stated recently, adding that the success of the British rationary system depends, both now and in the future, upon the regularity with which Great Britain receives the maximum amount of cereals, meats and fats that the people of Canada can produce or save.

Great Britain this month will be on shorter rations than at any time in the last 100 years. Mr. Hoover has stated frankly that European rations to-day are "so low as to tend to diminish the morale and resistance of the Allies."

A cable from England says: "It is considered likely that it will be necessary to introduce compulsory bread rations this Spring."

The breakdown in transportation in the United States during January is said to have "set back Great Britain over a month." Experts of Great Britain, France and Italy have estimated that a minimum of 800,000 tons of foodstuffs per month must be received from United States ports, unless present rations are again to be reduced. Such shipments during February fell short by more than 100,000 tons of the minimum requirements. That is why the British Ministry of Food cabled to the Canada Food Board: *Every carload of wheat or flour and bacon or frozen meat that Canada can get to the seaboard is badly wanted.* The situation not only is grave but its possibilities are terrifying.

Because of our relative proximity to the Allied countries, and our fertile agricultural areas, a large measure of responsibility for providing food for Europe devolves upon Canada. The Canadian farmer is doing his utmost: he can do little more unless necessary labour is available. That labour must be forthcoming from the cities.

City men have proved their ability as soldiers; they can also fill the breach as agricultural help. Every available labour force in the cities must be utilized. Men in non-essential industries at the present time are simply "Destroyers of Rations." Means must be devised of freeing city men for agricultural work. Especially urgent is the call for men who can handle horses. Delivery services should be curtailed. *People in the cities can help by carrying their own parcels, because every time they ask their grocer or butcher to "Send it, please," they are demanding part of the time of a man or strong boy who is needed on the farm.*

Vacant lot and home garden cultivation are important because they utilize city labour in food production, leaving the farmers free to grow a larger amount of food for export. But these activities will not excuse the man who should be on the farm and would not go. This year it is the urgent duty of every one to do his or her utmost to produce food. The people of the cities must help to grow their own food. To the man who should be on the farm, or who should be relieving men who are needed on the farm, the Canada Food Board appeals: *Get out of the rut—do not be merely a Destroyer of Rations, while our food supplies are dangerously low and starvation is threatening our Allies.*