

FOOD SITUATION IN FRANCE.

Some Facts about the Shortage which is Very Great at Present Time.

In 1914 production of wheat in France was about 82 per cent of the normal consumption. In 1917 the production was but 45 per cent of the normal production (and this, remember, never was enough for her consumption). After deducting the amount necessary for seed, the 1917 production was one-third France's needs.

Food never has been wasted in frugal France. Consequently, her normal food consumption always has been very close to actual food necessities.

Great Britain has been lending France large amounts of food and nobody disputes the fact the British Isles are short of food.

Seventy per cent of the men of France have been forced to go from the farms for military service, leaving the women to carry on the arduous work of food production.

In 1917 the French home food supply was kept up to about 85 per cent of normal. This year it has fallen to between 60 and 70 per cent.

There is only one-third the normal supply of milk in France.

The ration of the French soldiers has been reduced twice, because of the grave shortage of supplies.

France is on a ration of one pound of meat per person per week, including horse flesh.

For months, France has been on a ration of 1 $\frac{1}{10}$ pound of sugar per person per month.

The rough flour used in France is mixed with wheat substitutes to make the dark French war loaf. It should be remembered in this connection that bread has always formed 52 per cent of the French diet, as compared with 39 per cent of the Canadian diet.

CULTIVATING WAR GARDENS.

The Willys-Overland, Limited, West Toronto, has secured a ten-acre field for cultivation by its employees, and has divided this area into 110 plots. The latter have been allotted and the employees have entered enthusiastically upon their war gardens.

Denmark's stock of swine has been reduced from 2,500,000 head at the beginning of the war to 400,000 at the present time. In 1913 Denmark's total exports of pork were nearly 250,000 tons, of which almost half went to England.

WHEAT MOST SERIOUS ITEM.

In Food Shortage of Allied Countries—Meat Division is Inequitable.

In a recent message, Mr. Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator, says:

"In spite of the encouraging results of our efforts, in spite of the fact that our exports of foodstuffs are constantly increasing and are approaching the minimum requirements abroad, the need for renewed devotion and effort is pressing. . . .

"Whereas the Allies' consumption of meat has been reduced to an average of about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per person per week, we are to-day enjoying an average of about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per person per week. This division is inequitable. . . .

"The situation with regard to wheat is the most serious in the food supply of the Allied world. If we are to satisfy the minimum wheat requirements of our Armies and the Allies, and the suffering millions in the Allied countries, our consumption of wheat until the next harvest must be reduced to approximately one-third of normal."

PRESIDENT RAISES SHEEP.

President Wilson is the largest convert of the "Raise More Sheep" campaign in the United States. A flock of 16 Shropshire sheep started out the other day to make mutton and wool out of the grass on the White House grounds. The President bought them and put them there because he and Mrs. Wilson like sheep, and because they thought the beautiful little spot back of the White House, known as the President's Park, might be even more than an inspiration in war time.

TO FEED GARBAGE TO HOGS.

The Department of Street Cleaning in Toronto, in connection with its plan to feed edible kitchen and table waste to hogs at the city farm, has recently published advertisements in the Toronto newspapers educating householders to co-operate in the plan by proper separation of such edible waste from other rubbish.

FROM THE PASTURE TREES.

Mrs. Alex. Maclaren of Buckingham, Que., and her young daughter with the aid of one man produced 35 gallons of maple syrup and 240 pounds of sugar from the pasture trees on the Maclaren estate, for the Red Cross.