

TO UTILIZE GAME SUPPLY.

Restrictions might be Relaxed on Account of Food Shortage.

The Venison Supply Committee, appointed by the British Ministry of Food, succeeded in increasing by more than 30 per cent above the average of pre-war seasons, the number of deer killed during the season of 1916-17. Lord Rhondda recently attended a meeting of the Committee at which he expressed his approval of the work already accomplished and his desire that the Committee should continue its efforts in the interests of the national food supply. He pointed out the importance of providing as much venison as possible as a substitute for beef and mutton among all classes of consumers.

In many parts of Canada there are large numbers of deer, caribou and other animals suitable for food, which are protected at the present time by Provincial legislation. In view of the critical condition in regard to food supply and the necessity of sending from this country every ounce of exportable meat, the question may well be raised whether some temporary relaxing of these game restrictions should not be made, in order that all available substitutes might be utilized to relieve the needs of the Allies by releasing additional quantities of Canadian beef and bacon from domestic consumption.

Under date of August 14, 1917, the Food Controller wrote to the several Provincial Governments suggesting special regulations during the hunting season that would allow of a larger quantity of game being taken and sold for food than has been obtained in the past. More recently a letter was received from British Columbia in which the writer said: "We have certain game laws in this province which are excellent under normal conditions and which allow the hunting and killing of a certain number of deer but forbid the sale of same. My suggestion is that this law be changed for a time and that men be encouraged to hunt and to bring in the venison by allowing it to be sold. If a sufficient supply and the supply is abundant could be placed on the market, perhaps it would help to save beef, etc., and would allow young beef stock to grow bigger before being killed for food. Many men have killed deer and have only saved 'choice cuts' rather than go to the heavy labour of packing the animal out, whereas if they knew they could sell the carcass it would be worth their while to carry it out even a long way.

In winter many a farmer has time to go hunting for a day or so and I believe a temporary alteration in the game law respecting the hunting of deer and sale of the carcasses, would result in an increase of meat supplies and a consequent saving of beef."

Revision of the game laws is distinctly under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments and correspondence in regard to the matter should be addressed directly to the Provincial Departments.

SHORTAGE IS MORE ACUTE.

Bread Ration in France has to be Reduced Again.

Information received at the Food Controller's Office indicates that the shortage of wheat in France is becoming more and more alarming each week. A further reduction of twenty per cent in the bread ration will soon become imperative, according to M. Maurice Long, Minister for General Revictualling of France. The manufacture and consumption of pastry regarded as a luxury has been entirely prohibited since January 1 except on Sundays and holidays.

In Denmark a reduction of the wheat ration is anticipated. The cereal harvest, according to final figures, is only about 62,000,000 bushels, which is 20,000,000 bushels less than in 1916 and about 10,000,000 less than was estimated in the summer when the people were put on bread rations.

The food situation in Switzerland is extremely serious. A new ration, far below the consumption even in many of the countries at war, has been ordered. The new regulations allow only one and one-half pounds of sugar per month. The bread ration is only one-half pound a day and butter ration one-fifth of a pound per month.

"It will still and always be possible for any Canadian who is asked to do a patriotic thing to find some other Canadian who fails. Shall we then all refuse until we are unanimously patriotic? If so we shall all be traitors together. Better do the thing that should be done by us individually and then we shall have the greater right to demand further action by our representatives in office."—The Vancouver Province.