

## MUST BE NO BEGGARY FOR OUR ALLIES.

ITALIAN DIGNITY POINTS THE WAY FOR CANADIAN DUTY.

"The right of equality cannot and must not be confused with beggary on the one side, and plenty on the other".

In these words an editorial article in the leading newspaper of Northern Italy, "The Corriere della Sera", sums up proudly their claims as Allies to share our food. Italians are fighting a fight which is our own from end to end of Canada; they have a full, moral and manly right to demand equal treatment in food for their soldiers and for their civilian population with our own.

There is no foremost and no last where Allies and equals are concerned. The proud Latin spirit is shown throughout the newspaper comment on the circular recently sent out by the Italian Food Controller Signor Crespi.

"He urges" says the writer "that the strictest economy should be recommended to Italians, since "for every ton of flour saved to-day the Allied Governments can guarantee an hour less of war," and since "every ten tons saved on consumption means a fighting unit added to the line of battle." In no other country is the watch-word 'sacrifice'—so how shall we put it?—so indigenous as in Italy. To-day Italy still stands out among the Great Powers of the Entente as the country in which the smallest amount and the worst quality of bread and meat and sugar are eaten, where bacon is weighed out as though on Shylock's balance, and where oil—oil in the fair mother-land of the olive—is measured out grudgingly. With our deficiency of meat (which will be felt yet more acutely this winter, when a cabbage will be worth nearly the price of a man-of-war) more than one tin, once a month, for every twenty persons, will be required so as to provide for the most moderate daily meal.

We must reckon with the possible and the impossible. If citizens and soldiers form a single army, it follows that the feeding of the people constitutes a factor of resistance and victory, and that the voyages accomplished by ships assigned to the minimum, but irreducible, programme of the people's food, are not altogether lost from the standpoint of the war and victory. We recognize the loyalty of our Allies. Your circular should be translated into the Allied languages, for the Allied ears. We are certain, and you also should not, cannot, and must not, be confused with beggary on the one side and plenty on the other....."

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There should be but one food force for the Allies. The recent war news has shown how essentially all the nations on the Allied side make but one united front. British, French, Italian, Serbian, Greek and Yugoslav troops all took part in the drive in the Balkans; on the West Front, French, British, American, Belgian and Colonial troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder; Arabs helped the British, Indians and Australians who together swept up the three Turkish armies; and in the Far East Japan has captured the last Bolshevik stronghold. The whole of the battle-line is now working under one supreme mind. And in the line behind the battle-line—the food front at home—there must be the same singleness of purpose, or we cannot give the men at arms the support they need and have so richly earned.

It is difficult to understand just how hungry a person at the other side of Europe may be. But if one would only acquire the habit of thinking in Allied terms, instead of personal ones, most would cease grumbling, and instead of indulging incessantly in fault-finding, thoughts and energies would be set to helping the food authorities in their stupendous task of providing all the Allies with the food without which there can be no victory.

### AN ALL-WOMEN FARM.

A year ago the West Devon Executive Committee took over Great Bid-lake Farm, Bridestowe, England, which is being used as a training center for women. The farm, which consists of 134 acres, was formerly all in grass, but 73 acres have been ploughed up and are now carrying good crops of corn, roots and potatoes. All the work on the farm, with the exception of a little ploughing last autumn, has been done by women. The Food Production Department state that the buildings are in excellent condition and that the farmyard is one of the best kept in the West Country.

Beginning on November 1, the British people have a new form of rationing book, not the least interesting feature of which is a liberal line of quotations intended to influence the patriotism of the people, from various Allied sources, concerning the war and its lessons and problems, and headed by a message from President Wilson.