

## CANADA'S "LOST" MILLIONS OF WHEAT.

Canada uses more wheat per capita than any other country in the world. Human consumption of wheat in the Dominion should not exceed 5.4 bushels per capita per annum. In reality, however, in addition to seed requirements, Canada has been using wheat at the rate of about 9 bushels per capita per annum. Nothing like this amount has passed through the Canadian elevators or mills, and the only possible explanation is that very large quantities of wheat are used on the farms for feeding livestock and poultry. The difference between the actual consumption and fair human consumption is 3.6 bushels per capita per annum. When this is multiplied by the total population of Canada we find the amount is more than twenty-five million bushels.

Under normal conditions there is perhaps no urgent necessity for greatly curtailing the use of wheat in this way but in the present crisis, when Europe is in such desperate need of cereals, the farmers should do their utmost to reduce the amount of wheat fed to their animals. Twenty-five million bushels of wheat, or even half or a quarter of that amount, would save hundreds of thousands of people in Europe from hunger and might even be a deciding factor in the war. The Food Controller realizes that the farmer is faced with a difficult situation in regard to feed stuff, especially until the corn crop of the United States can be moved more freely. But, in so far as it is at all possible, other feeds should be used instead of wheat. The millions of bushels of Canadian wheat which are not accounted for in regular trade channels are greatly needed overseas. Regulations are being prepared by the Food Controller to limit the amount of wheat which may be used in commercial chicken feed and other feeding stuffs, but it must be left to the conscience of the farmer voluntarily to conserve wheat to the limit of his ability.

## NOT MORE THAN 70,000,000 BUSHELS LEFT FOR EXPORT.

On the basis of estimates compiled from reliable sources it is estimated that Canada's wheat crop last year, including the yield in the West and Ontario wheat, was about 215,000,000 bushels. On December 15 a careful survey was made which showed that, in addition to seed requirements, the amount of Canadian wheat on this side of the Atlantic was about 112,500,000 bushels, of which 8,500,000 bushels were in the United States en route to the Allies. This estimate included a very considerable amount of wheat still in the farmers' hands.

Falling definite information as to how effective conservation measures will be in reducing domestic consumption of wheat, it is impossible to state how much of the wheat still in Canada will be available for shipment to the Allies. If this country, by curtailing domestic consumption and by reducing the amount of wheat fed to livestock, can reduce the annual per capita home consumption from 9 bushels to about 5.4 bushels, we will be able to send overseas between 60,000,000 and 70,000,000 bushels. This amount is small in comparison to the enormous requirements of the Allies but it would be of very vital assistance. It will only be possible to send as much if every person in Canada makes it a personal obligation to save bread, flour and wheat in every possible way.

## THE SITUATION IN BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

Recent reports from England and France show the increasing gravity of the food situation in these countries. Elsewhere in this edition of The Canadian Food Bulletin is published an official communication from the French authorities showing the very great deficiency of cereals. The entire French wheat crop has been requisitioned by the French Government and the French people have been placed upon war bread rations. Only the very poor and the men and women doing the hardest kind of manual labour may have more than 7 ounces of war bread a day. And the latest official communication from the French Government says: "Our bread-card machinery has been completed but the present lack of cereals will not permit of its application."

The only bread which is obtainable in France, even on the reduced ration basis, is a war bread made of flour comprising all the elements of wheat except bran, with a heavy admixture of flour from other cereal grains, such mixture being compulsory upon all bakers. Baking of pastry or biscuits from flour that is fit for bread is prohibited. Confectionery and other such shops are closed two days a week and people are forbidden to eat pastry in public. Mr. Maurice Long, Minister of General Revictualing in France, in a statement some weeks ago, announced that the civilian population of that country had only three days' food supplies. Even these depleted stocks had to be drawn upon in order to send food to Italy, following the German offensive towards Venice.

In Great Britain the situation is increasingly serious and anxious. Press reports from that country tell of long queues of men, women and children formed, in many cases in vain, for meat, margarine, butter or tea. Food demonstrations have occurred in London and many other parts of the country. While inadequate distribution of available supplies may be responsible in part for the difficulties, the actual shortage of food cannot be disputed. Baron Rhondda in a recent address explained that imports had of necessity been greatly reduced, and that most of the imported goods went to the army. He was obliged, he said, to reduce the consumption of meat during the next few weeks. He urged that greater use be made of potatoes, which could also be utilized in the making of bread. He intimated that wheat might be prohibited for the making of fancy pastry, while it might be necessary largely to restrict the use of cereals for feeding cattle. The British Food Controller also announced that he proposed to raise the percentage of milling wheat to 90 instead of 80 as at present.

Baron Rhondda has practically completed details of his plan for rationing Great Britain.