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## What is Food Control?

It is the Wiser of Two Methods by Which the Present Situation Can Be Handled

Speaking recently at a meeting of State Food Commissioners and his personal staff, Herbert Hoover gave a striking explanation of the part that food control plays in war.

He said that European nations went into the war giving little thought to the subject of food. Even Germany, with all its preparations, had not foreseen the significance of this factor. With millions of men taken from production, and thousands of square miles of fertile fields laid waste by armies, the world's cupboard quickly began developing a bareness like that of Mother Hubbard. Country after country went to the cupboard to get a bone, and found a diminished supply.

This made it necessary to organize food supply and distribution, and the various countries tried various methods.

the world's appetite, either by controlling that supply in ways that lead to economy and make it suffice, or by letting wages rise as prices rise, to keep pace roughly with fluctuations. Even an amateur economist can see at a glance that food control is better than wage increase, because wage increase is a crude force operating slowly, unevenly and with great injustice and suffering to millions of workers. The wages of many workers do not rise—the professional men, clerical workers, public employees, and so forth. Russia tried the experiment of letting wages adjust themselves to the diminishing food supply, and it did not work—Russia was brought to a state bordering on anarchy by the intolerable pressure of the food situation on the ordinary peaceful citizen.

Therefore, whether we like it or not—this is a favorite phrase of the food administrator, and typifies the impersonal attitude he takes toward these great economic problems—whether we like it or not, we must meet the food situation in one way or the other, and food control

mous support to food control measures.

"Whether we like it or not," they are told, "this is the situation." Business cannot go on as usual in war times because the law of supply and demand is thrown out of operation. These are the conditions, and here is the only remedy that has been found in countries with greater experience in war than we have yet had. What do you think about it, gentlemen?"

What the business men think is shown in every case by their action in recognizing the necessity for food control. They have promised their patriotic cooperation, and are readjusting their trade organization and methods for loyal support of Food Administration policies.

With sensible food control it is possible to handle the other two outstanding problems of food supply in war. One is increased production, and the other is economical use of food. With stable prices, absence of speculation, and the temporary surrender of individual trade advantages, the farmer can have an assurance of prices ample enough to encourage larger planting and live stock raising. And by these same safeguards, thrown around the food supply, the consumer is made willing to economize in food, and is also able to purchase the necessities of life at prices which are at least reasonable, and what is more important, do not suffer wild fluctuations.

This is food control in a nutshell. Whatever fear or hostility there may be in the country over food control arises entirely from misunderstanding of what food control really means, why it is necessary and how it is being carried out. In no case does this feeling persist after real food control has been explained.

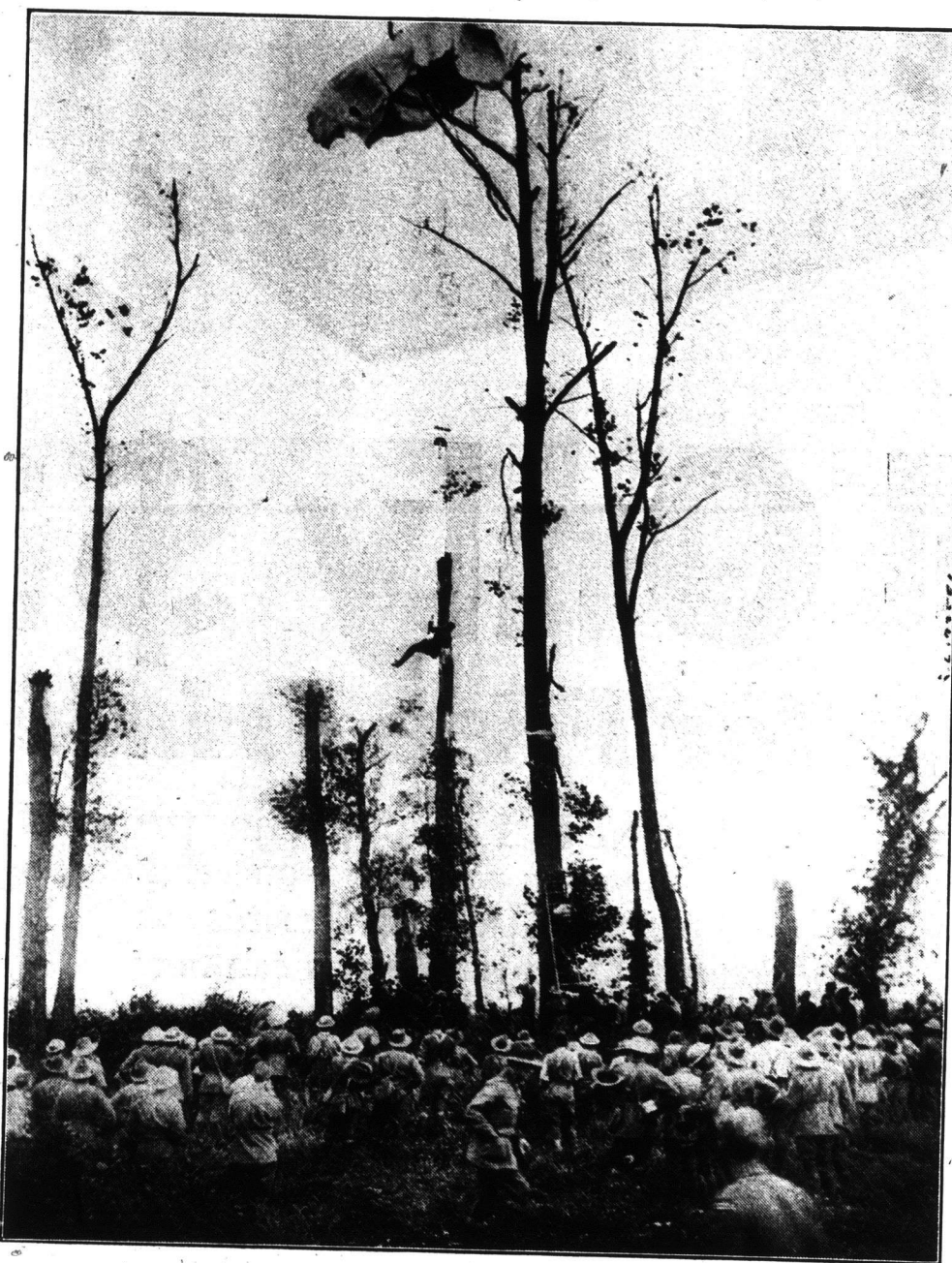
### Experience With Packer

In my experience the packer is one of the implements that cannot be dispensed with. On soil that has a tendency to be light or loose it is always needed. There are five chief reasons for its use. (1) It makes the land firm so that the drill works better, seed is put down at a more even depth, and disks or shoes of drill turn and clean better, and horses can walk faster and further without becoming tired. (2) It tends to bring soil particles closer to seed thereby assisting in the firm movement of water and a quicker and more even germination is the result. (3) It connects the surface or cultivated soil to the subsoil so that capillarity or the upward movement of water is facilitated. (4) The packer is one of our best implements to assist in the prevention of soil from drifting. (5) It makes the land firm so that a much better drive at binding time is the result. These reasons, together with the fact that packing under average conditions increases slightly the yield, speaks volumes for the use of the packer. The Brandon Experimental Farm has shown a slight increase in yield by the use of the packer, and this result is generally borne out by those who regularly use it.

The question then resolves itself into: When shall we pack, and what is the best kind of packer to use? It is the intelligent answering of these two questions that give the benefits before mentioned. No set rule can be given, but each farmer must study his own soil and conditions and make his own applications. Generally speaking, however, the best time to pack is immediately after the plow. Sometimes by packing after the seeder we can save the land from drifting, and often by running the packer over a field that is already drifting, even though the grain be up, we can hold the soil for a few days until the grain has again got a good start. For the lighter soils the subsurface packer is a much better implement. It does not pulverize the surface layer of soil like the surface packer does. The packer with the V-shaped wheel connects the surface and subsurface soil better than the packer with a flat wheel. Whichever type be used it should be sufficiently heavy to do what its name suggests—pack the land.

"Were the commencement exercises interesting?"

"Very. The time was divided between advice from public men on the selection of a career and suggestions from graduates on how to run the government."—Washington Star.



Early in the battle of Menin Road, in Flanders, a British observation balloon and its observer got into serious difficulties. The observer, to escape injury, chanced his life in the parachute. This British official photograph shows how the parachute carried him to safety in a tree-top. The observer let himself down from his precarious position by means of the parachute ropes, which enabled him to reach another truncated tree.

They fixed maximum prices, and minimum prices, regulated the production and distributing trades, and put their people on rations. Those countries which established the earliest and best methods of food control secured the greatest efficiency in war. The best system, on the whole, is still that of Germany, and she has been able to maintain efficiency with a food supply which in some of her enemy countries might be most embarrassing. Russia, with perhaps the greatest possibilities of food production in Europe, did nothing at all, and out of Russia's food situation grew her revolution.

Mr. Hoover said, that whether we like it or not, we must deal with the food problem of war in one of two ways. There is not enough food to go around, if we stick to the lavish methods of peace times. Rising prices, coupled with depreciation of money, due to issues of war bonds in every country, which make the purchasing power of money shrink, compel us to adjust the food supply to

seems to be the lesser of two evils.

This viewpoint explains most of the work thus far done by the United States Food Administration. From August 10th, when President Wilson signed the food law, until to-day, much of the work of the food administration has centered upon the organization of food control machinery. The farmer, the grain man, the miller, the baker, the packer, the rocer, the wholesaler and retailer, the traveling salesman and the canned goods broker, have gone to Washington in bodies representing the best men and the best minds in their respective trades, and have conferred there, not only with the food administrator himself, but with leading men in their own lines who are acting as volunteers on the food administration. Sometimes they have gone with fear in their hearts, or resentment at the prospect of government interference in their business affairs. But there is something in Washington which quickly dissipates fear and resentment, and leads these men to offer their unani-