

CAMPAIGN IN MONTREAL.

Pledge Card Canvass is Being Conducted Vigorously—500 Women are Helping.

The household Pledge Card canvass in Montreal was opened this week. The organization meeting of the workers was held last week when Mr. T. B. Macaulay, Dominion Chairman of the National Committees on Food Resources, and Mrs. Mary I. Wood of Portsmouth, N. H., spoke. This meeting was held under the auspices of the Women's Canadian Club and Mrs. Arthur Drummond presided. Mrs. V. V. Henderson, Secretary of the Women's Food Economy Committee, explained to the ladies the system and purpose of the Pledge Card canvass authorized by the Food Controller and the educational value of the canvass itself. Mrs. Wood told of the similar campaign conducted in New Hampshire. Mr. Macaulay showed by actual pieces of bread, carefully weighed, what are the food rations allowed to the people of France and the amounts now consumed by the urban population of Great Britain, contrasting these with the corresponding per capita consumption in Canada.

False Stories to Discredit Work.

On January 20th, the campaign was inaugurated by addresses by Mr. Hanna and Mr. Macaulay in two of the principal churches in Montreal—Calvary, Congregational and St. James, Methodist. Mr. Hanna warned his hearers that the canvassers would meet with certain objections on the part of householders to the signing of the cards. These objections arose from the circulation of false rumors throughout this country, and throughout the United States also, by pro-German agents. One of these rumors was to the effect that the Food Controller made money out of his position, serving at a big salary running, according to various stories, from \$25,000 to \$40,000 a year. Mr. Hanna fore-armed his hearers by pointing out that the Food Controller receives no salary whatsoever. "I don't care a snap of my fingers personally," stated Mr. Hanna. "I deny them because experience has shown that they hindered the movement of food conservation elsewhere."

Three Day's Supply in France.

Mr. Hanna stated that the report that France had but three days' provisions in reserve and was dependent upon British shipping absolutely, was actually true. Moreover, Italy had been so pressed that France had to supply that country from

her own stock. Italy had paid for wheat from the Argentine and it was ready to ship, but tonnage was so scarce that it could not be spared for the long voyage and France had to pass on supplies from Canada and the United States, which were intended for French consumption, in order to relieve the situation in Italy in the meantime.

Mr. Hanna stated that, as a result of a recent survey of the world's food supplies, Mr. Hoover had discovered that the United States might be unable to ship another pound of exportable foods after three months' time. The next three months, therefore, were extremely critical but at the end of that period, it was hoped and confidentially expected that great new fleets of ships would be ready in the yards of the United Kingdom and the United States.

Dependent on North America.

"In the meantime, owing to the shortage of tonnage, the Allies are totally dependent on the food supplies from this continent," said Mr. Hanna. "If necessary we could ship all our wheat and live on oatmeal. Our fathers and grandfathers lived on oatcakes, potatoes and such foods. They did well on them. There is no sacrifice about it compared with the sacrifices which the soldiers are making. Every pound of export is necessary and is still insufficient." Mr. Hanna referred to the fact that the pressure was so great that Canadian wheat in store in the elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur awaiting the opening of lake navigation, was now being rushed to the sea by rail. The order of Dr. Garfield, Fuel Administrator of the United States, in closing down industrial establishments for a period of five days and for nine successive Mondays following, was made in order to deliver coal to the ships waiting to be bunkered and despatched overseas with loads of foodstuffs consigned to the Allies.

"Problems like these completely overshadow such things as fixing the price of eggs and butter in Canada," said Mr. Hanna.

By a show of hands, the meeting in Calvary church expressed unanimous support of the Food Pledge campaign and concluded the service by singing "God save the King".

Five Hundred Ladies Help.

On Monday morning 500 ladies began the canvass and ten-day campaign. The Women's Food Economy Committee, the