

U. S. FOOD ADMINISTRATOR WARMLY PRAISES CANADA

Leon S. Merrill Feels Like Taking His Hat Off To Dominion for Gallant Part Taken by Men in the War, Furnishing Funds and Increasing Crop Production—The Situation in Allied Countries Explained by Maine Expert.

"The time may come when it will be necessary for the American people to go on short rations or lose the war," said U. S. Food Administrator Leon S. Merrill in an interview on the food situation.

"We should bear in mind that while food will win the war, the lack of food will certainly lose the war," said the Food Administrator of Maine. "At the present time what the Food Administration is asking the American people to do is, not to live on reduced rations but to eat the necessary amount, of food, at the same time they are asked to save flour, fat, and sugar because those particular kinds of food have more nutriment per square foot than other foods for overseas shipment."

"Some people cannot quite understand why we should think it necessary to save 75,000,000 bushels of wheat to feed the Allies. I will try to give you the picture as I see it. We are sending our boys across the water and some of them are now in service in the front line trenches; on the one hand are English soldiers and on the other hand French soldiers all in the same line, facing and fighting a common enemy. Back of the lines the French women are tilling the fields and producing food to feed either too young or too old to work, the army, and other French women, crippled soldiers and skilled mechanics working in the munitions plants, gun factories and machine shops, producing materials for the use of the soldiers on the fighting lines. Across the Channel English men and women are tilling the fields, producing food, or engaged in the manufacture of guns and munitions of war for use by English soldiers in the battle lines, and on the side of the Atlantic a tremendous army of people are engaged in like service. All these people whether soldiers or civilians, whether at the battle front or behind the lines in France, England, Canada or America, making guns, munitions and food, comprise one great army facing and fighting a common enemy."

"When I think of the fact that we have gone down into our pockets three times, some people have gone down until it hurts, to loan the Government money to build ships, make munitions, yes, and to send our boys overseas, I cannot believe it in passing that we will refuse to make or save the food necessary to feed those boys and also those women and men back of the lines in France, England and Italy when we are all of us facing and fighting a common enemy. Some people seem to fear that we will fail to save enough food for our American people. So far as the Food Administration can foresee our needs, it will not permit this to happen."

"There are only three countries in the world which increased their food production during the past year. England, by the use of hundreds of tractors and the labor of English women in the fields, succeeded in increasing their production to a slight extent. Canada increased her production materially. I feel like taking my hat off to Canada. When we have as many men in proportion under arms as Canada has, we will have an army of nearly 5,000,000 soldiers. Then, if we can increase our production we will have something to talk about. We did succeed in increasing our production in every important farm product with the exception of wheat, where production showed a loss of about 15 per cent."

"Spain maintained her production, but she has never produced enough food for her people. What few ships she has she is sending to the uttermost parts of the earth for food to supplement the amount she produced. Russia normally has an immense surplus of wheat but last year the crop was short of the amount normally needed for consumption by her own people by about 15 per cent. Her transportation systems are broken down and while the people in the rural sections are able to secure sufficient food, those living in the cities are experiencing the pangs of actual starvation. Sweden produced from 40 to 70 per cent. of her normal crop, Norway about 70 per cent. France produced only about 40 per cent. of her normal amount of crops. Italy succeeded in increasing her corn and oat production, but lost heavily on other crops. In France it was a common sight last year to see women harnessed to harrows and cultivators doing the work of horses in the fields. They were compelled to do this because the men are all in the army or too crippled to be of service."

In addition to this, the French women are taking care of the soldiers who have been invalided home on account of tubercular troubles as well as the crippled and maimed soldiers who are no longer fit for service in the army. "We cannot overemphasize the importance of the whole food question. Let me tell you just a word about the food situation in Germany. She produced just a fair potato crop. Her grain crop was a failure but because of the fact that Germany has overrun and also because of the fact that the northern neutral nations are slaughtering large numbers of their domestic animals on account of lack of food, she will be able to support her people on the same ration she did last year, until the next harvest."

"Argentina produced a surplus of about 30 million bushels of wheat and while it was hoped that it would not be necessary to send ships so far away for food supplies, as it requires twice as long to make the round trip from Argentina to Europe as it does from America, the extreme shortage of food has compelled the Allies to do so. Australia had a large surplus of

wheat but no means of transporting it from so far away. The food supply of the world has never been so low as at the present time and whole nations are living on the verge of starvation."

"We have been asking our people to conserve food, and this leads us to ask what the Allies are doing in the direction. At the present time bread made in England and France contains no more than 50 per cent. of wheat flour. Not more than 21 pounds of sugar is allowed to English people for a year per capita. The French have only 2 to 10 pounds and Italy is below 12 pounds in her per capita consumption. We have been passing through a sugar shortage but at no single time has it been so low as that of Italy and yet we have received thousands and thousands of letters complaining about the sugar shortage. It is safe to say that the English, French and Italian people are living on a privation loaf. The nations with whom we are associated in the war require as a minimum, 400 million bushels of wheat and 600 million bushels of other grains. Where are we going to get that supply? We have the 500 million of other grains but after deducting the surplus wheat produced in Argentina, Canada and the United States, the available supply still lacks nearly one hundred million bushels of wheat of meeting their actual needs even on their present ration, and there is no other place in the world where with the present shipping facilities this wheat can be secured except America, and the only way we can furnish it is to save it. This situation furnishes the basis and the reason for the recent fifty-fifty regulation. Conservation of foods has now become a war necessity."

"The American people are simply asked, in the interest of winning the war, to save the flour and to live on other kinds of food instead."

Hewler.

Teacher—Now, do you understand the use of garlic in cooking?
Pupil—Yes, but please, teacher where do they speak the garlic?

COLUMNS OF CASUALTIES SHOW SERIOUSNESS OF THE STRUGGLE

Before Many Weeks British, French, Canadian, American, Belgian, Italian and Portuguese Troops will Form a Mixed Line Stretching from the Alps to the Sea—Estimated 350,000 out of 1,250,000 Germans who Attacked British and French Put Out of Action.

(By Arthur S. Draper, Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, April 26.—For the last month so much emphasis has been put upon the German losses in the two great offensives, it is well during this pause in the operations to give some consideration to the cost of the fight to the British and the French, especially the former.

Obviously the British losses cannot be published, but the columns of casualties appearing in the daily newspapers serve to bring home the seriousness of the world's greatest battle.

British Anxiety.

The haste with which the British government introduced the man-power or legislation showed their anxiety over the problem of keeping Haig supplied. Above everything else today, greater even than the feeding of the civilian population from American stores, is the question of how rapidly American soldiers can be transported to France. Before many weeks are past, British, French, Portuguese, Canadian, American, Belgian, and Italian troops will form a mixed line running from the sea to the Alps. One word about figures. Field Marshal Douglas Haig reports in a special dispatch that 102 German divisions, some of them two and three times, faced his men at Amiens and before Ypres that means that over a million Germans attacked the British, not to mention a quarter of a million at least who assailed the French.

If the German casualties were only 25 per cent. of the force engaged, then approximately 350,000 Germans were put out of action. If the British and French losses in prisoners, killed and wounded were only half those of the enemy, it would mean the equivalent of at least twenty divisions.

Backs Against Wall.

Make no mistake. The British realize that their backs are against the wall and that they must hold firm or lose their world prestige. They have been hit hard militarily, and they will suffer many economic privations in the future as will all the rest of the allies. The financial drain will sap their strength severely.

But back in the minds of the British and French is the feeling that America will turn the tide, that each week the number of soldiers she will send will increase, and that when the battle quieted down and a reaction sets in, America will have transferred so much of her power to Europe that the enemy will be forced to make peace of terms satisfactory to the allies. There was a time here when the cry here was ships. Now it is ships and men.

SHARP ADVANCE IN THE CORN MARKET

Prospects of Reduction of Acreage Bring About Slump in Prices—Oats Show some Sympathy — Provisions Irregular.

Chicago, April 26.—Prospects of a reduction of acreage brought about a sharp advance today in the corn market. Increases of winter wheat and oats acreage were said to be largely at the expense of corn, and it was also said seed troubles were operating to diminish production of corn.

Unfavorable prices, which ranged from 1.40 off to 1 7/8 cent advance, with May 1.27 1/4 and July 1.51 1/2 to 1.52 1/4, were followed by indications of still greater strength.

Oats showed some sympathy with the upturn in corn. The slowness of demand from the east, however, acted as a decided factor to the bulls. After opening unchanged to 3-8 cent higher, with May 33 7/8 to 34, the market scored a slight further gain, but then underwent a material sag.

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