

body should feel it a patriotic duty to assist in making the loan a success. The citizen of small or moderate means should not make the mistake of supposing that the sum he could subscribe is not needed. There are hundreds of thousands of people who have very little to invest. If all will see that their little is offered, the aggregate of these subscriptions will make many millions. But if each one of these feels that his little is not important, and therefore refrains from subscribing, the Victory Loan will not be a success. The wealthy and well-to-do classes will probably do their share willingly. It is among those of smaller means that the greatest work of the Victory Loan campaign will have to be done.

Germany's Food Situation

TO all the belligerent nations, the food question is important — to Germany probably more than to any of the others, because she is shut off from some of the sources of supply which her rivals still command. That she has been able to keep up the fight in the face of her disadvantages in this respect is remarkable testimony to her economic as well as to her military strength. But the evidence accumulates that the food pressure in Germany is severe and must have a great influence in leading her people to desire peace if it can be had. There is, of course, some conflict between the reports sent out officially by Germany and those which come through other channels. The London Daily News thinks it has reliable information of the German food situation:

"From the usual reliable authority who periodically favors us with information as to conditions in Germany we are able to present a forecast of the position that is likely to arise in the coming winter. Naturally, the principal factor is food, and this, again, depends on the harvest. This is confidently estimated to be 40 per cent lower than the normal for wheat and 45 per cent lower for rye, oats, and barley. Furthermore, in 1915 Germany had a reserve of 900,000 tons of cereals and imported 1,200,000 tons from Roumania, but this winter she will start without any reserves.

"The fodder situation is worse. Of the failure of these crops there can be no doubt, and the outlook for the breeding industry is consequently black. Potatoes are likely to be the principal, if not the sole, food of the people in the coming year. Drought and a plague of insects played havoc with vegetable and fruit crops."

The Patriotic Fund

THERE is a revival of the movement for the transfer of the operations of the Canadian Patriotic Fund to the Dominion Government, the object, of course, being to have the necessary money provided by the Dominion treasury instead of by private subscription. In several instances City Councils and other representative bodies have gone on record as favoring the change. The Great War Veterans' Association, a body of returned soldiers, has passed a strong resolution in support of the movement.

The Canadian Patriotic Fund is one of many excellent organizations which have grown up under war conditions. It has had something like a semi-official character from the beginning, for the Government, in adjusting the

pay and allowances of the soldiers and their dependents, has always taken into account the service to be rendered by the managers of the Patriotic Fund. If that fund had not existed the Government, unquestionably, would have been obliged to make its own scale of payments more generous. There is no fund that has been more heartily responded to than this. If there is some hesitation as to a continued support of the organization it is not, we are sure, because there is any lack of sympathy with it, but because the many demands that are made on the public, coupled with the greatly increased cost of living, are making the burdens quite heavy and obliging many people to consider how they can be relieved of some of them. If any part of the service now sustained by voluntary subscription is to be transferred to the Government's account the Patriotic Fund is the one that will naturally be suggested, because its expenditures are virtually part of the soldiers' maintenance. Indeed, the relation of the Patriotic Fund to the soldier's family is such that quite a strong argument can be made for the assumption of the burden by the Government.

There is, however, still one reason that should not be overlooked in favor of the administration of the Fund by a semi-private organization. The management of the Fund has brought into service in all parts of Canada a body of willing workers who are able to make inquiry into the circumstances of the soldiers' families and to exercise reasonable discrimination between the allowances made to those whose needs are considerable and those of others who have less need of the assistance of the Fund. No organization of a wholly official character could do this so well. It is possible that some of the workers for the Fund may at times exhibit a lack of tact in the making of their enquiries. Charges of this kind have occasionally been made. Where so many people are engaged and so many difficult cases have to be dealt with, some friction is to be expected. On the whole, however, the administration of the Fund has been satisfactory, probably much more so than any purely official management would have been in the same circumstances. It would be a great pity, if in any re-arrangement that may take place, the services of the visitors who have aided the management had to be dispensed with.

Helping Ourselves

THE Victory Loan should not need any commendation. Enough that Canada needs the money to carry on her war work in its various forms. But if detailed reasons are desired in support of the loan there are many that can be given. One of them is that in providing money for the war service we are at the same time providing means for keeping the wheels of business moving in Canada. Imperial and Canadian war finance are much interwoven. The Mother Country in the earlier days of the war, advanced money to assist the Canadian Government. In later times Canada returned the compliment by co-operating with the banks in providing money to pay for supplies ordered in Canada by the Imperial Government. While a part of the loan now called for will go to meet the future requirements of the Canadian army here and overseas, a part of it will be applied to the financing of Imperial war orders here—in other words to pay for supplies, the production of which gives employment to large numbers of people in this country.

Is Famine Possible?

THERE is no need of panic but there is need, in every part of the British Empire, and indeed in the territories of the Allies, of the most serious efforts for the conservation of food, not only in war-time, but also in the period that will follow the declaration of peace.

Lecturing at the London School of Economics a few days ago, Mr. Sidney Webb said that already we were face to face with the great world shortage which peace would bring home to us. Wheat, the greatest factor in the world's food supply, was already at its lowest figure. Flocks and herds were growing smaller; the pig was rapidly disappearing; the consumption of metals, oil, coal, wool, hides, leather and timber was in excess of production—owing to lack of labor. At present about 45,000,000 workers—one-eighth of the world's population—were munition-making. After the war there would be an abnormal demand for many things which it would be impossible to supply. We ought at once to be engaged on the task of re-equipping Europe if we were to avoid general and local famine. It seemed to him the principle they would have to adopt would be "No cake until everyone has bread."

Speaking in Huddersfield, England, Sir Arthur Yapp, Director of Food Economy, said we had to realize the world shortage of food to-day, and the world shortage of tonnage. There was likely to be a world shortage of money and there would be a world shortage of men. There was no need for panic, but there was the most urgent need for economy in all foods. He appealed to everybody to deny themselves, to economize in the use of food and to avoid all waste.

Mr. Lloyd George, addressing an agricultural deputation, discussed the subject as follows:

"Our apprehension is attributable rather to the fact that the available stock of food in the world is less than, I will not say it has ever been, but less than it has been for years. I am not going into the causes of that, but there are many. For instance, in France the French cereal resources which have been from time to time adequate to the whole demands of the French nation, are considerably less than they have ever been.

"The same thing applies to Italy, because when a very large proportion of the agricultural population are on the fighting front, naturally cultivation suffers, and the produce of the soil is not comparable to what it was in peace time. So France is in the markets of the world for a larger proportion of cereals than she has ever been, and the same thing applies to Italy. On the other hand, when you come to Australia, she is almost ruled out as a means of supplying those deficiencies, because of the enormous mileage you have to cross. Therefore we must utilize our shipping to ply between ports which will not occupy such a long time in the voyage.

"It is, therefore, incumbent upon us in this country to do our best to get as near the point of self-sustenance as we possibly can, and I believe this is a great opportunity for British agriculture, because once we make ourselves self-sustaining in this country I hope we shall be able to keep it up, and probably you are achieving in war what you would not have accomplished in 50 years of peace."