

SHORT FOOD SUPPLIES IN FOREIGN LANDS.

UNDREAMT OF DEPLETION ALL ROUND IN EUROPE.

Food conditions in other countries, Allied, neutral or enemy, are little known in Canada. A glimpse at the facts revealed in the subjoined summary should show how literally the food stocks of the whole world have been eaten into and should help to remove the too prevalent idea that somehow our increased shipments from Canada have brought about a surplusage in Europe.

This readiness to accept the ostrich-like view of the world from within its sand-hole is one of the chief difficulties in getting the food problem known anywhere; the provincial view of life is hard to change. The information has been chosen from September issues of a journal published by the General Staff of the British War Office, and from independent sources.

The extracts show plainly a state of affairs which justifies the Food Board's claim that food regulations in Canada cannot be relaxed and that the depleting of European live stock will give a vast field for Canadian farmers to fill after the war.

A glance over certain German newspapers which have crossed to neutral countries shows that criticism of the German system of rationing admits advantages in the English system. Berlin's claim to special rations is denied by other large towns. The harvest reports speak of the bad effect of the continued cold and wet on the crops, and complaints about the potato harvest are increasing. Hanover states distinctly that it will not be as good as last year. In Silesia grubs and field mice are destroying the potatoes. In many parts of Germany torrential rains have greatly hindered the carrying of the wheat, oats, and hay. The bean crop in Brunswick is diseased in many districts. An article in an agrarian paper gives a very depressing account of the state of the German cattle stocks, and complains that the meat ration is too high. Livestock registers are being introduced in Bavaria and Thuringia. The number of illicit slaughtering is very great. More than half a million cattle have disappeared in Germany, and over a million sheep.

Bohemian papers state distress is still acute. There are numerous labour strikes for food. Conditions in Aussig and Eger are bad. Marienbad has suffered from inclusion in the West Bohemian Economic Zone. The Cattle Trade Commission advises further reduction in meat consumption. The bread issue was adequate in the middle of August and later.

In Hungary presumably the nation is enjoying the new harvest. Bread and flour claim most attention. The National Union of Trade Guilds has petitioned the Minister of Commerce for an increased ration. The Government commandeered horse-chestnuts, bean-pods and stalks, and fixes the allowance of straw. Budapest slaught-

erings have been reduced; veal and beef have risen in price. The meatless days order is further complicated by contradictory poultry regulations.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Bulgaria is encouraging the cultivation of vegetables by supplying motor-ploughs to prepare the land. An inventory of fodder stocks is being taken. The cultivation of rice has increased. The prices ruling at Sofia are causing much comment in the press, being higher than in any other locality. Various local market prices are also reported. The bread ration has been raised, but the permanent ration can only be fixed when the results of the harvest are known.

A statement by the Food Minister on the situation in France shows the harvest in the reconquered regions is now completed. Supplies in the Paris market continue to be small.

New taxes in Portugal, especially as they apply to foodstuffs, are criticised. A decree has been issued creating a general Food Commissariat, divided into four Directorates, and the labours appertaining to each of them are given in detail. A decree has also been published on the subject of the new rations. Hotels are to be restricted, and the courses at meals limited.

Certain parts of Dalmatia have been breadless for two months.

Cheap kitchens for the educated classes are to be opened in Warsaw, Poland.

The British Board of Trade Journal of September 5 contains a notice regarding the complete withdrawal of the British Government from all obligations under the International Sugar Convention signed at Brussels on March 5, 1902.