

"There can be little doubt that the food situation before our next crop can be harvested will be very much more grave than any of us have any conception of at the present time. It is unquestionably then, our duty to get behind our Food Controller as they are doing in the United States, and help in every way to conserve every ounce of food, as in doing so, we will be rendering a National service."—
Dr. C. J. Hastings, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto.

FOOD CONTROLLER'S WORK.

Dr. Hastings Tells How Public Health Men Were "Converted."

Dr. C. J. Hastings, Medical Officer of Health, of the city of Toronto, in his monthly report to the local Board of Health, asked the question: "What are we doing to aid our Food Controller?" He said in part:

"At the last conference of the American Public Health Association, held recently in Washington, one of the most outstanding features was the thoroughness with which every phase of the food problem was handled. In the various discussions it soon became apparent that most of the physicians and scientists attending that conference were labouring under the same delusion that we have been in Canada, and that is that the Food Controllers in the various countries were appointed to control prices. This is regrettable, inasmuch as it has drawn forth a lot of unwarranted criticism from all quarters, directed at our Food Controllers, for not having succeeded in reducing the cost of food. It should be distinctly understood that when Lord Rhondda and his predecessor were appointed Food Controller for Great Britain, there was no mention made of the controlling of the price of food, nor did this enter into the mind of President Wilson when he appointed their Food Controller nor yet to our Government when it appointed our Food Controller. . .

"The most outstanding feature in connection with the food problem at the aforesaid conference was an address given to the association by Mr. Herbert Hoover, Food Controller for the United States. After Mr. Hoover had concluded his address there was not a member of the association that was not fully converted and convinced of the fact that the duty of the Food Controller was to control the consumption of food and to safeguard our food supplies in such a way as to ensure an ample supply of food for our soldiers and for our Allies whose sources of supply had, as a result of war conditions, been materially reduced. The physicians and scientists left that conference determined to do what they could to co-operate with and aid Mr. Hoover and the Government of the United States in the conservation of food.

"It is a regrettable fact that one still hears these unwarranted complaints. Our Food Controllers, in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, are anxious and very desirous of controlling the price of food, as we all are, but that must necessarily be secondary, as they were not appointed for that purpose."

PREVENT UNDUE PROFITS.

Recommendations from Committee of Wholesale and Retail Trade.

Recommendations calculated to prevent speculative operations and to eliminate undue profits by retail or wholesale dealers in food have been made to the Food Controller by the Special Committee, representing the wholesale and retail trade, which was called together by him. The regulations recommended by the Committee are similar in their general outline to those adopted by the United States Food Administration.

The Committee favoured a basis of control of the handling of food products, which would eliminate all undue profits and yet not impose upon the manufacturer or merchant any unfair restrictions, as compared with those upon other elements in the community.

The Committee recommended the adoption of a license system to be applied to six branches of the trade in food commodities. License fees ranging from \$1 up are proposed. The Committee also recommended abolition of rebate, secret commission, and combined sales operations.

Other recommendations included in the report are:—

Regulation of salesmen and delivery systems, in order to reduce the costs of distribution;

Requirement by the Food Controller of monthly returns showing stocks on hand of certain essential foodstuffs so as to enable the Food Controller to check overstocking and to prevent hoarding;

Strict control over every branch of the trade in regard to profits. In this connection it is proposed to limit profits to a minimum percentage on turnover and in no case to allow them to exceed the normal pre-war profits.