

THE UPWARD LOOK

Our Responsibility

If we sin we are Thine, knowing Thy power; but we will not sin, knowing we are counted Thine. For to know Thee is perfect righteousness: yea to know Thy power is the root of immortality.—Wisdom of Solomon, 15: 2, 3.

The first time that a certain little girl realized not only that she had a funny bone, but also the result of knocking it, she rushed to her mother in fear and pain and anger, too; anger because in some way she held her mother responsible. In telling the story she said it was years before she lost the surprised and aggrieved feeling she had.

To us it seems very strange that the child should ever think her mother accountable. Yet in far more surprising ways do God's children often hold Him accountable for their failures and troubles and trials.

God has ordained many fixed laws, and sad and terrible are the consequences if they are not obeyed.

This is true not only in the physical realm of our being, but also in the mental and the spiritual.

If we are careless or ill-treat or defile our bodies, terrible results and diseases follow. If we are careless or neglectful in using and training our mental powers, we blunt the keenness of our intellects.

More important, and sadder of all, are the spiritual results of slighting or neglecting or trifling with God's laws in our spiritual lives. In each of these we are free to enter and continue which way we choose, though God by sure signs shows us which we ought to select and keep. Whichever course we choose, we may know that we have God's infinite power always at our disposal to prevent or change. Thus we ourselves are free agents, and are responsible for our actions and far more accountable, because we have access to this infinite power.—I. H. N.

Should be Put on Rations

"Alcombe," Peterboro Co., Ont.

THE office of Food Controller, as I understand it, includes three main aims: (1) increase of production; (2) decrease in consumption of exportable foodstuffs; (3) suppression of food profiteering.

I would first consider increase in production. The first step in this direction is, of course, the setting on foot of a vigorous production campaign by means of literature, special appeals to farmers, producers, etc.—and this work seems to have been very thoroughly done. But this is only the preliminary canter, so to speak. The real work of speeding up production consists first in making it possible for people to produce more largely. The overworked, harassed farmer might well have many things made easier for him. I will only mention one thing—the matter of freight charges. The railway companies are for the most part rich, and a reduction in freight charges could surely be made without defrauding the companies of reasonable profits. Then, too, it is certainly part of the Food Controller's office to insist that the producer gets a fair profit for his produce. A man cannot be expected to produce and to go on producing while he receives in return barely enough to cover his working expenses. The late milk investigation shows how easily our food supply may be imperilled by poor profits to the producer.

Under the heading of increase in production should be included suppression

of waste. The saying that "money saved is money made" is true of food also. Food saved is as good as food produced, and statistics show an immense improvement in our big cities in this respect. Still, enough has not been done, for whereas one person may conscientiously strain every nerve to save every crumb from waste, another may be making only a halfhearted effort or no effort at all. In justice to all, severe penalties should be inflicted for waste of food, as is done in the Old Country.

The second duty of the Food Controller is to see that there is a decrease in consumption of exportable foodstuffs. Here, again, voluntary effort, though good, is not enough. It stands to reason that one man's strict economy may be another man's wild extravagance. It all depends on the previous standard of living. We should be put on rations as regards our staple foods, the foods that we are asked to export to the Allies in as large quantities as possible. Only thus can we do our full share in helping to feed the Allies and defeat the Hun. The details of the rationing would have to be settled with the help of food experts, for it is easily understood that all could not be rationed alike. A man must be fed according to his work.

The third aim of the Food Controller should be to suppress food profiteering, and this should be one of his most urgent duties. I read somewhere the other day that it was certainly not the Controller's duty to keep down prices, in fact quite otherwise, for if food were allowed to be cheap, people would eat too much of it. I entirely disagree with this statement. It is most certainly his duty to keep prices down within the limits of a reasonable profit to producers and retailers. As to the danger of people consuming too much food, putting the nation on rations easily disposes of that difficulty. The duty of keeping prices as low as possible for consumers involves another duty—that of eliminating middlemen wherever possible. Unnecessary middlemen are the bane of peace times as well as of war times, and now is the government's opportunity to rid the country of a real nuisance.

With regard to profiteering, the Food Controller would likely have his hands full if rationing came into force. There would certainly be a greater demand at once for the non-staple foods, and here would come in the profiteering on the part of producers and manufacturers, unless sternly suppressed. The case for the suppression of profiteering and elimination of middlemen is as strong in the matter of non-staple as it is for staple foods, for it is only right that everyone should have a fair chance of supplementing a reduced diet.

I have briefly outlined what seems to me the chief duties and sins of the Food Controller's office. I may add that the man in office probably wishes he were anywhere else than where he is, for his work may be compared with that of woman's in the famous couplet:

Man's work is from sun to sun,
Hanna's work is never done.

PLUM CONSERVE.

Six quarts plums, 2 pounds seeded raisins, 3 oranges, 1 pound blanched almonds, ½ pound walnut meats, 6 pounds sugar. Cook plums without water till soft (a double boiler may be used). Put through sieve (Cut oranges in quarters and slice very nuts.) Cook till it jellies and then add nuts, break up or put through the meat chopper, just before taking conserve from the stove.

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