

THE SUGAR SITUATION.

Economy Necessary to Relieve Temporary Shortage.

The temporary shortage of sugar, which will continue until the new crop becomes available, about the first of the year requires careful conservation, avoidance of hoarding, and the curtailment of consumption in the form of candies, etc. In a statement dealing with the situation, Hon. W. J. Hanna, Food Controller for Canada, says:—

"There are two alternatives at the present moment for handling the temporary sugar situation. One is to make a request of the dealers and the public, and the other is to put in force most drastic regulations.

"The latter course should not be necessary, because when the Canadian people understand the situation I feel sure they will do everything they can to reduce their consumption of sugar until the new crop is available. It rests with the public of Canada as to which method will be adopted.

"The price of sugar from the refiners to the jobbers should not exceed what it is at present, as the prices for raw sugar have been stabilized in New York for some time past, in spite of the shortage of stocks of raw sugar in Cuba.

"The refiners and jobbers will, no doubt, exercise the greatest care in shipping to their customers only in proportion to their normal requirements, and should any dealers be found advancing the prices or using the sale of sugar as a means of inducing customers to buy other goods, further supplies to them should be stopped.

"Retailers should be most careful only to sell to customers on the basis of their normal requirements, and thus to prevent private hoarding.

"The general public can aid greatly by careful conservation of sugar and by curtailing the use of candies, etc. France has an average of one pound of sugar per person per month, as against the consumption in Canada of seven pounds per person per month, so that the reduction in consumption here which is necessary for a short period should involve no great hardship."

The shortage will only be temporary. The new Cuban crop is the largest in the history of the island, and is estimated at not less than three million tons of raw sugar, which will begin to move from December 1 to December 15. The crops of Porto Rico and San Domingo, which promise an increase over last year, are placed at 500,000 tons, and will move about

the same time as the Cuban product. Three hundred thousand tons of Louisiana sugar will move about December 15. In addition to the cane sugar, there will be 700,000 tons of beet sugar from the western and central states of the United States. The effect of the new crop will be felt in the New York market in about six weeks' time.

For the coming year, therefore, it is believed that there will be ample supplies of sugar to meet the requirements of all the Allied countries, including Canada and the United States. Indeed, it is expected that prices for next year will be below those that have ruled during the present season.

With the arrival of Sir Joseph White-Todd and Mr. John V. Drake, the British members of the International Sugar Commission, which will do all the buying for the Allies, the control of all sugar supplies now centres in one organization. The price of raw Cuban sugar has been reduced by one-half cent per pound, but no further reduction can be expected until the new crop comes on the market. Canada will, in common with the eastern United States, therefore, be short of sugar between now and the end of the year, but it is believed that 50 to 60 per cent of the usual demand will be met if all classes in Canada and the United States will co-operate with the food administrations and be willing that the necessary reduction in consumption should be equitably distributed.

In order to help in tiding over the temporary sugar shortage the Allies have loaned 26,750 tons of sugar to United States consumers in New York pending the arrival of ships to carry it overseas. Arrangements are being made to borrow 16,500 tons of sugar from foreign export owners in New York. The United States Food Administration has bought for the French government 100,000 tons of the new Louisiana crop of sugar. This transaction represents a value of \$13,000,000.

BECOMES LEGAL ADVISER

Upon the invitation of Hon. W. J. Hanna, Mr. Frank H. Keefer, K.C., formerly of Port Arthur, and more recently of Thorold, Ont., has become legal adviser in the office of the Food Controller. Mr. Keefer is giving his services without salary.