

### FOOD CONTROL BY LOCALITIES

The appointment of local food committees was undertaken vigorously until by the end of December, there were over 2,000 committees so working, each of at least twelve members giving their services. Each committee had by statute to include a woman and a Labor representative. In addition fifteen Commissioners were appointed, ten for England, two for Wales and three for Scotland, to assist the work of the local committees. Each of these Commissioners had the aid of one or more Assistant Commissioners with a paid staff and permanent offices in their districts.

### ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS.

Until the middle of May, 1917, the all important matter of the enforcement of the Food Controller's orders was left to the police authorities only. Action was taken by them in the police court when complaints of infraction of the Food Controller's orders were made to them. At that time, however, with the growing sense of the seriousness of the international food position made more acute in the case of Great Britain and France by the German submarine campaign, the machinery for the enforcement was greatly increased. An outdoor staff of inspectors was appointed, each with a defined area and orders of the Local Government Board imposed on local authorities throughout Great Britain the powers and duties of carrying out the majority of the orders most directly concerning the public.

Efficiency was greatly added to when the local authorities became familiar with their new powers. A difficulty encountered at first was in the inadequacy of the fines which magistrates imposed. Lord Rhondda, therefore, instituted a system of registration of dealers in the principal articles of food, and intimated that, without prejudice to the enforcement of legal penalties, licenses would be withdrawn in cases of flagrant contravention.

### HOARDING.

No person in the United Kingdom may acquire supplies of food beyond the needs of his ordinary consumption. A tradesman may not sell any article of food where he has reasonable ground for believing that the quantity ordered is in excess of requirements. The Food Controller may order the inspection of premises in which hoarding is suspected.

It has been estimated unofficially that there are 50,000 persons directly aiding by voluntary and other work to make Food Control a success in the United Kingdom.

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