

# Canadian Food Bulletin

No. 7.

Ottawa, Saturday, December 29, 1917

No. 7.

*The Canadian Food Bulletin is published under authority of the Food Controller, for the information of official organizations co-operating in the work of food control, and of other bodies or individuals interested. The information published is carefully prepared to ensure accuracy of all statements so that it may be a permanent and useful record of the work of the Food Control organization in Canada. It is suggested that persons on the regular mailing list should file their copies for reference purposes. Communications in regard to items appearing in The Bulletin and all reports for publication should be addressed to Educational Department, Food Controller's Office, Ottawa.*

## WHO SHALL GO SHORT IN 1918?

At the beginning of a New Year the Food Controller appeals to all public-spirited citizens to study the facts of the world food situation and their own personal responsibilities in connection with the food shortage. Food is the most essential material thing in the world to-day. The situation in Great Britain, France and Italy is exceedingly grave. In all the neutral countries of Europe it is desperate. In Germany the workers have so deteriorated by reason of malnutrition that the output per capita has been reduced by about 33 per cent as compared with the first year of the war. There is not enough food in the world to go around as on the same generous scale as before the war. Who shall go short?

The world shortage of supplies up to the present has been felt in this country only indirectly through the rapid advance in prices. Important saving has been effected in beef, ham, bacon and white flour, but far greater economies are required. As yet the great majority of the people have made practically no real food sacrifices. The need overseas is such that this continent must do its utmost. The people of Canada who have food in abundance must reduce their own consumption of certain foods and share with those who have not enough to maintain their physical efficiency. The Allied armies and civilian populations will then be given the support which they must have to win. There will be much suffering in Europe despite the best efforts of the people on this side of the Atlantic, but we at least have it within our power to ensure that such privations will be no greater than is absolutely

necessary. It is our plain duty and privilege to support the morale of the fighting men and the civilian populations of Europe and ensure it from being endangered by the menace of starvation.

Canadians have responded splendidly to every appeal that has been made to them since the outbreak of the war. The call has now come for voluntary rationing so as to save wheat flour, beef, bacon and sugar and for the utmost effort to produce the greatest possible amount of food in 1918. The situation is so serious and the dangers which it involves are so grave that if the voluntary response is not immediate drastic measures may be necessary.

In this issue of The Food Bulletin is published Mr. Hoover's latest communication to members of the United States Food Administration. It is a pronouncement which should be read with the greatest care. Mr. Hoover does not hesitate to state conditions as they are: "There is no waste of food among any of our Allies. There is the most drastic reduction in their consumption. There is actual privation among their women and children. There is starvation in Belgium."

He explains that "every particle of diminished consumption by the people of America is one particle more for the soldiers, men, women and children of our Allies, and for the starving people in other countries. This is a personal obligation upon every one of us toward some individual abroad who will suffer privation to the extent of our own individual negligence."

"Voluntary individual self-sacrifice to save the world" is the call to the people of the United States and Canada in one of the greatest crises of the war.