

CANADIAN FOOD BULLETIN

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POINTERS FOR OUR WORKERS.

“How can we help the Food Board?”

The question is the most frequent in the correspondence with which the central staff at Ottawa and the Provincial Committees of the Food Board deal. It is an expression not merely of individual good will, but of an underlying desire, a restless aspiration, felt in a far wider circle than those who say it, to do something towards bringing the war to the only end we dare contemplate. Timely hints will be given on this page henceforth as to what our voluntary workers may do in each ensuing month.

Beyond question, the most pressing thing for which the Board now can ask the aid of outside workers is the combating of the misconception that we may “rest on our oars.” Further food saving and greater farm production are as imperative as ever. The clearer one sees the world’s needs, the more does methodic saving seem requisite.

Tension in the food situation in Europe, let it be repeated, has been eased. The acute shortage of last winter is not present. But they have not relaxed a particle of their strict individual rationing in Great Britain, France or Italy. A perusal of the unexpected conditions described by Dr. James W. Robertson in this issue will surprise most readers.

Besides there is the gaunt fact that nearly 5,000,000 people have died of starvation or malnutrition through the war. Can we, dare we, in Canada ignore a decimation which would total over one-half of our own population?

Reserves of food must be built up where reserves should be built up—in Europe. That food must come from this side; it cannot come by the work of those whose husbands and sons are fighting. Common prudence dictates this. Harvests are always uncertain; millions who were well off four years ago are living literally from hand to mouth. Some French towns have still but three days’ supply of bread. A break in railway transportation may mean privation, hunger and all its inconveniences. The U-boat campaign continues unabated. Directed first here and then there it requires a continual vigil of the Allied fleets of four nations to overcome it.

Food workers at the beginning of the winter season can do nothing better, nothing more patriotic than to repeat again and again that our share of food war work is only just beginning. Measured by our unpreparedness of fifteen months ago, we have done well. But a higher standard than ever has been set by our own success. To-day we have the organization; we have a much better understanding among the people, and we have, consequently, a far greater obligation. The work must be carried on.