

CANADIAN FOOD BULLETIN

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WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH

“What should we do in food work during November?”

It is a very natural inquiry by the hundreds of willing co-workers of the Food Board in every province. The month is awkward. Workers have time to undertake many things before the winter sets in. Yet seen from within the Food Board, November is not so easy to define. In the new knowledge of food control it appears to be between the full time of bounteous production and the leaner time which will come when the cellar stocks will run lower and lower. We see much food at close range now and we conclude that all the world is as amply supplied.

It is exactly against this too human trend to self-satisfaction that our workers can give warning. The food supplies of the world, let it be repeated and re-emphasized, are worse than they were a year ago. Shipping, which is an essential in the Allied “common table,” is more called upon the more troops are sent. New tonnage cannot yet keep pace with the demand for men and food from this side of the Atlantic. Stores and stocks have been eaten into. Even our advantages on the field of battle add to the food problem, for every released Belgian, hitherto fed partly at least, by the Germans, now becomes dependent on ourselves. In the middle week of October, 20,000,000 rations for the liberated civil population of Northwestern Belgium had to be supplied from the stores of the British Army alone.

So it will be wherever the foe is driven back. Our obligations to feed those whom we succour must grow. What will it be when we are able to reach the 100,000,000 in Russia and Roumania?

Before the war, the North American continent annually shipped to the Allies 5,500,000 tons of foodstuffs. That was doubled last year. This year we are under pledge, with the United States, to send 17,500,000 tons, an increase of 300 per cent. There has been a tremendous slaughter of livestock all over the world, and Mr. Hoover last month, writing to the American Agricultural Advisory Board, said the indications of the war demands are “that the supply of pork products should be kept up on the present level of production. It is obvious that after peace the world demand for pork will be greatly increased over even the present large war demands.”

The answer to the November inquiry is that, instead of slackening, every effort in food control should be doubled in the coming winter. Our workers will find in this Bulletin, month by month, guidance and requisite facts on which to speak and act.