

SUGAR—OR SOLDIERS?

In a comprehensive review of the sugar situation, Mr. Herbert Hoover, United States Food Administrator points out that before the war England received approximately 1,400,000 long tons per annum from Germany and neighbouring sources. France produced about 750,000 long tons of beet sugar and exported 50,000 tons. The French production in 1917 fell to 210,000 long tons. Before the war Italy produced about 210,000 long tons and imported almost none. Thus Great Britain, France and Italy were under necessity either to secure 1,925,000 tons from West and East Indian sources to maintain normal consumption or to reduce such consumption to this extent by home economies. The East Indian sugar requires about three times the length of voyage and therefore three times the amount of tonnage to bring from that source compared to the West Indies.

Allies Have Done their Utmost.

Mr. Hoover explained that while drastic measures have been taken to enforce conservation of sugar by the civilian population of the Allies, the consumption of soldiers is necessarily far above normal. In August the British Government reduced the household sugar ration to a basis of 24 pounds per annum per person, and in September the French Government reduced the household ration to 13.2 pounds and at the same time place further restrictions upon use in manufacture. In August the French Government found itself unable to maintain even this ration from their supplies and appealed to the American Government for exports. These were granted, and it was agreed should be continued up to 100,000 tons. The American household ration at this time was at least 55 pounds per annum per person.

By reason of the car shortage in the United States some 30,000 tons of sugar intended for France had to be distributed in the Northeastern States, the United States authorities proposing to help the Allies from Gulf ports or Cuba. They have not been able to do so, although, as Mr. Hoover says, the Allied situation is to-day more critical than ever. Mr. Hoover states that in face of the crucial situation in England and France and the obvious shortage of sugar on this continent any discouragement to the campaign for conservation is a positive disaster.

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No Surplus Supplies Left.

In his report Mr. Hoover says: "There is not to-day, nor have there been any supplies available which have not been brought into distribution. Statements that there have been, or will be ample supplies of sugar available are wrong and opposed to every fact in the situation It is our stern duty to feed the Allies, to maintain their health and strength at any cost to ourselves. There has not been, nor will be, as we see it, enough sugar for even their present meagre and depressing ration unless they send ships to remote markets for it.

Soldiers or Sugar—Which?

"If we in our greed and gluttony force them either to further reduce their ration or to send these ships we will have done damage to our abilities to win this war. To-day the number of soldiers we can send to France is limited by the ships we have available. If we send the ships to Java for 250,000 tons of sugar next year to piece out their ration we will have necessitated employment of the equivalent of eleven extra ships for one year. This in our present situation is the measure of transport and maintenance of 150,000 to 200,000 men in France."

Allies Must Go to Java?

Mr. Hoover concludes with the following: "I submit herewith a statement of our views as to the sugar supplies for ourselves and the Allies next year. You will observe that it entails the transport of 250,000 tons of sugar for the Allies from Java, if the American public is to have its normal supply. Such transport will diminish our ability to send soldiers to France by 200,000 men. If, however, the American public will diminish their consumption by ten per cent to fifteen per cent, or if the Cuban crops are larger than we anticipate, this disaster of transport necessity can be averted.

This statement while written as an appeal to the people of the United States, applies with equal force to the people of Canada.

WORK IS BEING APPRECIATED.

Rev. Canon Woodcock, Trinity Rectory, Brockville, in a recent letter to the Food Controller says: "Your work is most satisfactory and as it is more and more known it is appreciated in proportion."