

# ECONOMY IN DELIVERY.

**Remarkable Results have been Achieved in many Places in the United States.**

The Canada Food Board has advocated the reduction of retail deliveries and, wherever possible, the adoption of a co-operative or union delivery system. This propaganda has had good results, particularly in encouraging the "cash and carry" plan and general elimination of unnecessary delivery services. In the United States, the Commercial Economy Board has recommended that retail delivery service be restricted to not more than one trip a day over each route; that special deliveries be eliminated and that the privilege of returning merchandise be restricted to not more than three days; and that co-operative delivery systems be organized wherever possible, especially in medium and small-sized towns.

This plan already has been adopted, wholly or in part, by merchants in cities with a total population of 11½ million out of the total urban population in the United States of 41 million. Boston, Providence, Philadelphia, Washington, Lynchburg, Louisville, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Des Moines, St. Louis, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Oakland were included in the list. In New York and Chicago many of the large stores have just adopted the plan.

The results have amply justified the programme. Thirty-four department stores in different cities show that by one delivery a day they have been able to operate with 554 deliverymen where 864 were previously employed. This is a saving of 35 per cent. These same stores have saved 132 automobiles out of 330, or 40 per cent. By restricting the privilege of returning merchandise to three days the amount returned has been reduced to 36 per cent. Many employees other than deliverymen have also been made available for other work, as in the sorting and routing rooms.

In small stores the percentage of saving in men is frequently greater. In many cases one delivery a day is enabling one deliveryman to do the work that formerly required two. Thirteen stores in Indianapolis have saved the services of 151 men. One retail grocer now employs 28 deliverymen in the place of 57 and has saved 24 horses and wagons out of 46. Another has saved 32 automobiles and drivers. Forty-two small grocers in New Jersey now operate with 61 deliverymen in the place of 116. It is now estimated, officially, that the labour of at least 125,000 men can be saved

in the United States by adoption of this programme.

The curtailment of excessive delivery service has not caused any hardship to the employees of the stores. It has enabled merchants who have adopted the plan to avoid the necessity of refilling the positions of many men who have entered military service or engaged in essential war work. The conditions of work for those who remain in the delivery service have not been rendered more difficult. On the contrary, the reduction in the number of deliveries has brought about shorter hours for the deliverymen in numerous stores.

## PRICES FOR SUBSTITUTES.

### Canada Food Board Aims to Protect Public Against Excessive Charges.

Use of ten percent of substitutes for wheat flour in bakery products, whether they are made in the home or in the bakery establishments, is now required by law. In order to protect the public against exorbitant charges when purchasing substitutes for wheat flour, the Canada Food Board has stated what prices should be considered reasonable in view of the present wholesale prices.

In Eastern Canada white corn flour costs \$11.50 to \$12.10 per barrel of 196 pounds and blended corn flour from \$10.50 to \$11.10. In Western Canada blended corn flour wholesale costs from \$11.50 to \$12.80, at Vancouver. In view of these wholesale prices, the retail price for small quantities of corn flour when bought by the pound should not be more than 6½ cents in Eastern Canada to 8 cents in Western Canada.

Wholesale prices of rye flour range from \$12.00 per barrel at points of production in Western Canada to \$13.00 in Eastern Canada and \$13.50 in British Columbia. Rye flour at retail, in small quantities, should not, therefore, cost the consumer more than 7½ cents per pound in Eastern Canada, and 8½ cents per pound in the extreme West.

Barley flour, wholesale, costs from \$9.50 at points of production in the West to \$11.00 in Eastern Canada and \$11.50 in British Columbia. Therefore barley flour retail in small quantities should not cost the consumer more than from 6½ cents in Eastern Canada to 6 cents per pound in Western Canada.

It should be understood that the above prices are not fixed and will vary with changes in the price of grain.