

WASTE IN WAR TIME.

Avenues of Loss Must be Closed—Bearing on the Food Problem.

Notwithstanding the war, and the special need for economy which war has brought, Canadians are wasting at a tremendous rate. We really do not intend to waste but, because the present generation has been so generously provided for, it does not know what saving means.

Waste is simply not saving things which are useful. It arises largely from the fact that we do not know what things are useful. Our great national ignorance is in connection with things which now go into the discard. The waste of these things is so great that if it could be itemized and aggregated it would stagger us. When we read, not long after the war broke out about the Germans commandeering eavetroughs, old kettles, and roofing, and even church images,—anything containing copper,—for the making of munitions; when we read about them saving grease and rags, any waste paper and old rubber, even the rubber tips of pencils; when we read of them being put on strict food rations,—we thought we had them beaten. But it is this great national economy that has saved Germany until the present time.

Wasteful in Small Things.

As children we were puzzled with the question "where do all the pins in the world go to?" By and by we learned that when a pin falls it slowly disintegrates and finally becomes part of the soil. The same is true of a hundred other little things of universal use. They are manufactured by the millions every minute of the day and after brief use, are lost to us. Such loss involves waste, and in seemingly small matters of this kind Canadians are more wasteful than almost any other people in the world. We are also wasteful in other ways, and it is well to remember that, directly or indirectly, every form of waste has a bearing upon the food problem.

Waste is not Wilful.

The great mass of Canadians have always found the means of livelihood easy. We are not like the Germans and French and Belgians, forced by necessity to make the most of things just at hand to intensify efforts of production. Wilful waste makes woeful want; but waste is not wilful in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred. It

is the result of thoughtlessness or of ignorance or of lack of organized opportunity, or all together.

Saving of food, reduction of waste, substitution of other things for things essential to our Allies—these are part of the Gospel of War-Winning. Saving is another form of production. You cannot always produce, but you can always save. The thing that is saved takes the place of the thing that cannot be produced.

We waste food in many ways:

In peeling potatoes, the loss is 20 per cent.

In stale bread.

In bread crusts.

In table crumbs.

In kitchen garbage.

In the fats of meats.

In meat and chicken bones.

In the sour milk and buttermilk, that is thrown away.

In fats which we neglect to render.

In eating more than we really need.

In eating the wrong kinds of food.

In frying meats and not saving the fats.

In not substituting other foods for the beef, wheat and bacon, which are needed overseas.

In improper cooking.

In feeding too much protein (albumen in eggs and gluten in flour) to old persons and persons of sedentary habits.

In keeping too many domestic pets, which consume good food.

In leaving food uncovered to be wasted or spoiled by vermin.

Canadians must realize the tremendous aggregate which is represented by such waste. The loss involved can be checked only in one way—by every individual man, woman, girl and boy doing his or her part.

WEEVIL LOSS IN GROCERY STORE.

In order to avoid loss from weevils grocers should keep flour, meal, rice, peas, beans, and package cereals in a cool, dry place, as without heat and moisture the weevil will not propagate. Proximity to a heated stove will often cause weevils to appear in winter. Scrupulous cleanliness and kalsomining are preventatives. Care should be taken to inspect incoming goods, as a few weevils in a single package of goods may infect the whole store in a short space of time during warm weather.