

MR. HOOVER'S POLICY.

In a statement of policy Mr. Herbert Hoover, Food Administrator for the United States, says:

"The hopes of the Food Administration are three-fold: First, so to guide the trade in fundamental food commodities as to eliminate wasteful practices, and to stabilise prices. Second, to guard our exports so that against the world's shortage we retain sufficient supplies for our own people, and to co-operate with the Allies to prevent inflation of prices. Third, that we stimulate in every manner within our power the saving of food, in order that we may increase exports to our Allies to a point that will enable them to provision their armies properly and to feed their people during the coming winter.

"The Food Administration is called into being to stabilise and not to disturb conditions, and to defend honest enterprise against illegitimate competition. It has been devised to correct the abnormalities and abuses that have crept into trade by reason of the world disturbance, and to restore business, as far as may be, to a reasonable basis.

"The business men of this country, I am convinced, as a result of many hundreds of conferences with representatives of the great forces of food supply, realize their own patriotic obligation and the solemnity of the situation, and will fairly and generously co-operate in meeting the national emergency. I do not believe that drastic force need be applied to maintain economic distribution and sane use of supplies by the great majority of American people; and I have learned a deep and abiding faith in the intelligence of the average American business man, whose aid we depend on to remedy the evils developed by the war, which evils he admits and deploras as deeply as ourselves. But if there be those who expect to exploit this hour of sacrifice, if there are men or organizations scheming to increase the trials of this country, we shall not hesitate to apply to the full the drastic coercive powers that Congress has conferred.

"The deep obligation is upon us to feed the armies and the peoples associated with us in this struggle. The diversion of 40,000,000 of their men to war or war work, the additional millions of women drafted to the places of their husbands and brothers, and the toll of the submarine have all conspired so to reduce production that their

harvest this autumn will fall 500,000,000 bushels of grain below their normal production. Always dependent upon import from other countries for a substantial part of their food needs, our Western European Allies, because of the destruction of shipping by submarines and the isolation from the normal market by belligerent lines, are forced to a large degree upon our markets, as not only the nearest but the only market capable of relieving their bitter necessities. Therefore, whereas we exported before the war but 80,000,000 bushels of wheat per annum, this year, by one means or another, we must find for them 225,000,000 bushels, and this in the face of a short crop. Our best will but partly meet their needs, for even then they must reduce their bread consumption 25 per cent, and it will be war bread they must eat, bread of which a large portion consists of other cereals.

"Already the greater call for meat and annual products due to the stress of war on the millions of men in the fighting line and the enhanced physical labour of populations ordinarily subsisting on lighter diets, coupled with the inadequate world supply, have compelled our Allies to kill upwards of 33,000,000 head of their stock animals. This is burning the candle at both ends. Therefore, not only must we increase their supplies of meat and dairy products, but we must prepare as war goes on to meet an even greater demand for these necessary commodities.

Because of the shortage of shipping, only the most concentrated of foods, wheat, grain, beef, pork and dairy products and sugar can be sent across the seas. Fortunately, we have for our own use a superabundance of foodstuffs of other kinds—the perishable, fish, corn and other cereals—and surely our first manifest duty is to substitute these for those other products which are of greater use of our fellow fighters. Our second duty is to eliminate waste to the last degree. Seventy per cent of our people are well known to be as thrifty and careful as any in the world, and they consume but little or no more than is necessary to maintain their physical strength. They can, however, substitute foods as above. It is not too much to ask the other thirty per cent, by simpler living, to reduce their consumption. The substitutions we ask impose no hardships, and the limination of waste is to-day no more than a patriotic service. Every ounce of waste is a contribution towards starvation."