

of flour is effected in conformity with directions given by the Flour Mills Control Committee. The extraction of flour from wheat has been raised to a nominal basis of 90 per cent; the percentage of flour from other permitted cereals has been fixed at not less than 20 and not more than 50. Maximum prices were fixed for sound British-grown grain of the 1917 crop. Flour millers generally buy their grain direct from farmers. Imported wheat is sold to millers at a parity with the maximum prices fixed for home-grown wheat.

The price of the 1-lb. loaf was set at 9d. and of the 2-lb. loaf 4½d. In some districts these loaves are being sold for less. A quarter of flour costs 8½d. This means a reduction of 20-25% on the prices previously charged. Paying the difference will cost the Imperial Exchequer at least \$200,000,000 by the end of this winter.

LIVE STOCK AND MEAT.

The Meat (Sales) Order has removed the speculative middleman. It limited the profits of legitimate middlemen. The Meat (Maximum Prices) Order, which came into force on September 3rd last, fixed the maximum wholesale dead meat prices till the end of January, 1918. Lists of maximum wholesale prices for the various joints and cuts are issued fortnightly by the Director of Meat Supplies after consultation with an advisory committee of the trade.

Twelve Live Stock Commissioners have been appointed and prominent auctioneers in England and Scotland work out plans for controlling the meat supplies and registering wholesalers and retailers. They also prepared a census of all live stock in Great Britain so as to deal with any local shortage.

All meat is owned by the Government. Distributors are allowed to charge certain amounts for the service of distribution.

MILK.

The Milk (Prices) Order of September, 1917, regulated the price of milk until the end of March, 1918, in fulfilment of the promise to the English farmer that the winter's milk should not be less than 1s. 9d. per imperial gallon. Where milk is sold wholesale by a person other than the producer the maximum price was fixed at 1s. 8d. a gallon for October and an extra 2d. for the five following months, plus ½d. where milk is delivered. These rates may be varied by Local Food Committees.

The maximum retail price a gallon was 2s. for October, and 2s. 4d. for the five following months. For milk delivered outside certain areas an additional charge of 4d. was authorized and a further charge of 1d. per quart allowed for delivery of bottled milk. Food Control Committees are further empowered under certain restrictions to make such arrangements as they may think fit for regulating the distribution.

POTATOES.

The Potatoes Order of September 13, 1917, prescribed a growers' minimum price of £6 per ton. This was revoked in November the Exchequer paying the difference between the
