

MUST OBEY REGULATIONS.

Food Controller's Orders Will be Strictly Enforced.

The Order in Council regulating the serving of beef and bacon in public eating places and requiring that substitutes for white bread be provided at all meals will be strictly enforced. Police court proceedings have already been instituted in Toronto and Ottawa and in the Port Arthur district.

At Mr. Hanna's request, the Ottawa police authorities this week arranged for a meeting between the Food Controller and six Ottawa restaurant keepers who were charged with failure to comply with the Regulations. Mr. Hanna explained to them that the order had been prepared with the deliberate intention of allowing as wide freedom to the restaurant keepers as was possible within the spirit of the Regulations, so that local conditions could be met without unnecessary hardship. He insisted that the order be obeyed. If infractions were not stopped there would be no other course open but to put every restaurant under license. "If it is made necessary for us to do that we shall see that every restaurant keeper who does not obey the law shall not get a license nor shall a license be granted for the premises which he occupies," said the Food Controller.

Details as to hours, etc., should be worked out by arrangement between the restaurant proprietors and the police authorities of each local district.

The Food Controller emphasized the absolute necessity of conserving wheat flour, beef and bacon which was the purpose of the order and said that he looked to the restaurant people to see that the Regulations were fairly observed.

FISH CASES ARE POPULAR.

They are Encouraging Dealers to Handle Fresh Fish.

The fish display cases, which were made available to retail dealers by the Food Controller to facilitate the marketing of fish in good condition are proving to be popular. The cases cost \$20 each but the Government is paying one-half of the cost and they are sold to the dealer at \$10 each in order to encourage the handling of fish. A number of dealers who never before sold fish are now doing so and are using the special display case.

DANGER OF PRICE FIXING.

Experience of the United States in the Case of Copper.

The Ottawa Journal, in an editorial discussion of the question of price fixing, remarks that "second hand retailers of economic wisdom who lightly urge that prices be fixed with the mere stroke of a pen, would do well to consider what has just happened in the United States." It states that the Wilson administration fixed a price of 23½ cents per pound for the purchase of such supplies of copper as were required for the use of the Governments of the United States and the Allies.

The editorial continues: "The result has fallen far below public expectations, for it has been found that while the American and Allied Governments are able to supply their needs at a moderate price, the other consumers in the United States are worse off than before. The price fixed, while yielding a profit to some concerns, has meant a loss to others, with the inevitable consequence that some of the operators have ceased production altogether and supplies of copper have greatly diminished. And as a direct result, the ordinary consumer who wishes to obtain copper is compelled to pay as high as 27 and 30 cents a pound.

"The moral is that price-fixing is an extremely difficult proposition, and in nine cases out of ten would be most likely to work out contrary to popular belief. In a country such as Canada, where local conditions and cost of production greatly vary, the fixing of a uniform price for certain commodities is almost an economic impossibility. A set price that might yield a fair return to a firm in the Maritime Provinces might spell financial ruin for a similar business in Ontario.....and newspapers who demand wholesale price-fixing have probably never considered just what the proposition involves..... Those who expect and government anywhere to make sweeping reductions in food prices by the simple process of passing Orders in Council are living in a paradise of mist."

DEHYDRATED POTATOES.

So far as can be learned, the very large crops of potatoes in Great Britain will make it unnecessary for many orders for evaporated or dehydrated potatoes to be placed in Canada this year for export to Europe.