

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE.

"Cheap food TODAY, if it means less food or no food TOMORROW, is a fool's benefaction. The stabilization of food prices is, in the long run, infinitely more important than any theatrical price reduction. A dislocating slump in prices due to a glut at the base of supplies spells more danger to our food for the future from the same source than an actual shortage. I do not mean by this a reduction from profiteering to normal profits. The United States and Canadian Food Administration are weeding out profiteering, but their main objective is to be able to keep our armies and ourselves continuously supplied with our essential food commodities."—Sir William Goode, Liaison Officer for the British Ministry of food with the United States Food Administration and the Canada Food Board, before the Consumers' Council, at the British Ministry of Food on July 10, 1918.

CROP SITUATION IN BRITAIN.

Drought and Labour Shortage Add to Difficulties of British Agriculturists.

The following cable from the British Ministry of Food was received by the Canada Food Board, just before the conference of the Allied Food Controllers on July 22:

"British agriculturists have been seriously concerned about drought which has checked the growth of wheat here for six weeks, particularly on light soil. Barley and oats have also suffered as well as root crops, and even potatoes have been retarded by cold weather and lack of rain. Luckily the spell of unfavourable weather now has broken and rain is plentiful, but nevertheless it looks as if the early optimism about possibilities of the wheat crop in the United Kingdom will have to be modified, owing to the difficulties of newly-broken ground and lack of labour. It is true that women and children are being rapidly recruited for the forthcoming harvest, but even with the help of urban holiday workers and German prisoners, farmers here are skeptical whether they will be able to get in that which they have raised.

"Owing to early frosts and insect attacks on fruit, the food controller is now also battling with an utterly unforeseen shortage of jam for our armies and civilian population.

"There is still a shortage of cheese, and lard has just been formally rationed.

"Hogs, too, have not been raised as rapidly on this side of the Atlantic as was hoped, owing to the abnormally high prices demanded for breeding sows and weanling pigs. Such is the situation despite the great outburst of municipal enterprise in connection with hog raising.

"Generally, the food situation in the United Kingdom is improved, but the season of anxiety is not yet over."

WHEAT AND WORLD SAFETY.

Seven Hundred Million Bushels Needed as Reserve for "Carry Over."

The New York Commercial points out that for 20 years the world has been on the edge of a wheat famine. Only those who have studied grain trade statistics have realized it, but the surplus carried over from one crop year to another has been dwindling, and for a long time has been insufficient to protect consumers against a serious crop failure.

"A reserve of wheat must be accumulated on this continent at any cost," says the newspaper. "Corn will not take the place of wheat as a reserve, because corn does not keep well, and cornmeal and cornflour do not stand shipment oversea in warm weather.

"England is producing about 70 per cent of her own domestic requirements this year, but France and Italy are raising less food than they did before the war. Some slight increases may be obtained from Spain and North America, but not enough to offset the decreases in France and Italy. Canada and the United States must produce the wheat and most of the other foodstuffs, and they are doing it by a perilously narrow margin.

"We must try to save some of this year's wheat as a reserve to protect us from a short crop next year, and we must add to the acreage of winter wheat planted this year. If we gain access to the wheat in the southern hemisphere in the course of the next year it will not be sufficient for the reserve which the world should have. This is no time to consume wheat lavishly. We are not out of the wood, and the world will not be safe until it accumulates a surplus of at least 700,000,000 bushels of wheat to carry over from year to year."