

"I feel it my duty to emphasize that the food situation is one of the utmost gravity, which, unless it be solved, may possibly result in the collapse of everything we hold dear in civilization. . . . The only hope is by the elimination of waste and actual and rigorous self-sacrifice on the part of the people of this continent." —Mr. Herbert Hoover, Food Administrator of the United States.

POTATO MARKET SURVEY.

Food Controller's Office Makes Review of the Situation.

The four western provinces have in sight a surplus of 2,830,000 bushels of potatoes or about fourteen per cent above their needs at the normal rate of consumption. The surplus is chiefly in Alberta and Manitoba. At present the prices to consumers in these western provinces range from 80 cents per bushel in Alberta to \$1.25 per bushel in the other three provinces.

With the increased consumption which will result from the action of housekeepers generally in using more potatoes as substitutes for bread, it appears that the surplus will all be consumed.

If farmers of the western provinces do not let their potatoes out freely at the present time, it is altogether likely that the price in the spring months will not be high enough to give them as good returns at that time, after taking the shrinkage and wastage from storage into account.

In the five provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, there is an estimated surplus of about 4,000,000 bushels or about eight per cent above the normal requirements. The surplus is chiefly in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

It is evident that there will be enough increased consumption of potatoes, from the substitution of them in part for bread, to absorb the whole of the surplus of 4,000,000 bushels in the five provinces, providing they are offered and delivered freely at reasonable prices in the cities of Ontario and Quebec, where they will be consumed. In some zones where there is a local surplus the local price should be lower by the amount of the freight rate to the zone or city when and where the supply from the surrounding district is not sufficient.

If farmers in these provinces do not let their potatoes get on the market freely at the present time, it is altogether likely that the price in the spring months of 1918 will not net them as much money then, after making allowance for losses from shrinking and wastage in storage.

In meeting the international food situation, it is very probable that the United States will not expect any shipments of potatoes from Canada, since there is a large surplus in their own country, estimated at 100,000,000 bushels.

The Food Controller for Canada, in case there is evidence of hoarding or withholding supplies by growers or dealers, may fix maximum prices, allowing to producers and handlers only fair and reasonable prices.

TO MAKE HOURS UNIFORM.

Following the example of the Crown Attorney and the chief of police in Ottawa, Mr. William Carew, County Crown Attorney at Belleville, Ont., called a meeting of the restaurant and hotel keepers to agree upon uniform hours for the serving of beef and bacon under the restrictive regulations of the Food Controller.

SUGAR FOR THE SOLDIERS.

Sugar, refined and unrefined, including maple sugar, may be exported by parcel post up to regulation weight when consigned to and intended for military and naval forces overseas, the limit of weight to the United Kingdom being 11 pounds and for furtherance to France 7 pounds. With this exception, no sugar war be exported from Canada unless under license.

CONFIDENCE IN MR. HANNA.

At the closing session of the 16th annual convention of the Ontario Women's Institute last week a number of resolutions were passed, including one by which the Institutes recorded their confidence in Hon. Mr. Hanna as Food Controller and pledged themselves to use all their influence to co-operate with him and stand behind him.

W.C.T.U. APPROVES ORDER.

A resolution has been passed by the Fairmount W.C.T.U. approving of the Order in Council passed upon the recommendation of the Food Controller prohibiting the use of grain or any substance that could be used for food in the distillation of potable liquors.