

### THE SOMBRE DAYS WHEN THE SPECTRE OF FAMINE STALKED THE LAND ARE FADING AWAY

It is to be Hoped That Measures Will be Taken to Preserve the Record of the Sacrificial and Strenuous Labors by Which That Menace Was Averted by the People on This Side of the Atlantic.

London, June 15.—(Special Correspondence of Canadian Associated Press.)—With returning plenty, those sombre days when the spectre of famine stalked the land are already fading from our consciousness, like the memory of a hideous dream. It is to be hoped, however, that measures will be taken to preserve the record of the sacrificial and strenuous labors by which that menace was averted, and notably those put forth by our kinsmen overseas.

In this respect some interesting and striking facts were divulged by the Food Controller in the course of an interview. Mr. Roberts explained that compulsory rationing was not adopted in Canada, the system being regarded as unsuitable to local conditions. Canada has a few highly populated towns and a very scattered agricultural community.

The method adopted, said he, "was the regulation of the sale of food by dealers who were licensed to the number of over 78,000 and voluntary conservation by consumers. Canada increased its extraction of flour from wheat and conducted a campaign whereby all sections of the population were made to realize that economy in the consumption of food directly assisted the prosecution of the war."

"Canada is the nearest part of the British Empire and one ship engaged in the Canadian trade was a useful asset engaged on the longer route to Argentina and three or four on the Australasian and Indian routes. The measures adopted in Canada to increase production and conserve food, combined with the fact that the British Government was able to keep the sea routes clear, made it possible for Great Britain and her allies to overcome what was their greatest enemy, insufficiency of food."

"In 1918 the situation was very critical and food became as important a problem as that of munitions. For example, in December, 1917, France held supplies of wheat and flour sufficient only to meet the needs of its civilian population for about three days. It has been my privilege to become acquainted with the measures adopted by Canada, particularly during the last two years of the war, and I know the difficulties that had to be encountered and the remarkable efficiency achieved. Production was thoroughly organized, and having regard to its enormous territory, its diverse conditions of climate, the few crowded towns and the sparse settlements, the achievements of Canada in furnishing food supplies at the gravest period of the war, have won for the Dominion an admission of deep obligation and profound appreciation."

In support of his statements, Mr. Roberts showed me some remarkable figures. The exports of Canadian foodstuffs to the Allies rose from about 27,000,000 pounds in 1914-15 to \$142,000,000 pounds in 1917-18. Like England, Canada adopted the system of meatless days, orders being issued under which beef, veal and pork were permitted to be served in public eating places at regular times only, but were fully prohibited on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"How was the production of food supplies stimulated?" "The export of foodstuffs was prohibited," said Mr. Roberts, "and facilities were adopted for the importation of special foods by the Food Board and the Dominion Board of Agriculture, working through the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and everything possible was done to encourage the raising of farm stuffs. The great packing-house firms were also brought under control. Their profits were regulated by a special Order in Council. Moreover, everybody who slaughtered live stock was brought under a licensing system."

dealers and 2,600 retailers were brought under license. October 31, 1918 was inaugurated as a national fish day. Montreal and Toronto consumed 377,400 lbs. of fish and it was estimated that roughly 2 1/2 million lbs. were used on that day alone in the Dominion. This policy, while saving large quantities of meat for shipment overseas, has resulted in the development of one of Canada's greatest natural resources."

Another instance of the readiness and effectiveness of Canadian assistance, Mr. Roberts added, was in respect to butter. When the stock of butter in Great Britain fell abnormally and it was impossible to maintain the small weekly ration of one ounce a head, the Food Ministry was able to secure the whole butter output of Canadian creameries for six weeks, which meant the addition of 6 1/2 million lbs. to our available supplies.

Asked what measures were taken in Canada to check profiteering, Mr. Roberts said:—"Canada being essentially an exporting country prices are generally controlled by the export market. In the earlier part of the war each allied nation brought separately and thereby were competitors for food in the Canadian and other markets. This policy resulted inevitably in a tremendous rise in prices. Ultimately therefore, the machinery for joint purchases was established, with the wholehearted co-operation of the Canadian Government."

"The Canadian Food Board, by means of Orders in Council based upon the investigations of a Fair Price Commission, was able to stabilize prices and regulate profits, and unquestionably to effect substantial economies. Thus, with the assistance of the Canadian Government, three modes of control were exercised: (1) Allied Government representatives made direct purchases and made arrangements for the allotments and shipments for allied countries. (2) All dealers were licensed and their transactions regulated by orders issued by the Food Board. (3) Imports and exports were regulated so as to allow of the largest possible purchases by the Allied Governments."

"Although this shows that the Canadian Government did not hesitate to apply compulsory powers where necessary, it is interesting to observe that a great part of the splendid results ensued from propagandist appeals to patriotism of the people. Producers were thereby stimulated to greater effort and consumers were induced to adopt voluntary rationing and so increase the surpluses available for export."

Mr. Roberts had an interesting story to tell of the soldiers of the Soil, and organization for securing youthful labor for farms. It was carried out under the direction of the Food Board who cooperated with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. In the nine provinces no fewer than 22,386 boys between the ages of 16 and 19 were enrolled, of whom 20,421 were actually placed on farms. In addition, 14,800 boys were enrolled in the Province of Quebec by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

"In connection with labor," said Mr. Roberts, "every conceivable method for securing it was canvassed. An Order in Council was passed making it compulsory for every able-bodied person between 16 and 60 to be usefully employed. This was known as the Anti-Leisure Law and of course was instrumental in directing much labor to farms and so assisting food production."

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**THE MINISTER OF LABOR** appears to be fully alive to the injustice that is being done to the people of Canada by profiteers. **In a recent speech in Parliament, he said:—**

"With reference to the cost of living . . . I point out that the unrest that exists in Canada today is not only real, but is inevitable by reason of the abnormal conditions which prevail, and by reason of the fact that the purchasing power of the average workman's earnings is today much less than it was four years ago. . . . the searchlight of truth must be turned upon these matters, otherwise we shall continue to drift in the direction in which we have been going and conditions will grow worse instead of better."

**"Ready-Made" Clothes are being charged to the consumer 100% to 150% increase above the manufacturers' price, according to statements made by the Minister of Labor, himself. And, as he asserts, matters are steadily growing worse. Senator Turriff in the Senate on Monday also drew attention to the abnormal profit being made by certain concerns. He said:—"As long as such profiteering is permitted there will be unrest."**

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### DEATH OF CURATES AFTER WAR PROBLEM IN BRITISH CHURCH

**Salaries Paid by Many Parishes Declared to be Inadequate to Attract Candidates into Ministry.**

England is experiencing a great death of curates. In one diocese there are said to be 400 parishes without curates. Explaining the cause, a well known vicar said to "The Manchester Guardian": "The greatest cause of the present shortage of curates is that nobody has been prepared for ordination, owing to the war, for the last few years, and a number of the chaplains have not yet returned from the army. But apart from that there has been a shortage of curates dating back several years before the war, partly for the reason that curates do not get a living wage, and this is especially hard upon the curates who get married. If the Church wants to be hon-

est it should offer a salary not merely sufficient to keep a young man and attract him into the ministry, but sufficient to maintain him throughout his career, increasing as time goes on and as his responsibilities increase. It is not that we want to put it on a mercenary basis, but it is not right to offer men less than would provide a suitable maintenance. Again, a parent won't encourage his sons to take up a profession—in fact, he will discourage them from taking up a profession in which they have no prospect.

"About twenty years ago the salary of a curate varied from \$600 to \$900. Immediately before the war it probably varied from \$750 to \$1,000. As to war bonus, the ecclesiastical commissioners have granted small increases to vicars who are getting under \$1,500 a year, and they are contemplating extending it. What the curate gets largely depends on what can be raised locally. I don't say that a young man on his ordination need have a great salary, but nobody who has been five years in orders ought to get less than \$1,000, which is little enough so long as prices remain as they are, and it should be at least \$1,250 for what may be called a man of experience.