

Conservation of Food

The new Food Controller the Hon. W. J. Hanna is urging the people to restrain their appetites so as to help in the conservation of the food of the country, he giving as a principal reason that with the other great wheat producing countries being cut off from supplying this necessary food to England and France, and their own population, outside the men at the front being engaged in the making of munitions, the Allies "must depend on Canada and the United States for their bread, their beef and their bacon" and that "the supply of these commodities in Canada and the United States threatens to be altogether unequal to the demand." With the Food Controller's gospel we are in hearty sympathy, for while there is no actual shortage of food in Great Britain, France and Italy, there is much food restriction, as those who have recently come from the Old Country can verify, and that Canada and the United States are the only two countries in anything like a position to supply the essential foodstuffs. By curbing our appetites does not mean that we should actually eat a less amount of food—though it would be a good thing for some people if they did—but that we should get down to the simple life and eat plainer, but equally substantial food. But the question must arise in many men's minds—particularly those who

are honestly desirous to follow his suggestions—as to how the Food Controller is going to put his preaching into practice. Is he going to exercise his powers and control the consumption of food both in the public eating places and private dwellings? This to our mind is the only way to curtail the high living propensities of too many of our wealthy magnates—the poor will need no curbing in their eating, the high cost of foodstuffs being a strong preventative. These same magnates, many of them made rich through the necessities of war, have since hostilities commenced shown such a puerile spirit of selfishness and callousness to the needs of the nation, as to create contempt in the minds of decent Canadian men and women, and unless they are affectively handled by the Food Controller, he is not likely to get much co-operation from the average citizen. Mr. Hanna has a great task ahead of him but one that gives him a great opportunity to vindicate Canada in the eyes of her Allies as a country of self-sacrifice, not limited to those fine fellows at the front. But he must first tackle the tables of the war rich—the rest of Canada will then soon fall in line. The common people are quite willing to make many sacrifices for the common cause but they are somewhat tired of all the sacrifice being one-sided.

A WAR CONVENTION.

According to the programme, two of the four principal subjects to be discussed at the four days' November convention of the National Municipal League and other municipal associations of the United States, are "Municipalities during War," and "Municipalities after the War," and as this Convention is the largest of its kind held in America, it is very evident that the municipal councils below the line are taking their part in the great war seriously—even more seriously than we in Canada. Many of our local councils have been too self-centred in their own local affairs to fully appreciate the fact that they have a larger responsibility at this time of stress and anxiety, though on the other hand quite a number have been handicapped for lack of opportunity. And in stating this we are not discounting the magnificent war work of the majority of the municipal councils of the Dominion. It is to be hoped that this opportunity for the councils of Canada to rise to their responsibility will be shown and threshed out at the coming convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. At least the executive have prepared their programme with this object in view, and if the attendance is what it is expected to be a very profitable three days will be spent in London, where the Convention is to be held this year, but it is up to every municipal council in the Dominion to send at least one delegate, but more if possible.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

A new light on the problem of the high cost of living and how the municipal councils can best deal with it was recently given by City Attorney Laurendeau, of Montreal, in replying to some enquiries of his council on the subject, when he stated: "I desire to draw your attention to the fact that the Food Controller recently appointed by the Federal Government possesses all the necessary powers to remedy the grievances of the consumers."

"Since the adoption of the order-in-council on the high cost of necessities of life, the Government has named a Food Controller, whom it has invested with extraordinary powers. In the limits of his jurisdiction he possesses practically all the powers of the Government itself." He then advises that "it might perhaps prove more expeditious to communicate with Hon. Mr. Hanna, as regards remedying the present state of affairs."

This is advice that might be followed not only by the Montreal Council, but by other councils in Canada, where the food situation has actually got worse instead of better since the order-in-council on the excessive price of foodstuffs was passed. Whatever may be the reasons, —and there are many, two of which may surely be said to be the complication of the order itself, and the peculiar construction put on it by the Minister, whose duty it was to put the order into force—the order-in-council has become a dead letter so far as getting practical results, and our only hope now is in the Food Controller, who has had a large and successful experience as Provincial Secretary of Ontario.