

Food Administration In States Has Been Successful

Profiteering Has Been Checked and Sky-High Prices Prohibited

That the United States food administration has secured results during the last eight months is conclusively proved by a resume of the work accomplished. Food conservation has been criticized by a few persons who have not even taken the time to learn facts.

War with Germany was declared by the United States on April 6, 1917. President Wilson appointed Herbert Hoover United States food administrator May 11, 1917, and he was subsequently appointed federal food administrator in each state.

Much was accomplished, but the public got the erroneous idea, before the food law became active and while Mr. Hoover was working with the food people on a voluntary basis, that Mr. Hoover's object was a radical lowering of wholesale and retail prices.

This was not, could not have been and is not today true. All prices naturally and inevitably have a tendency to higher levels in war time. What the food administration always has had in mind and will continue to have in mind is the regulation of the world's food supply so that America and her associates in the war will be properly fed as a nation.

What the food administration has done with regard to prices is to insure fair prices on basic food commodities to retailers, based in actual cost of production, preparation and distribution.

The administration has accomplished by eliminating inflated prices due to market speculation in these basic commodities, by arbitrarily stopping waste and hoarding through its system of licensing manufacturers, distributors and all retailers doing more than \$100,000 worth of business a year.

Control of prices of retailers doing less than \$100,000 worth of business a year can be secured indirectly by the publication of actual wholesale prices and reasonable retail prices so that consumers will be advised as to prices they should pay for food commodities and by exercising the power over licensed wholesalers to shut off supplies from retailers who charge unfair prices.

The administration also has sought to aid the distribution of all available supplies of food, while shipping to our European associates as much as we could spare of wheat, meat, fats and sugar to make up their drastic shortages.

The problems of the food administration in 1918 promise to be equally if not more important than in 1917 unless, perchance, the war should end immediately, as now seems improbable in view of the recent results abroad. A stimulated production is absolutely essential in any year, but there can be no greatly stimulated production unless prices are maintained at a popular level, to make an increase in production possible. Low prices in America will not win the war; increased food production in America will.

The first problem of the food administration, therefore, is to encourage intelligent production next year so that the food requirements of the Allies' armies and nations and those of our own people may be met. It would now seem safe to prophesy that the food law promise of further reduction in the prices of foodstuffs, but this should never be emphasized as the important aim of the food administration.

Within the short time the food administration has been in actual operation under authority of law, speculative profits have been entirely or nearly eliminated in many lines of food. The accomplishments of the administration, when measured by contemporaneous rates, from the most remarkable page in the commercial history of any nation during the war, are the real accomplishments and benefits of the food administration to the people might well be judged by the fact that it has not happened that which has. Both speculation in the exchanges and on the curb and actual profiteering have been stopped or are being stopped on the staple commodities which go to sustain life. War has always heretofore, in all nations and with all peoples, meant unbridled speculation in foods.

For the first time in history an attempt is being made to curb the greed of speculators during a time of national peril. It should be borne in mind that the most extraordinary food demands ever made upon our people are to be met, if we play our part in the destiny of nations with a more nearly depleted larder than has ever been ours in our national history.

The only era in our national history that might be used as a measurement as to what could be expected at the present time were it not for food control is that of the Civil War. Now, after three years of drain, there is a known worldwide shortage in food, whereas at that time of comparison during the Civil War there was no actual shortage of foodstuffs and yet prices not only went up very rapidly but continued ascending in the latter stages, after the war had ended. The cost of high prices in any commodity was not reached in that era prior to 1861, and then on but few. Some commodities ceased advancing at the close of the war in 1865, and some commenced to decline only in 1867, 1868 and 1869.

While the general basis of prices at the commencement of the present era was considerably higher than at the commencement of the Civil War era, the percentage of increase so far has been and promises to continue, far more heavily indeed. Many commodities in which there was then no real national shortage, at least a world-wide shortage, increased several hundred per cent over the basic pre-war prices. These increases were almost if not entirely due to speculation rather than to any natural laws of commerce. It was partially to prevent a repetition of this disastrous example that the United States food administration was created.

On the 4th day of April congress declared that a state of war existed with Germany. On the 17th day of May following, less than a month and a half later, President Wilson appointed Herbert Hoover United States food administrator. When appointed he found that he had no power conferred upon him by law, but was directed by the president that he should accomplish whatever he could voluntarily, and this was the programme he followed until Aug. 10, when the United States food administration was established by law. Prices already high, ascended very rapidly between April 6 and May 17. Since that time, however, the law of food control, and the law of food control, have been established and on an average now show a slight decline, with promise of more healthy decline in the future.

Wheat is another illustration of what might have happened. Between April 6, when a condition of war was recognized, and May 17, when Mr. Hoover was appointed food administrator by the president, the price of wheat rose from \$1.80 per bushel in February to \$2.40 per bushel in May 17. Flour that sold for \$2.15 in February was selling for \$2.75 May 17. The wheat producers received but little or no benefit from this rapid increase in price. In truth this was largely a speculative increase made at a time when there was only a rather slight shortage in the public mind, and the wheat demands to be made this year upon the United States. Perhaps nothing more remarkable ever been recorded in commercial history than the spirit of acceptance on the part of the grain exchange people of the world when the food administrator without actual powers in May called their representatives together in Washington to instruct them that all speculation in wheat, must cease.

It should be remembered that at no time in the history of this country had there ever been such opportunities for speculative profits in wheat and flour. Not only had all the wheat in this country become necessary for the sustenance of the world but there was an admitted shortage and the time had come in the history of nations when the necessity was so admittedly great that price ceased to be the primary consideration. The price of flour at that time had risen to \$17 per barrel. It was now selling at an average price throughout the United States of about \$12 per barrel. The normal consumption of flour in the

FINANCIAL

MONTREAL TRANSACTIONS

(J. M. Robinson & Sons, members Montreal Stock Exchange)
Canadian Bank of Commerce—3 at 188.
Brompton—15 at 45, 40 at 45 1/2.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF STEAMSHIP SERVICES SUCCESS IN AUSTRALIA

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 28.—That government ownership and operation of steamship services has proven a great success in Australia is indicated in a report received here from D. H. Ross, Canadian trade commissioner at Melbourne.

SHARP CRITICISM OF THE STREET CAR SERVICE IN HALIFAX

There is very sharp criticism in Halifax of the street car service in that city. One correspondent of the Herald writes: "The desperate condition of the street car service in Halifax needs no elucidation, making every allowance for the emergency created by the disaster of December 6. No excuse or reason exists for the total demoralization of the system."

THE HUMAN RESOURCES.

The Ottawa government would do well to follow the example of the Lloyd George government and add a minister of public health to its members. Canada has created machinery to help in the conservation of its material resources. It has lagged behind so far as federal action is concerned, in regard to the conservation of human resources.

BILL DONOVAN MAY GO BACK TO TIGERS

Jennings Wants ex Manager Of Yanks to Coach Heavers
Well, they have dug up another job for "Smiling Bill" Donovan, erstwhile manager of the Yankees. How, according to reports, he is to go back to his old team and assist Hugh Jennings, the manager of the Detroit Tigers, in piloting the 1918 campaign.

FACE COVERED WITH PIMPLES ASHAMED TO GO OUT

Many an otherwise beautiful and attractive face is sadly marred by unsightly pimples, blotches, flesh worms and various other skin diseases. Their presence is a source of embarrassment to those afflicted as well as pain and regret to their friends. Many a cheek and brow cast in the mould of beauty have been sadly defaced, their attractiveness lost and their possessor rendered unhappy for years.

SEA FORTH SERGEANT UNDER ARREST IN AMERICAN CAMP

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 28.—Sergeant Farquhar declares that his statement that it required half the men at the camp to guard the other half, and that there were too many confined to barracks for petty infractions, was made in a jocular vein.

THE BLUE CROSS.

Mrs. Ronald Whiteaway, of Bridgetown (N. S.), honorary secretary for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick during 1917. They also wish to thank Mrs. Borden and the Red Cross Society of Sackville (N. B.) for kindly helping with the collections; also Miss Violet Whitaker and her helpers who collected so much in St. John (N. B.).

SUFFERED WITH NERVES

COULD NOT KEEP QUIET

Diseases of the nervous system are very common. All the organs of the body may be bound while the nerve centers may be affected. Many women become run down and nervous after household duties, never mind, and sooner or later find themselves their nerves shattered, and their heart action weakened.

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE — SELF-CONTAINED house, all modern, seven rooms and bath, front porch, with adjoining lot, W. J. McAlary, 22 Alexander street. Phone 1709-11.
FOR SALE — MODERN HOME, Tremblay, situated in the valley, consisting of seven rooms, bath and electric. Must be sold by February first. Apply Homeowner, Box 3 at 4 Times.

RUSSIA MAY JOIN GREAT WAR

"It is wrong to think the Russian situation hopeless from the allied point of view. Russia will again come back as a strong fighting force, if she is not properly handled," says Col. F. P. Hunter, who has recently returned from Russia. "Invaded home, as the result of a wrong which he received last year, for the past few days Col. Hunter has been staying with his mother, Mrs. J. H. Hunter, near Rockwood Park, large lot, shade trees, lawn, hot water heating, electric light, gas, hardwood floors, and concrete cellar. Enquire High Cannel, Box 167, St. John, N. B. 71888-1-81.

OPERA HOUSE BILL VARIED AND GOOD

A Jarring Note Saturday Night Not to Credit Of Local People Who Participated
Opera House patrons were out in force on Saturday and all four performances were well attended. That the various vaudeville acts were enjoyed by the audience is shown by the hearty reception tendered the participants and from the many favorable comments passed. The programme itself was of the high standard, and the variety of people who have vaudeville, for it is diversified and has novel features which add to its attractiveness.

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SUIT SALE

We have taken stock of our Ready-for-Wear Suits and find a number of single suits and some lines that have proved slow sellers. They are worsted and tweeds in two and three-button sacks and pinch-backs.

They have been marked down to prices that should be attractive and effect the desired clearance.

In a word, suits regularly priced \$15 to \$30 have been reduced to \$10, \$15 and \$17.50. To purchase several in anticipation of future needs would be a profitable investment.

Gilmour's 68 King St.

For twenty-one years he has been an officer in the imperial army, he wears a row of ribbons on his breast, but, like all big men, is extremely modest as to his honors. When asked by the Star what decorations the ribbons represented, with the blush of a school boy, Col. Hunter replied, "Oh, just the D. S. O. and a few other little things."

Col. Hunter, who had been attached to the right flank of the army for a number of years, was in Afghanistan when the war broke out, and for some months took part in the fighting on the northwest border. His experiences since then have been extremely varied. He has fought in the Balkans, he was chief of staff and commander of a brigade in Mesopotamia, where he was commander of the right flank of the army which is now under General Marshall, and also for a time was with Indian Expeditionary Force D, on the Russian front in the Caucasus, when our armies formed part of those of the Grand Duke Nicholas.

Col. Hunter was in Moscow and Petrograd during the heat of the revolution, but of his experiences there he is extremely reticent.

On his way home he had to face some interesting problems in transportation. After going 1,000 miles on the Trans-Siberian railway, he rode 600 or 700 miles on horseback through Persia, covering the remaining 500 miles to the city by motor car.

"Conditions in Russia are intensely interesting, and are of the utmost importance. He was in Moscow in an interview with the Star. "Russia, if properly handled, will be a strong force for the Allies. Certainly there is only one universal feeling in the country, and that is detestation of Germany. There is a feeling of sympathy for the Allies, and in power now—but not for long. No one party, no matter how strong it be, helps Russia at the present time, unaided."

"We ought to be very, very sympathetic with Russia. From the point of view of casualties she has suffered more than all the other allies combined."

In respect to his military position Col. Hunter would not speak much concerning conditions in Russia, but he related one picturesque incident.

"I remember one very impressive sight witnessed in Moscow last September. Against the background of the lurid red of the evening sky stood the Kremlin with its magnificent gold domes surmounted by the golden imperial eagles, emblem of the Russian empire."

Manned in the 'Red Place,' so named because of the terrible slaughter suffered there during the rule of an earlier Czar, before the Revolution, were some 7,000 people, the typical Russian mob—soldiers, workmen, and women. They waved in the air a couple of thousand red revolutionary banners, bearing the inscription: 'Down with everything!'

With all this display scarcely a sound was heard except the rustling of the banners. The feeling was at white heat and too intense for shouting. To the six Italian men present it was an excitingly momentous sight, and we were perhaps to form some idea of the conditions of Paris, in the days of the French revolution. Yes, while being impressive, this scene was far from being terrible—to us. Just a few words of description. Down with everything! Up with the new! We drove freely through the crowd. In spite of the lights on some of the banners, the movement it was known that we were British, we were everywhere greeted with cheers.

"We stopped to speak with one enthusiastic revolutionist who carried a banner bearing in Russian the inscription: 'Brotherhood, friendship, and love to the Russian republic with Nicholas!' When I asked him how he reconciled these two ideas, the amazingly simple solution was given. 'Oh, now that we have a republic, the next thing to do is to find a good Czar to rule it.'"

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YOU can grasp the present investment opportunities if you utilize the Systematic Plan. Send for it today. J. M. Robinson & Sons, Established 1889, Members Montreal Stock Exchange.

NEW BOOKLET "CANADA'S WAR LOANS Including VICTORY BONDS Interesting things about them. This booklet includes tables showing the Total Funded Debt of Canada, the Domestic War Loans of Canada, Income Tax Tables, a Comparison of the Price of British Consols, French Rentes and United States bonds prior to, during and after war periods. Record of subscriptions to the Victory and Domestic War Loans by provinces—Record of subscriptions to the Victory Loan—How to buy and sell, etc. 820,085 people out of total population of 7,891,000 bought Victory Bonds. This is a measure of the Canadian people's practical interest in their own loans. Every Victory Bond holder should call or write for a copy. If you are interested, we shall be glad to supply a copy on request. A. E. AMES & CO., Investment Securities, UNION BANK BLDG., TORONTO, TRANSPORTATION BLDG., MONTREAL, 74 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

BILL DONOVAN MAY GO BACK TO TIGERS Jennings Wants ex Manager Of Yanks to Coach Heavers. Well, they have dug up another job for "Smiling Bill" Donovan, erstwhile manager of the Yankees. How, according to reports, he is to go back to his old team and assist Hugh Jennings, the manager of the Detroit Tigers, in piloting the 1918 campaign.

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MORNING NEWS OVER THE WIRES. Lawrence Moore, ten-year-old son of William Moore, St. Stephen, while attempting to jump on a car of a passing freight fell beneath the wheels. The wheels passed over his leg above the knee and almost severed it. He was not noticed at the time of the accident and was not found until some little time afterwards. He was taken to the hospital where the leg was amputated, but he did not recover from the shock and died soon after being removed from the operating table. At an early hour this morning the barn belonging to William Boyle, who resides about two miles from St. John, was totally destroyed by fire. Besides the building, Mr. Boyle lost about twelve tons of hay, 100 bushels of oats, harness, wagons and farm machinery. The loss is estimated at about \$1,000, with no insurance.

NOTICE TO MARINERS. Notice is hereby given that Little Hope automatic gas and whistling buoy is not burning. Will be relighted as soon as possible. C. H. HARVEY, Agent, Marine and Fisheries Dept. 1-80. NOTICE TO MARINERS. Notice is hereby given that the light on Northern Wolf Gas and Whistling Buoy is not burning. Will be relighted as soon as possible. J. C. CHESLEY, Agent, Marine and Fisheries Dept. 1-80. Douglas Fir Sheathing. 7-16 x 2-1/4 V Joint or 7-16 x 2-1/4 V and Centre. Clear and kiln dried. Makes beautiful ceiling and wainscot. Special Cash Price on quantities, \$35.00 per M. ft. J. Roderick & Son, Britain Street, Phone Main 854.