

## AFTER-WAR CONTROL OF FOODS WANTED.

"There is one policy which cannot change, and that is the vital necessity of simple living, of economy in all consumption—for commodities more or less substitute each other," stated Mr. Hoover recently. We must realize that the spectre of famine abroad now haunts the abundance of our table at home. There are conditions of famine in Europe that will be beyond our power to remedy. There are 40,000,000 people in North Russia to whom, I fear, but little access with food can be obtained this winter. Their transportation is demoralized in complete anarchy, and many of their ports will be frozen, even if internal transport could be realized. I expect the most dreadful results of starvation, beyond all human power to allay.

I look for a turn of American food trades towards conservative and safe business, because in this period that confronts us, with the decreased buying power of our own people, with uncertainty as to the progress of the world's politics, with the government control of imports and exports, he would be a foolish man indeed who to-day started a speculation in food. It is our duty, however, to exert ourselves in every direction so to handle our food during reconstruction as to protect producers and consumers and to assure our trades against chaos and panic.

Some organization must be continued or set up to guide our distribution of food abroad. The vast purchases for export are now all in the hands of governments, many of them acting in common; and their powers in buying could, if misused, ruin our producers, or, alternately, do infinite harm to our consumers. An utter chaos of speculation and profiteering would reign if these buyers were not co-ordinated and controlled. Some one must co-ordinate the internal transportation of these large exports with our domestic distribution. Someone must co-operate with the Shipping Board in the provision of overseas tonnage. Some one must organize our own needed imports of sugar, coffee, and vegetable oils. Some one must stimulate and guide our people in their desire to help in this war against famine.

Germany has not only sucked the food and animals from all these masses of people she has dominated, but has left behind her a total wreckage of social institutions, and this mass of people is now confronted with engulfment in absolute anarchy. If we value our own safety and the social organ-

ization of the world, if we value the preservation of civilization itself, we cannot sit idly by and see the growth of this cancer in the world's vitals. Famine is the mother of anarchy. From the inability of governments to secure food for their people grows revolution and chaos. From an ability to supply their people grows stability of government and the defeat of anarchy. Did we put it on no higher plane than interest in the protection of our institutions, we must bestir ourselves in solution of this problem.

But there are millions of people now liberated from the German yoke for whose interests we have fought and bled for the last eighteen months. It is not up to us to neglect any measure which enables them to return to health, to self-support, and to their national life."

### ECONOMIES SHOULD CONTINUE.

War time food economies ought to continue because they are best for the public health, Professor Henry C. Sherman, of Columbia University, told the American Public Health Associations' annual meeting at Chicago in the middle of December.

Increased use of fruit, vegetables and perishable foods to save meat and sugar had greatly benefited the country's health, Professor Sherman said.

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, New York city's public health commissioner, said that food saving and food control must continue because of high prices and the small prospect of their decrease, until the soldiers come home.

"Federal and state food control must be continued and expanded," Dr. Copeland declared, "and such functions as are entirely local turned over to municipalities. An honest and co-operative market under municipal direction would increase food shipments sufficiently to lower prices." Dr. Copeland praised the work of the New York Mayor's committee of women, headed by Mrs. Oliver Harriman, for success in reclaiming some of the food previously regarded as unfit.

The Food Production Department of the British Board of Agriculture has been asked by the War Cabinet to obtain information as to the possibility of carrying out schemes of land reclamation, if supplies of soldier labour should be available for the purpose during the period of demobilization.