
What is Food Control?



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WHAT IS FOOD CONTROL, this new knowledge forced on Man by war? It is the most appalling undertaking the collective world has had. It is the fight against World Famine.

Food Control is no more "fixing" prices for the masses than it is spoon-feeding for the individual. Price-fixing is a small, often only an insignificant, part of its ramifications. Food Control in its last terms is food production, food possession, food distribution and food allotment by the State. That is what it has come to in all but name in France, in England and in Italy. It came, perhaps less democratically, in Germany and Austria-Hungary many months ago. In its international aspect, Food Control now means, or will shortly mean, the finding of food for between 400,000,000 and 500,000,000 people three times a day for seven days a week as long as the war lasts, and as long afterwards as may be requisite to restore, all over the world, the disturbed means of distribution—a period put at anywhere between one and three harvests.

CONTROL IS NOT WAND-WAVING

With the cobwebs off our eyes so that we understand that Food Control is not wand-waving about "fixing" prices, something else comes into sight. It is that Food Control is everywhere an utterly new knowledge for man. Like aerial flight and under-sea navigation, it was known theoretically before the war. Each of these new practical sciences may be continued for peace purposes when the last echo of belligerency has died. "And the greatest of these" is Food Control. It may be, indeed, one of the inexplicable compensations for so much suffering today that Food Control, started chiefly through the vile driving purpose of war, may, in the future, help to right those dire inequalities of poverty and destitution by teaching a better, a fairer, a wiser distribution of foodstuffs.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, the United States Food Administrator, recently said that the "war has entered a phase in which food dominated the economics, strategy and statesmanship, not only of the countries at war, but of neutrals as well." There is something odd and unexplained to us in Canada, living on the fulness of things by the profits of war orders from the Mother Country, to be told that four neutral nations are on bread rations. Holland, Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden have less intrinsically to do with the war than Canada has. Their existence is not directly at stake. Why should they have hardships and deprivation? Switzerland is reported to be on shorter rations than even any of the warring countries, to be almost as short of food as overrun, broken Belgium. Our duty, next to that of the Allies, is to share our food with such innocent neutrals. It is in the "spirit of the game," this comradeship among peoples, although it is but a minor side of the new democratic science of Food Control. This international sharing of food means a new brotherhood of nations.

IN THE HUN PROGRAMME.

German Food Control is a part of ruthless strategy. Germany had included this science among her forty years of calculated study for her war of conquest. Her own internal supplies of food were commandeered at the crack of war. Before the German hordes had over-run Belgium and Northern France, the very ration for the conquered people had been, so to speak, weighed out and apportioned by the Commissariat. True, for a few weeks, the plan worked harshly: it was untried in practice, yet members of the Belgian Relief Committee, of which Mr. Hoover was the head, learned more of Food Control under the ruthless Hun administrators than they could have been taught in a cycle at home. Since then Germany has stretched out this system to include another 65,000,000 people allied to her cause in Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey; and thus has she increased their resistance for war a hundredfold. Germany will leave nothing undone this summer, one may be sure, to utilise the Russian wheat fields.

Prof. Kellogg, of the Belgian Relief Committee, who has specialised on the rations of war prisoners in Germany, says in *The Atlantic Monthly*:—"Germany

is fighting as a whole people, a whole nation mobilised. That she has not already been beaten is due no less to her food organization than to her fighting organization. She has put patriotism and food together. So must we."

PATRIOTISM AND FOOD

Patriotism and food in other countries, too, have been forced to go hand in hand. Of the Allies, France naturally had to deal with the problem first. In September, 1914, she took the first steps. But it was a year after that she made the first order regulating distribution. Up to that time the peace-time foodstocks had not been eaten into. The French Food Control department was for months under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In January, 1917, food shortage became acute and control passed to the Ministry of Public Works, but in March last a special Ministry of Revictimizing was formed. With it conjointly went the Ministry of Maritime Transports. This association shows how closely food supply is linked with the shipping for its distribution. Thanks to being "within the ring," the Central Powers are not dependent on the vagaries of sea-borne traffic for their supplies—a condition which works all in their favor in submarine warfare, for they give their opponents no target.

FICTITIOUS PRICE FIXING

No country has experimented more with the theory of price "fixing" than has France; the Frenchman clings to ancient economics like a Scot to the Shorter Catechism. One of the French war ministries fell through an attempt to juggle with "price fixing." Certain minimum prices were fixed, only to be revoked as they failed successively. The French Government and people found that maximum prices, too, only worked where the Government had the control of the commodities. Maximum prices in other cases afforded no relief for the growing cost of living. Experience soon taught that nothing so frightened the farmer-producer as a maximum price. He knew that he would have to pay at a higher scale for all he produced each succeeding year, because the price of labor and everything he himself had to buy

would go up. He knew that if his selling price were fixed his profits would be small or absent. So the farmer did not produce. Inevitably the cost of living, aggravated by shortage of supplies, went up higher than if no price had been fictitiously fixed.

“STRETCHING” WHEAT SUPPLY

Wheat milling, also, was not until somewhat late put under public control in France. French millers must now mill 85 per cent of the actual grain-corn into flour for bread-making. The French baker must add 30 per cent by weight of non-wheaten flour before he begins to bake.

Then came a systematised delivery from the bakery. Each French baker could only supply bread to customers whose names were on a list approved by a Government official. That prevented waste. It was the first step to the bread card. It prevented a double share going to anyone inclined to “hog.” The spreading of this system without inequalities over 30,000,000 people, whose male workers were mostly at war or in war occupations, was an achievement almost unprecedented. Only 7 oz. of bread can now be secured by a French civilian a day: before the war he took bread at the rate of 2 lbs. a day. France has now two meatless days a week and her meat supply is stringently controlled. Her sugar allowance is only 13 pounds a head for a year. M. Maurice Long, the Minister of Requisitioning in France, declared with dynamic force on December 31st that the French civil population had only three days' supply of foods and were dependent on British shipping for the rest. And yet France fights unconquerably.

ITALY'S EFFORT TO CONTROL

Italy was for two years a long way behind Great Britain and France in Food Control but the severe reverse of last autumn brought a change until it would appear as though Italy is going as far into State food regulation as any of the Allies. A definitive rationing scheme for all staples, meat, bread, fats and sugar, is being prepared. Sugar is permitted only to the extent of 13 pounds a head a year.

Rationing of wheat flour and bread is now obligatory and in some communes the rule holds for rye, paste, corn, rice and oats. A family ticket system is in use. The average ration has been fixed at three-fifths of a pound of bread a day for the civil population, while in the working men's lunch rooms --a very common thing in Italy--only three-tenths of a pound of bread can be served at a meal. On January 3 of this year, all grain, even the smallest quantities, were taken over by the Government and any private person storing more than 22 lbs. of flour is liable to have it confiscated. A still later decree permits millers to grind only the grain allowed by the Police Prefects of the district.

The people of Italy have two meatless days and only one dish of meat can be served in public eating places. So short had provisions run in Italy just before Christmas that even depleted France was obliged to send in emergency stocks to feed thousands of the civil population.

"FOOD DICTATOR" IN BRITAIN

Great Britain, in Food Control, as in munition making, in war financing, in naval and military effort and in sea transport, has been the marvel of the peoples. Step by step the nation has "gone over the top." Like her own tanks, it has not been with a preliminary blowing of trumpets. But the effect is terrific. Today Baron Rhondda, the British Food Controller, is called by the leading American authority "not a Food Controller but literally a Food Dictator." He has complete and unquestioned control of "production, manufacture, storage, transport, distribution, purchase or sale, and the use and consumption of any article of food."

The British have made a more democratic appeal to their people than any of the European Allies. As in her other war preparations England took rich and poor alike into her national confidence. She has possibly accomplished more in this way than any others. It is not the fault of the method if, as in voluntary recruiting, it reached its human limits. Great Britain's food difficulties did not start until the war had been running fifteen months. Since October, 1916, her regulations have been firm and growingly drastic. The co-operation of the whole nation alone

made it possible. Until January, 1917, the Board of Trade governed food. Then, as it became plain that the Allied effort would fall more and more on her shoulders, a special Ministry of Food was formed. In July last, Lord Rhondda, one of the ablest business men in the United Kingdom, was appointed to succeed Lord Devonport.

To say that the British control now extends over every conceivable article of diet in a thousand forms is to give but a poor indication of the enormous amount of work entailed. There is no yardstick on this side of the Atlantic by which we can measure the job. The precis given in the appendix will show not so much the articles concerned as the complexities which each simple-looking bit of "price fixing" or control brought in its trail. Only through his attribute as "Food Dictator," could Lord Rhondda have undertaken it and he rightly ranks it now as "not second even to the work of directing the war at the front."

CANADA'S PROBLEM IS DIFFERENT.

Warnings are known to be of singularly little use. Yet one is obligatory here. What is imperatively imposed in the United Kingdom, France and Italy now is not necessarily possible in Canada. Great Britain is an importing country; her supplies enter in mass and can be checked right down to the consumer. Canada has her supplies, so to speak, already distributed, or rather, not yet gathered in mass, spread over 4,000 miles of territory, most of them produced in localities where they are consumed. Control consequently is impossible in the same sense as in Great Britain. Canadian exports, where the commodity is once massed, can be, and are, as easily controlled as are British imports. Yet that is not a consideration of those who just now, with their eye only on their own little distributive and eating area, ask vacuously what the Food Board is doing.

EVERY WOMAN A POLICEMAN.

"We have but one police force, the American woman," -is in the latest appeal of Mr. Hoover asking for food saving. The saving of foods to en-

able them to become exports from Canada lies largely with the consumer, not with the Food Board. When once they have been gathered together, as a part of the wheat and meat supplies they have been well held in hand.

In this connection The National Food Journal, published by the Ministry of Food under Lord Rhondda, on November 14, said:

"A fair distribution of butter or of any commodity which is imported is comparatively simple; it is, however, a different problem to secure that Highland cattle or Devonshire sheep shall be served to a particular industrial centre where they are required when the ordinary incentive of competitive prices is removed."

So in Canada it would not be possible to make regulations of food control which would apply equally to industrial centres of dense population like Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, and to the huge sparsely-populated districts of the nine provinces. It might even lead to class animosity, as in Germany where it is reported this difficulty "has produced dangerous ill-feeling between the agricultural and urban populations. The former is accused, with justice, of stealing the food which it is its legal duty to supply to the towns and of relaxing its efforts to secure the maximum of production. It retorts by pointing to the extensive robbery and forgery which prevail in food administration in the towns and by charging municipal authorities with prodigal and careless administration."

COMPULSORY RATIONING.

Since the middle of January, 1918, compulsory rationing has been in force in some districts in England, and is being rapidly extended to the entire country. This ration is based on Sir Arthur Yapp's voluntary rationing scheme. It was found that the first estimate of the amount of fats could not, with the depleted shipping, be supplied. The butter or margarine allowance was drastically reduced from 10 oz. to 4 oz. a week. Rations necessarily correspond with the amount of food in stock in the whole country. The thing to notice especially is that these quantities were termed the maximum amounts and

people were urged to live well within the scale. Under the compulsory scale even this has not in all districts been attained, though this difficulty may be due to the newness of the methods of distribution.

On February 26 the British Food Ministry cabled to the Canada Food Board:

"Compulsory rationing of meat, butter or margarine and fats came into force yesterday throughout London and the Home Counties. Fourteen million people are now restricted to about 1½ pounds of meat, 4 ounces of butter or margarine and one-half pound of sugar per week. By March 25 compulsory rationing of these foodstuffs will be universal in the United Kingdom."

These amounts represent a drastic reduction from the schedule of voluntary rationing under the pledge of the League of National Safety. During January the Ministry of Food issued a memorandum showing the estimated beef and mutton supplies which would be available for the civilian population of the United Kingdom in 1918. It revealed deficiencies of nearly 30 per cent compared with 1916-17 and almost 45 per cent compared with 1913-14. Consumption of these meats had been at the rate of 150,000 tons a month in the year preceding the war. In 1916-17 the quantity had dropped to 120,000 tons, and the total available supplies in sight for 1918 are not more than 88,000 tons a month. The memorandum emphasized the dependence of Great Britain on North American sources because of the shortage of shipping to make the long Australasian voyage and the lack of refrigerator cargo-space through the necessary diversion of some such shipping for the use of France and Italy.

THE LINK WITH AGRICULTURE.

Closely allied with Food Control, indeed essentially, a part of its anticipatory concern, is agricultural production. No one can regard food supplies without asking "What of the next crop?" England's encouragement of agriculture has been more efficacious than that of any other country, according to The American Food Journal. The Corn Production Bill of April, 1917, guaranteed to grain farmers a sliding

scale of minimum prices for wheat extending over six years, minimum prices for oats, and a minimum wage for farm laborers during this period. England's cultivated area has increased from less than 25 per cent of her total area by about 800,000 acres, and the area for the 1918 crops is expected to show an increase of 2,400,000 acres from grass lands alone.

No other country in the world has achieved anything like the same results by the compulsion only of that vague thing the Anglo-Saxon races know as "public opinion."

Why should Britain and the other Allies take all this trouble? What is the ultimate aim of this science of Food Control? Again the answer may be well given in the words of Mr. Hoover:—"The failure to solve this (food) problem with its thousand complexities will certainly involve the failure to solve the war problem in the only way we and the civilized world must have it solved."

GLOBE-WIDE DEPLETION.

Only partly is this extreme of measures caused by the German submarine campaign. It is due more to a globe-wide depletion of food stocks, cereal and animal, before the war; it is accentuated terribly in a low season by the withdrawal of millions of farm workers and producers for the ranks of the fighters. It is the fear of famine on an unheard-of scale that has so suddenly made Food Control a science which must be studied in all its phases without delay. It is the 20th Century method of warding off the consequences of an almost run-out stock, but the task is fearfully complicated by the rude insistence of a world war.

This study has brought out in curious, almost mocking, form the old fundamental fact humanity was trying to forget, that "bread is the staff of life," "If the bread ration is normal, or sufficient, much repression or substitution can be used in the case of the other foods." ("The Food Problem"—Prof. Kellogg and Taylor of the United States Food Administration.) Thus cereals become of paramount importance, feed-grains as well as bread-grains, because at a pinch the former can be used for human

consumption mixed with wheat flour, and because food supply depends on meat, animal fats and dairy products, which depend on the availability of feed-grains.

Before the war the Western Allies (the United Kingdom, France, Belgium and Italy) produced an annual average of about 1,500,000,000 bushels of cereals. Their consumption averaged 2,250,000,000 bushels. But their production in 1917, because of loss of man-power and of actual land to the enemy and lack of fertilizers, fell short. In France, for example, wheat production scarcely exceeded one-half the normal.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION.

The following tables give an illuminating view of the wheat situation:

	Bushels.
Pre-war average imports from the United States.....	79,426,000
Pre-war average imports from Canada	112,900,000
Pre-war average imports from elsewhere	188,478,000
	<hr/>
Total average imports.....	380,804,000
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Average production.....	590,675,000
Approximate production for 1917.....	383,770,000
	<hr/>
Decrease in home production... ..	106,905,000

It is impossible to arrive at a reliable estimate of what the present shortage may be in the Allied European countries, but it is stated unequivocally that to make up the supplies they want, and want with insistence to-day, the Allies are dependent upon North America, because shipping cannot be spared for the more distant routes. Australia, New Zealand and India are inaccessible.

THE "WHY" OF CONSERVATION.

In a survey by the United States Food Administration the situation is summarized thus: "The Canadian and United States supplies, upon a normal export basis, fall approximately 350,000,000 bushels

short of the Allied needs. If by conservation measures in Canada and the United States we can increase the export by 150,000,000 bushels we will have reduced the deficiency to 200,000,000 bushels. This we could do if our both peoples would eat one pound less of wheat flour per week and one pound of corn meal instead."

The "if" of the proposition is quite taken out now. Lord Rhondda cabled to Mr. Hoover on January 25, 1918:

"Unless you are able to send the Allies at least 75,000,000 bushels of wheat over and above what you have exported up to January 1st, and in addition to the exportable surplus from Canada, I cannot take the responsibility of assuring our people that there will be enough food to win the war.

EATING THE STORE BEAST.

The policy of the European nations, both Allies and enemy, is to kill off the present supply of animals. That is has already gone a long way is shown by the following table:—

Live Stock	Decrease, Western Allies.	Decrease in other coun- tries, includ- ing enemies.	Total net decrease.
Cattle.....	8,420,000	26,750,000	28,080,000
Sheep.....	17,500,000	34,000,000	54,500,000
Hogs.....	7,100,000	31,600,000	32,425,000
Total....	33,020,000	92,350,000	115,005,000

[No particularized description of what has been accomplished in Food Control in the United States and Canada need be given in a sketch like this. In the nature of things it is subsidiary and ancillary to the war demands of the European Allies but adapted to our cis-Atlantic position. It is but due to the good sense of the people of both lands to add that what the British, the French and the Italian Governments call for is being met so far as it is possible with prompt, glad and loyal response.

Side by side with the developments in all these countries there is going on a co-ordination and a correlation of all the information being upturned in this

new science. It is being constantly reviewed in the light of recent events to form a huge international scheme; it cannot be complete in one country, for the general plan is so dependent on requirements in the others. Food Control today, more than aviation, more than submarine shipping, is the newest universal knowledge of this war.

A VAST NEW HUMAN KNOWLEDGE.

The foregoing gives a glimpse of the vastness and the scope of this new science we have been forced to study at high pressure. Yet that scarcely touches the fringe of the subject of Food Control as it has come to stay. There are to it two especially fascinating sides, which, with our scientists' craze for Greek-derived words, have been termed the physiological and psychological aspects. The first term concerns the study of man's likes and dislikes in foods; and of what he must get in chemical technical terms to keep body and soul together. The second touches man's requirements in the mass, his national food compulsions and his racial prejudices. These are no mere abstractions in this present war-time need. They bear directly on Food Control in 1918. As a people we have not yet learned to comprehend that to send our Allies foodstuffs to which their stomachs are not accustomed is worthless aid. Barley and oats, corn and buckwheat and millet are grown on this side of the Atlantic, but to send these in any large quantity to Europe at present, asking those engaged in warring on our behalf to eat them instead of wheat, is to do a disservice. Under the new science the world is re-learning that "what is one man's meat is another man's poison," even to the rejection of that which may be intended to stave off starvation. One of the lessons in feeding Belgium was odd in the extreme. Because of the Belgian national habits of nourishment and alimentation, good salt cod fish was often declined by the most wretched!

THE VAGARIES OF RACIAL TASTES.

In peace times Germans who are perfectly ready to eat horse-flesh regard the rabbit as akin to the rat and think of the British use of suet with the repugnance that characterizes the attitude of the Jew

towards pork. Do we not as slightly think of the French gourmand's frog and snail? Only slowly can the vagaries of the appetite be changed. It took fifty years to remove the British prejudice to macaroni; the process is still going on with spaghetti, though both are a valued Ally's staple food. Thus it has already become a maxim of Food Control that you cannot give a nation those foods in war-time that by gastronomic and culinary custom it did not take in peace-time. An Allied army in Europe today could not fight on corn because in Europe Indian meal and Indian corn are pig and poultry feeds in the main. Neither could we get the civil populations, in high nervous tension by war at close quarters, to be satisfied with a diet that would have for them the strangeness of Chinese edible birds' nests.

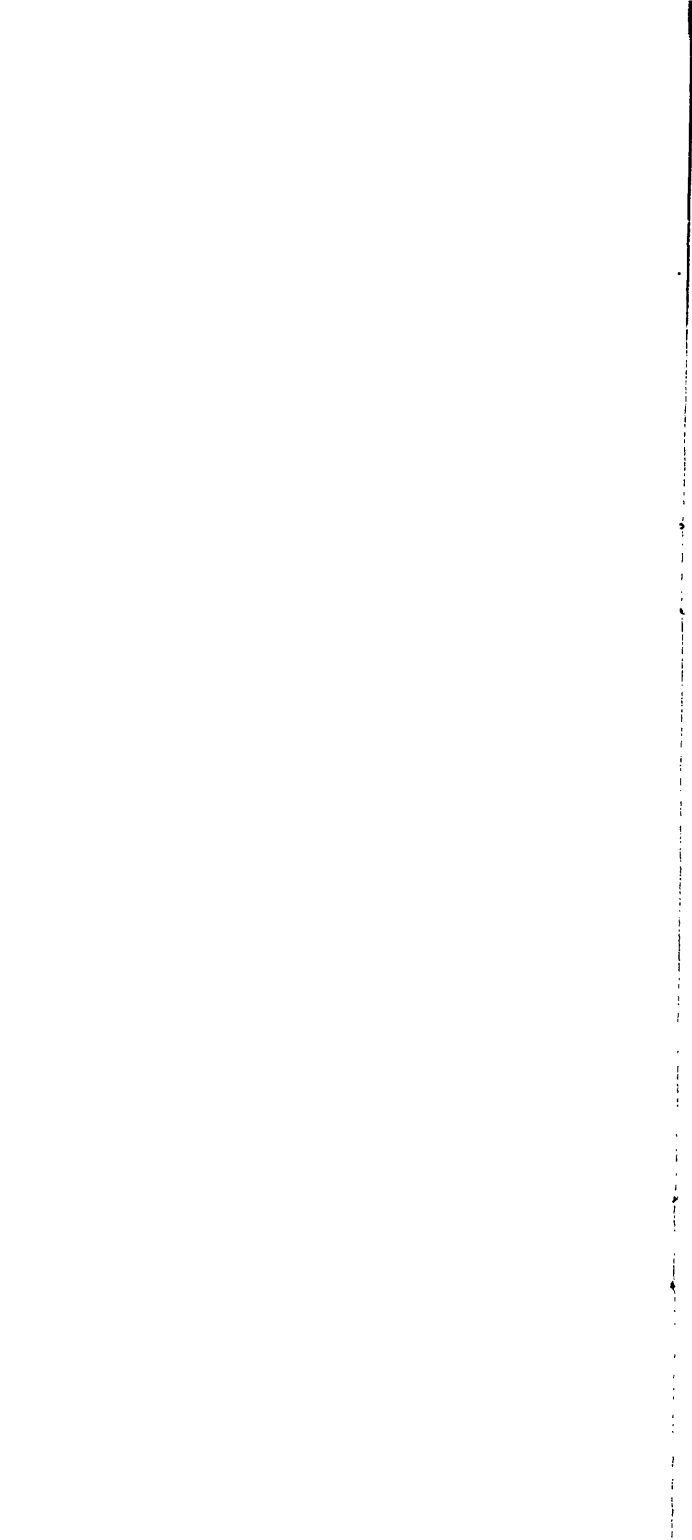
There are, too, other considerations and other branches of Food Control, all pertinent, all interesting to us in Canada. Will it, after the war, help to solve the problem of poverty by controlled distribution without charity? Will better national grocery help to improve the race? Shall we finally regularize the cost of living by its aid? Will it some day dominate our export trade? Will it, by the same means, run to the other end of economics and dominate our agriculture and our agricultural departments? It has reached that in every fighting European country now.

THE ALL IN ALL OF CONTROL.

These things, however, seem remote and far off. Food Control for the present is the supplying of such foodstuffs to our Allies and to their civil populations as they have been accustomed to and in such quantities as will enable them to carry on the conjoint fight against a tyranny that did not scruple to twist Food Control to its "Kultured" ends. To supplying those foodstuffs our whole and united efforts should be devoted in the Dominion.

"Our Allies who are asking us imperatively for needed help," says the Prof. Kellogg already quoted, "are not asking this without making on their own part a most earnest and adventurous attempt to help themselves."

"The work of this Department" (Food Control), said Lord Rhondda, the British Food Controller, "is not second even to the work of directing the war at the front."



APPENDIX

FOOD CONTROL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Subjoined is given a brief precis of what had been accomplished in Great Britain to control a few of the foodstuffs before rationing went into effect.

ALLIED PURCHASES.

Co-ordinated buying of foodstuffs on behalf of the Allies began in November, 1916, when the "Wheat Executive" was formed. This Executive consists of one representative each for France, Italy and the Royal Commission on Wheat Supplies. As a fact, all purchases on behalf of the Wheat Executive are made by the Wheat Commission. The Board of Trade purchased refrigerated meat on behalf of the Allies as well as for requirements in the United Kingdom. The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply early in 1916 sold a large quantity of sugar to France and it was agreed that they should buy for France as well as for the United Kingdom, Italy, and certain small quantities for Belgium.

Steps were taken for closer allied co-operation. The first was the formation by Great Britain, France and Italy of a Meats and Fats Executive on the lines of the Wheat Executive. All Allied purchases of bacon, ham, lard, butter, and cheese, were pooled through this body.

The difficulty of providing shipping for sugar from the East Indies had been largely responsible for a world shortage. With it came increased competition and consequent high prices for the Cuban crop. Mr. Hoover suggested that purchases of Cuban sugar should be centralised in a Committee to sit in New York, on which Lord Rhondda would appoint two nominees. Canada also has a representative on the Board. Such centralization of purchasing has brought favorable results to Canada as to the other Allied countries.

BACON.

Down to the end of August, 1917, a partial control of Bacon, Hams and Lard was effected by arrangement with the trade. Lists of maximum importers, manufacturers' and curers' prices for these articles were drawn up every fortnight at the Home and Foreign Produce Exchange by delegates from the London and Provincial Produce Exchange and representatives of the various trades. These prices were submitted for the approval of the Food Controller before publication. In view of the Meats and Fats Executive agreement, however, under which Allied buying of meats and fats was unified under one control, all other methods of buying imported bacon, hams and lard ceased. So the control of prices of these articles became vested in the Food Controller.

BREAD, FLOUR AND CEREALS.

The Wheat Commission control the importation of all wheat, barley, rye, oats, rice, oatmeal and cornflour. The Food Controller took over all the flour mills in the country. Since then manufacture

of flour is effected in conformity with directions given by the Flour Mills Control Committee. The extraction of flour from wheat has been raised to a nominal basis of 90 per cent; the percentage of flour from other permitted cereals has been fixed at not less than 20 and not more than 50. Maximum prices were fixed for sound British-grown grain of the 1917 crop. Flour millers generally buy their grain direct from farmers. Imported wheat is sold to millers at a parity with the maximum prices fixed for home-grown wheat.

The price of the 1-lb. loaf was set at 9d. and of the 2-lb. loaf 1½d. In some districts these loaves are being sold for less. A quarter of flour costs 8½d. This means a reduction of 20-25% on the prices previously charged. Paying the difference will cost the Imperial Exchequer at least \$200,000,000 by the end of this winter.

LIVE STOCK AND MEAT.

The Meat (Sales) Order has removed the speculative middleman. It limited the profits of legitimate middlemen. The Meat (Maximum Prices) Order, which came into force on September 3rd last, fixed the maximum wholesale dead meat prices till the end of January, 1918. Lists of maximum wholesale prices for the various joints and cuts are issued fortnightly by the Director of Meat Supplies after consultation with an advisory committee of the trade.

Twelve Live Stock Commissioners have been appointed and prominent auctioneers in England and Scotland work out plans for controlling the meat supplies and registering wholesalers and retailers. They also prepared a census of all live stock in Great Britain so as to deal with any local shortage.

All meat is owned by the Government. Distributors are allowed to charge certain amounts for the service of distribution.

MILK.

The Milk (Prices) Order of September, 1917, regulated the price of milk until the end of March, 1918, in fulfilment of the promise to the English farmer that the winter's milk should not be less than 1s. 9d. per imperial gallon. Where milk is sold wholesale by a person other than the producer the maximum price was fixed at 1s. 8d. a gallon for October and an extra 2d. for the five following months, plus ½d. where milk is delivered. These rates may be varied by Local Food Committees.

The maximum retail price a gallon was 2s. for October, and 2s. 4d. for the five following months. For milk delivered outside certain areas an additional charge of 4d. was authorized and a further charge of 1d. per quart allowed for delivery of bottled milk. Food Control Committees are further empowered under certain restrictions to make such arrangements as they may think fit for regulating the distribution.

POTATOES.

The Potatoes Order of September 13, 1917, prescribed a growers' minimum price of £6 per ton. This was revoked in November the Exchequer paying the difference between the

price offered and £6 per ton. This order provides also for control of the potato trade at all stages, by prescribing a growers' maximum price of £6 10.0 f.o.r., limits the profits of wholesalers and fixes a scale of maximum retail prices. The effect is that potatoes purchased by a retailer at prices between 6s. and 7/6 per cwt. may be retailed at not more than 1d. per lb., those purchased above 7/6 per cwt. may be retailed at not more than 1½d. per lb. All dealers in potatoes are registered.

No potatoes may pass through the hands of more than two wholesalers between the grower and the retailer. Profits of wholesale dealers are limited to 7/6 per ton of the aggregate sales.

SUGAR.

Highly complex have been the British efforts to furnish sugar, so necessary for foods. Months of effort were given to the problem, world wide in its nature. The outcome may be summarised as follows:—

No sugar can be sold retail except by retailers registered by a Local Food Control Committee.

Every household is entitled to obtain from the Local Food Office a sugar registration card to cover all members of the household not in receipt of Government rations. A portion of this card is deposited by the householder with the registered retailer selected by him. It is a condition of the retailer's registration that he must accept sugar cards tendered to him.

Caterers and institutions of all kinds have their supplies regulated.

Manufacturers are regulated in accordance with any restrictions imposed upon their use of sugar.

Registered retailers have their supplies of sugar regulated by the number of their registered customers.

Sugar is only obtainable in quantities on surrender of vouchers issued by the Local Food Office.

Wholesalers can only have those supplies of sugar which retailers, caterers, institutions and manufacturers or other wholesalers are authorised to obtain from them.

Severe penalties are prescribed for false statements and any offences.

FOOD ECONOMY.

This was begun in three ways—by appealing to the people to eat less; by elimination of waste; by the using of all foodstuffs to the greatest nutritive advantage. As instances of this last method may be cited:—

1. The coarser milling of flour.
2. The curtailment of brewing. Brewing is now severely restricted and there is absolutely no distilling in the United Kingdom except for munition purposes.
3. The diversion of a large quantity of the material used for stock and industrial purposes to human food.

Sheer waste was directly prohibited. Attention was given to the conservation of perishables by improved facilities for inland transport and cold storage, to the reduction of consumption by teaching improved kitchen economy and the establishment of central and communal kitchens where foods are cooked and served, not only for cheapness but for demonstration purposes also.

FOOD CONTROL BY LOCALITIES

The appointment of local food committees was undertaken vigorously until by the end of December, there were over 2,000 committees so working, each of at least twelve members giving their services. Each committee had by statute to include a woman and a Labor representative. In addition fifteen Commissioners were appointed, ten for England, two for Wales and three for Scotland, to assist the work of the local committees. Each of these Commissioners had the aid of one or more Assistant Commissioners with a paid staff and permanent offices in their districts.

ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS.

Until the middle of May, 1917, the all important matter of the enforcement of the Food Controller's orders was left to the police authorities only. Action was taken by them in the police court when complaints of infraction of the Food Controller's orders were made to them. At that time, however, with the growing sense of the seriousness of the international food position made more acute in the case of Great Britain and France by the German submarine campaign, the machinery for the enforcement was greatly increased. An outdoor staff of inspectors was appointed, each with a defined area and orders of the Local Government Board imposed on local authorities throughout Great Britain the powers and duties of carrying out the majority of the orders most directly concerning the public.

Efficiency was greatly added to when the local authorities became familiar with their new powers. A difficulty encountered at first was in the inadequacy of the fines which magistrates imposed. Lord Rhondda, therefore, instituted a system of registration of dealers in the principal articles of food, and intimated that, without prejudice to the enforcement of legal penalties, licenses would be withdrawn in cases of flagrant contravention.

HOARDING.

No person in the United Kingdom may acquire supplies of food beyond the needs of his ordinary consumption. A tradesman may not sell any article of food where he has reasonable ground for believing that the quantity ordered is in excess of requirements. The Food Controller may order the inspection of premises in which hoarding is suspected.

It has been estimated unofficially that there are 50,000 persons directly aiding by voluntary and other work to make Food Control a success in the United Kingdom.
