

CANADIAN FOOD BULLETIN

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FOOD CONDITIONS IN 1919.

"What are the prospects of food conditions in 1919?"

Few questions could be more difficult to answer satisfactorily. We are too near our doubled stores of food in the Dominion quite to realize the true conditions. The view is obscured by the plenty close at hand. A considerable release of shipping from war work has eased the tension in Europe. The dread of "a break in the chain" by submarine has gone. There are large parts of three seasons' crop of wheat in Australia, two crops in Argentina and a surplus in India. These are three factors which are very important because of the immediate relief they offer.

But these facts, gratifying as they are, form a serious difficulty. It is the difficulty of over-confidence, which may lead to waste and lowered production for next season. We are apt to forget that even if the whole of these southern and eastern crops were already shipped to Europe—and they are still months away from that point—there would remain an acute shortage.

There are four lean, bare seasons to be made good. The most terrible wastage of foods in war and means of producing foods took place among our own Allies, not in enemy countries. Crops in France and Italy, as well as their meat supplies, are far below average. Belgium is described as "industrially dead". Rumania, Serbia and Russia will be almost destitute for months to come, despite noble efforts to aid them.

Yet it is felt that a reasonable relaxing of the compulsory restrictions may be looked for in Canada. But a word of warning should be uttered. Prices can scarcely be expected to drop for a considerable time. The chief factor in setting prices in the Dominion, that of the Allied Purchasing Commissions, remains. A glance at the table of their purchases, given in this issue, will indicate how potent this factor is in controlling prices. Their activities will go on until the common larder in Europe is reasonably replenished. That this is still a long way off is shown by the curious fact that on December 15th, fully a month after hostilities ceased, the Dutch Food Controller had to institute a rationing plan for Holland. Only for the two holiday weeks at Christmas and New Year have the British food authorities been able to increase the scant rations; conditions in France and Italy are only slightly changed from what they were in October.

A small fraction only of the troops has yet been returned, and the demand on shipping, perhaps throughout the year, for this purpose will not make the bearing of the food burden much lighter for us in Canada, if we are to help to feed 200,000,000 mouths at least until the next harvest.

There ought, therefore, not to be much change in the voluntary food saving systems at home for some months to come.

FOOD AS A PRIME PEACE FACTOR.

In a cablegram from London to the Canadian Press, Mr. John W. Dafoe, says: The food situation in Europe is a matter of much moment to inter-allied interests because there is a close connection between the solution of this problem and the conclusion of an early and satisfactory peace. Within the past six weeks inter-allied food agencies have been carrying on extensive inquiries into the actual conditions in enemy and neutral countries. There is going on in Switzerland at present an important unofficial conference between the food officials of the various countries in which the whole food situation for the continent is being considered.

"Some of the European countries are known to be in great need. Among the allied and friendly peoples perhaps the Serbians and the Czecho-Slovaks are in the greatest danger of real privation, but all the European neutrals require to import foods. Of the enemy nations, Austria appears nearest the brink of starvation. Reports from Germany are conflicting and contradictory, but the known facts indicate that the home-produced foods there will not suffice in full beyond April.

"The United States, Canada, Australia and the Argentine are the countries which have considerable exportable supplies, and the partial liberation of shipping will permit these supplies to be brought to Europe in sufficient quantities to enable all actual needs to be met, if an efficient system of distribution is adopted.

"The conditions under which foods can be obtained and distributed become a political instrumentality among the first importance. They may be used in bringing about and maintaining stable and desirable forms of government, and plans are in process of elaboration for the purpose of dealing with the whole situation effectively and promptly. In these matters the Prime Minister of Canada and the members of the Canadian Peace Conference Mission are taking their parts. Moreover, in carrying out of the programme of the Inter-allied Food Council for the supplying of food to allied countries, which continue to have the first claim on the exportable surpluses, many matters of importance to Canada have come up from time to time, and the representations made on behalf of Canada on those questions are welcomed.

"Adjustments have been made and action taken affecting Canadian bacon and lard and packers of offals. In peas, beans,

apples, canned vegetables, etc., Canada has become one of the chief sources of supply, and her partnership in furnishing food is recognized as having been a sound and strong support to her co-operation by means of her army."

\$1,500,000,000 FOR WAR'S AFTER-MATH.

A cablegram by the Associated Press from Europe on January 4 says President Wilson's first legislative recommendation based on his study of conditions in Europe, looks to the relief of distressed populations "outside Germany," which are threatened with starvation.

There will be a request for immediate appropriation of \$100,000,000 to supply food to liberated peoples in Austria, Turkey, Poland and Western Russia, who have no recognized Governments, and are unable to finance international obligations.

The President's message said that food shipments worth \$1,500,000,000 must be made from the United States to Europe in the next seven months. An international organization, directed by Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, will supervise the distribution of the supplies. The appropriation will take care of the population in other districts notably in Eastern and Southern Europe, which have been ravaged by war.

AGRICULTURE ON COMMERCIAL BASIS.

The French Minister of Agriculture and Food recently informed representatives of the press that the future prosperity of France, depended on the quality of its agriculture. The war had taken men into other districts and brought them into touch with other nations whose methods of agriculture were entirely different from their own, and the experience thus gained would be of great service in reorganizing the home industry. This was important, as agricultural over-production would be required after the war. Credit and insurance must be made available to the agricultural labourer, who must be trained to take an intelligent interest in his work and must have his life rendered less monotonous. The cinema must be used for instruction.

Unless something is done quickly to make agricultural pursuits more attractive, the younger generation will drift into commercial establishments, with disastrous results for French agriculture.

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.

MAIN SAFEGUARDS MUST CONTINUE.

Just before his resignation as British Food Controller, the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes wrote:—

"I desire first to pay my tribute to the spirit and fortitude shown by our people at home during the past four years. Upon that steady temper, the magnificent exertions of our Navy and Army, from the battles of August, 1914, to the collapse of the enemy powers this autumn in no small measure depended. Few things contributed more to its maintenance than the organization of our food supply which Lord Rhondda so notably developed. Few things led more directly to the downfall of our enemies than the failure and unequal distribution of their supplies of food.

"Now that fighting has ceased, everyone hopes that food restrictions will be relaxed. I share that hope, and I am confident that my successor, whoever he may be, will not maintain the present restrictions for a day longer than the public interest demands. But this is not a moment to take any risks with the people's food, and it is my duty to remind you that the world's food supply must still, for a time, give ground for anxiety.

"We have recaptured from the enemy provinces which he has held for several years in occupation, many of which he has stripped of their food supplies and of their means of food production. In large territories of Europe there is danger of famine this winter.

"The Ministry of Food have already abolished some of the minor and more troublesome restrictions which the public have hitherto borne with patience. I hope that it will very soon be possible to abandon yet further restrictions of this kind. But it will clearly be necessary, at least during the coming winter and spring, to continue the main safeguards for a just and equal distribution of our food supplies which the necessities of war have led us to establish.

"An impression is already abroad, and is gaining ground, that these safeguards are no longer necessary. That is a dangerous opinion. I appeal therefore to Food Control Committees to support the Ministry of Food in maintaining unimpaired such restrictions upon the supply, the prices and the distribution of our staple foods as the Government find it necessary from time to time to keep in force. I appeal through the Committees to the public to show as willing a spirit in supporting these necessary safeguards as they have shown in their maintenance during the year of war."

What the British farmer did to help to win the war and what yet remains to be done are summarized in the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture":—

"In the success farmers have taken their share by the production of food at home. They will be gratified to know, from the preliminary statement recently issued by the Board, that taking the five crops—wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peas together—the gross production in England and Wales this year is quite 35 per cent more than in 1917. Whether judged by the yield from an acre or by total production, all crops were better than in 1917. The fact that peace is now within arm's reach, as it were, is nevertheless no warrant for any relaxation of agricultural effort, for wastage has been great, shortage will be long-continued, and the demand for food will tax the world's resources. In the United Kingdom, therefore, the food production campaign must continue in the future until our arable soils produce more nearly their maximum, until the unprofitable grass lands are ploughed and the rest improved for the production of milk and meat, and until we are less dependent on imported essentials than hitherto. In the words of the Right Hon. R. E. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture, in a letter recently addressed to Lord Bledisloe: "Peace has its dangers as well as war. The need for home-grown food, both human and animal, is as urgent as ever. We cannot relax our efforts. We must continue to strain every nerve, and put out every muscle to produce every pound of bread and meat, every gallon of milk, and every pound of vegetables we can. We must see to it that everywhere our existing arable land is cleaned and cultivated to the full, and that cultivation of each holding is raised to the best level of farming in the district."

The French Minister of Blockade has appointed a Commissioner-General for the reconstruction of the liberated regions. His chief duties will consist in reorganizing the food supply and transport conditions.

Australia's exportable surplus of wheat is estimated for the end of the year at 165,266,000 bushels. A report made on November 11 by the Australian Wheat Board, and received by the Department of Trade and Commerce shows that stocks of wheat held by shippers and millers from the 1915-16-17 pools were 162,187,000 bushels. This represents about one-third of the 1916-17 crop and the whole of the 1917-18 crop so far unsold.

SOME LASTING BENEFITS OF CONTROL.

Below are extracts from an address on food control during war and peace, by Dr. Harry E. Barnard, an acknowledged authority on public health, before the 46th annual convention of the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Barnard stated that regulatory work "had been most successful. The control of the baker, miller, commission merchants, broker and large grocer has functioned through the development of a license system that denied the right to do business except to licensees, and provided for forfeitures of licenses in case of proven violations. This control, arbitrary and unprecedented, was feared at first. But it was very soon found to be a real stimulus to good business, and to-day, though regulations are being rescinded, the licensed industries are better business houses because they were compelled to adopt modern methods of accounting and stock recording, to sell products in uniform packages, to eliminate speculation and forego speculative profits.

"If food control, fairly administered, has checked the development of the food industry, no evidence to that fact is available. On the contrary the amazing progress of the canning industry, from the sardine packer in Maine, who reluctantly accepted inspection only to find in it his salvation, to the corn canner in the central states who had to be forced to pack true sweet corn instead of field corn sweetened with saccharin, most definitely attests the commercial value of food control. The meat packer who once fought federal supervision, now recognizes Uncle Sam's inspectors as his best advertising asset; the baker who worked behind closed doors, now proudly acclaims his plant as a palace of cleanliness and urges his patrons to inspect his white tiled walls, his spotless workrooms, and the health records of his medically-inspected employees.

"The regulations imposed in the interest of milk supplies of unquestioned purity have increased production costs, in some ways very materially. Better barns, sanitary milk houses, sterile packages, refrigeration, tuberculin-tested herds, all cost money but they increase milk values even more proportionally.

"If the food supply in the years to come is more abundant, more readily conveyed to market, cheaper because we have learned how to increase crops and reduce wastes, facilitate free movements by rail and motor truck, eliminate profiteering and gambling, the necessities of war may, in a very real way, become the blessings of the people."

In a circular to women's committees of the Council of National Defence in the United States the following suggestions are made:—

"The signing of the armistice has rendered more imperative the need for saving and producing food. At the same time that the need abroad is enormously increased, the difficulty of securing support for a conservation programme at home is greatly heightened because of a growing indifference on the part of the public now that actual fighting has ceased. Strong and unceasing effort will be required to bring to our people a sense of responsibility for feeding all those who are in want and a realization of the menace to peace and order which is presented by nations suffering from famine.

"In carrying on this work, it will be especially necessary for the food committees to act in close co-operation with the local Food Administrators, so that the changing demands of the Food Administration may be understood and presented clearly.

A systematic campaign should be undertaken to encourage thrift and to preserve the habits of economy which war has taught us. The home demonstration agents of the Department of Agriculture, while they will, of course, give their services to food conservation work so long as the present emergency continues, are prepared to an increasing extent to take the lead in movements to teach the conservation of clothing and other personal and household economics. The savings which may be effected by these means are vitally necessary for those of small incomes in the face of present high prices, and should be of importance to all because only through increased economy can we secure the means of paying the national war bill. Two more big loans have already been announced; we are told that we must buy two billion dollars' worth of savings stamps. This obligation should be met and can be met by small savings through the elimination of the wasteful extravagance for which the American people have long been famous. Local committees should be advised to take up the matter of a campaign for thrift with the home demonstration agents, and where there are no such agents steps should be taken to secure their appointment."

For the week ending November 30 there were 762 prosecutions in Great Britain and Ireland for offences against food laws.

HUGE BRITISH PURCHASES IN CANADA.

Nearly a quarter of a million tons of meats, dairy products and eggs have been purchased by the British Ministry of Food in Canada up to the end of 1918. The exact total is 486,150,000 pounds.

The provisions section purchased directly 153,453 tons, made up of:—

	Tons.
Bacon and ham	86,438
Lard	420
Butter	222
Milk	1,674
Preserved meat	4,535
Frozen meat	60,164

In addition to this, the Dairy Produce Commission, on behalf of the British Ministry, purchased 80,622 tons of food, made up of:—

	Tons.
Cheese	65,955
Butter	3,988
Milk	10,334
Eggs	345

Total, 234,075 tons.

An analysis of prices for American products in England has been made by Mr. Herbert Hoover since his arrival there. In a statement made to "The National Food Journal" he says:—

"I keenly realize how hard the present price levels bear on all consumers, and more especially upon the Allied peoples, whose economic wage plane is much below that in the United States. So far as the United States is concerned, it is not a matter of profiteering, but one of deep complexity of economic forces and provision for world necessities. The economic plane in the United States was established through the drain of our markets by the Allies during 1916-1917, before we came into the war. Since our entry into the war our Government has successfully exerted itself to stabilise prices, by drastic use of its war powers over economic currents and the use of these same powers to stimulate production. The following table will indicate the comparative levels before and after these war controls were established, and I may add that prices have been invariably the same to the Allies as to our own consumers and our own Government.

Commodity.	Price before Control.	Price To-day.
Wheat (No. 1 Northern at Chicago)	\$ 3 25	\$ 2 26
Live hogs (average Chicago)	20 00	17 50
Maize (Chicago)	2 20	1 20
Oats (Chicago)	85	70
Sugar (Cuban raws ex Cuba)	5 90	4 50
Steel (per ton)	100 00	50 00
Copper (per lb.)	35 00	23 00

"So much for the very drastic reductions effected. The high price levels, however, created before we entered the war caused our labour and other food production costs to increase by leaps and bounds, and prevent any return during the war to 1914 levels."

"Even a superficial examination of our agricultural situation would show that a reduction of 10 per cent to the American farmer would not only more than eliminate the profit of our marginal production—by which I mean the extension of acreage necessary to meet the world situation—but would only reduce prices to the English consumer less than 7 per cent. Of more importance, it must be remembered that, to secure surplus production from the United States, it is vital to bring into cultivation areas that would at normal prices not be cultivated."

"As I view the world's food assets this moment, I am convinced that the extra marginal surplus from the United States is of priceless value to the immensity of human life at stake between now and next harvest.

I am sure, however, that to sacrifice the margin of American production (upon which the Allies must piece out existence) by reducing the American farmer 10 per cent—which would be 6 per cent when it reaches the English consumer—would be the rankest of folly."

TO CARRY FOOD TO GERMANY.

Marshal Foch announced on December 15, that 2,500,000 tons of cargo space lying in German harbours must be placed under the control of the Allies to supply Germany with foodstuffs. The ships are to remain German property.

A calorie is the unit of food value and corresponds to the energy or heat necessary to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 4° Fahr.

It is rather surprising to learn from a bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture that the yearly production of sugar, together with its equivalent in syrup, has fallen from more than 22,000 pounds in the eighties of the past century, to about 20,000 pounds during recent seasons. In view of the keen demand for good maple products and the high prices, it is evident that many farmers are missing a good opportunity of making money.—Montreal Herald.

WHAT EUROPEAN FOOD MINISTERS SAY.

The Italian Food Minister made the following statement in the Chamber:—

"The imports of grain for 1918-19 amount to 27 million quintals. At the meeting in June of the Food Ministers of the United States of America, Great Britain, France and Italy, it was recognized that the requirements of imported foodstuffs in Italy amounted to 42 million quintals, of which 34 million quintals were cereals, and at the following meetings in August of the Inter-Allied Shipping Transport Council, Italy given priority for the transport of about 38 million tons of foodstuffs. The imports of cereals from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31 amount to about 1 million tons, as against 508,000 tons during the same period in 1917; oats 200,000 tons, as against 168,000 tons in 1917; frozen meat 75,000 tons as against 32,000 tons; meat substitutes 28,000 tons, as against 5,000; condensed milk 8,000 tons, as against 430 tons. The Ministry is to import fats and sugar, in a quantity corresponding to the total of private imports, amounting to about 15,000 tons of each. The last harvest was a good one, but unfortunately the 1919 harvest does not promise to come up to the previous one. Our requirements have increased, for many reasons. Although the wheat harvest was a good one, other harvests have not come up to expectations, such as maize, chestnuts, potatoes, etc. Also our victory has brought us an increased population totally unprovided with foodstuffs.

"The provisioning of the new territories and of our prisoners requires an increase in imports of about 1,300,000 tons per month, which means an increase of our total imports by 40 per cent. The economy of tonnage and of finance which the cessation of hostilities would have permitted will be nullified by the necessity of increasing our imports, as mentioned above.

"Prices are already showing signs of falling in some parts of Italy, and there is no doubt that they will continue to do so.

"The internal food policy of the country for 1919 will depend on the outcome of the forthcoming international conferences. Italy, however, must be able to count on larger imports than France. The superficial area of France is nearly double that of Italy, with about the same population. The cultivable area of France is about 24 million hectares, against 13,685,000 hectares in Italy. The area under cereal cultivation is 14 million hectares, against 7 million in Italy. France has 12 million head of cattle, against 6 million in Italy. It will be necessary for some time to come to exercise the strictest economy in the consumption of foodstuffs."

The following communication from Wurm, the State Secretary of the German War Food Board, appears in most of the papers:

"The foreign Press has evinced much surprise that Germany should now be on the verge of famine, considering that the former Government declared that the food supply was safe until the end of this economic year. The food situation in Germany has been depicted much too favourably, and, moreover, about 1,500,000 men and 300,000 horses were provided for in the Eastern occupied territories. Considerable imports of grain and fodder were expected from the Ukraine, the Don, and Kuban districts, while it was hoped to procure large quantities of oil-seeds and oil via the sea and the Danube. Now, with one blow, all these expectations are shattered, and, in addition, the harvests at home have proved smaller than originally expected, particularly the potato crop. Recent military events made heavy demands on our rolling stock, thereby retarding deliveries of potatoes to the big industrial centres. As soon as the armistice was signed nearly all prisoners of war, on whose labour German agriculture was practically dependent, ceased work immediately. Millions of hundred-weights of potatoes remained, therefore, unlifted, and have been damaged by the early frost. The home cattle stocks show a monthly decrease in slaughter cattle and other animal products.

This shortage is accentuated by the forced surrender of transport, which makes congestion of traffic inevitable between storehouses, mills, food factories, distribution offices, and communal unions, and further by the fact that in many places the local authorities have ignored the rights of the general public, so that important stores have been consumed prematurely and contrary to plan.

"All these conditions have brought about such a state of affairs that only the speediest import of foreign foodstuffs can save the German people from famine, even if the agricultural population, realizing the seriousness of the situation, is ready to deliver up all possible field crops and to comply strictly with the war economic measures. Although the central administrative machinery continues to function undisturbed, yet the shortage of food and transport makes a collapse almost inevitable unless the great deficit in supply of the principal towns can be so covered by the promised American help and the friendliness of neutrals that foreign imports will adequately supplement home reserves."

FOOD SAVING CONTINUES AT RIDEAU HALL.



Below is an extract from a letter sent by Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire to the Chairman of the Food Board:—

“I am much interested to hear of your efforts to encourage the use of codfish from the wonderful Canadian fisheries as a means of increasing the food supplies of the world.

“The Duke and I fully realize the necessity for continued effort in food conservation, in order that the starving people of the devastated countries of Europe may be fed.

“We can all help to attain this end by making the fullest possible use of the natural resources of this country. We shall go on using large quantities of fish and vegetables at Government House as long as it may be considered advisable to do so.”

Duchess of Devonshire

CONVALESCENTS ON ENGLISH FARMS.

TIP FOR CANADIAN FOOD PRODUCTION IN 1919.



POSSIBILITIES OF RURAL EGG CIRCLES.



Co-operative egg circles in Canada, are associations among farmers for marketing eggs frequently and regularly through a common medium. It is estimated that before the adoption of the co-operative system, Canadian farmers lost between five and six million dollars annually as a result of carelessness in the handling and marketing of eggs. This condition no longer exists, however, and where circles are in operation farmers are consistently making money on their hens. Prince Edward Island, with its few thousand inhabitants, has perfected the system and sets the pace for the whole Dominion with its egg circles. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Alberta have been progressive in this direction, but, for various reasons, little enthusiasm has been shown for poultry raising in the other provinces.

According to Mr. J. E. Bergey, poultry specialist at the Manitoba Agricultural College, co-operative handling of eggs has hardly had a fair trial in Manitoba. His department is at present concerning itself with encouraging farmers to take better care of their eggs, and this propaganda is having good results.

In Alberta there exists a central marketing service which operates very successfully. In 1917 a total of 450 cases of eggs, or 13,326

dozen, were handled through this central agency, and reports up to September, 1918, indicate that a total of 4,286 cases, or 128,580 dozen, were handled last year.

Progress is reported both in Ontario and Quebec. In Ontario thirty-six circles had shipments in 1916 representing gross values to the circles of \$104,227. This went up in 1917 to \$209,837. In Quebec the eggs are gathered by the two hundred odd local agricultural co-operative associations throughout the province and are sent to the Central Co-operative Associations to be handled.

Increasing interest is evidenced by the farmers of Nova Scotia in the co-operative system of handling eggs. Cement tanks have been built in various parts of the province where the eggs are stored in the flush season, to be sold when the supply falls off. During 1917 the eggs shipped from different circles in Nova Scotia were valued at \$20,639. In New Brunswick endeavours are being made to speed up the production of poultry in order that there may be sufficient eggs available in the near future to justify the formation of egg circles.

Despite an entire population that falls far below several of our larger cities. Prince Edward Island is in the vanguard in this work.

"EFFICIENCY CLUBS" FOR CANADIAN GIRLS.

A successful innovation in the line of women's activities is the Efficiency Club of New Brunswick, a war-time experiment which has proved such an unqualified success that it is to be continued during the period of reconstruction.

The first Efficiency Clubs were formed in June, 1917. They were conceived primarily in the light of a war measure and the greatest prominence was given to food problems. All school girls between the ages of ten and eighteen years were asked to join up and no less than eighty active clubs were formed in the province. Thirty Home Economics teachers volunteered to give the girls instruction. The work rapidly developed to where it became necessary to have paid helpers, however. There are something like eighty-four clubs in operation now, with an approximate membership of 50,000. Miss Marjorie H. Flewelling, of Fredericton is the supervisor of the Home Efficiency Clubs. She and her helpers travel from club to club. It is hoped that there may soon be a supervisor in charge of the clubs in each county who will visit them every month and give help wherever it is needed.

Formed under the auspices of the Department of Education, the Efficiency Clubs are carried on as educational extension work. The school is the organization centre but most of the work is done in the homes. In this way the standard of home economics is gradually being raised throughout the province, and the girls of New Brunswick are having the opportunity to become efficient home makers in the broadest sense of the word.

During 1917, the year which saw the inauguration of the clubs, the members conserved upwards of 50,000 quarts of food in their homes. Double that amount has been this year's objective. But their work does not stop short with food conservation. During the winter months they contributed \$564 to the Red Cross and made 5,000 articles of clothing for the same organization.

This winter special emphasis is being placed on the school lunch and the club workers are having an efficient system installed in many of the rural schools, whereby the children can have a hot, nourishing meal in the middle of the day.

Every club member is expected to have a garden and grow her own vegetables for canning. The keeping of chickens is encouraged, too. In this way the work does not lag at any season of the year. The clubs are well named "Efficiency" Clubs.

ARMY AGRICULTURE.

Three years ago there was no such thing as army agriculture. By the fall of 1918 it had become an integral part of the great British Army of 7,000,000 men on five out of the seven great fronts. Its lessons are such that they should not be overlooked in the reconstructive period in Canada in the coming spring and summer. There will be no masses of soldiery here, except perhaps in the convalescent homes, but the essential thing taught by the army farming scheme in Europe is the value of co-operation and good intention. For quick development and prompt results they have been wonders.

It was not until 1917, when a national shortage of food was threatened in Great Britain, that the Army began to bestir itself; then, too, it was gradually recognized what a large quantity of good land has been appropriated for military purposes. Through the winter of 1917 many units proceeded to break up plots, small and large, with the co-operation of the Director General of Lands. At the same time, encouraged by the Director of Supplies and Transport, schemes were initiated for cultivations in France, Egypt, Salonika and Mesopotamia.

By January of 1918 army cultivations had assumed such large proportions that the Army Council decided to co-ordinate and help with the work by appointing the Army Agricultural Committee. On March 16, 1918, an Army Council Instruction was issued. "The Army Council," it began, "desires to impress upon all ranks the need of increasing the supply of food and of growing it where it will be consumed, thereby reducing transport. Every opportunity should be taken to cultivate lands in and adjacent to barracks, camps, command depots, and hospitals." The War Office provided money for initial expenses where required.

The two main objects of the Army Agricultural Committee were to prevent the waste of the large acreage of agriculturally valuable land in the occupation of troops, and as far as possible to make the Army self-supporting in potatoes and other vegetables. Over 6,500 acres are to-day being cultivated by the Army in Great Britain and Ireland; this is largely made up of plots of from 2 or 3 to 30 square yards. The armies in France were producing more than half the quantity of potatoes and vegetables (100 tons a day) that were being raised by the forces in Great Britain.

20,000,000 TONS FOR HUNGRY EUROPE.

The wheat crop of a year and a half ago was only 651,000,000 bushels. But 919,000,000 bushels were harvested this year, and 300,000,000 can be sent to Europe without reducing the normal domestic supply. Canada can spare 100,000,000.

In his survey of the world's supplies Mr. Hoover found a shortage of pork and dairy products. This country will be able to satisfy the demand included in his comprehensive estimate of 20,000,000 tons. During the war our farmers, in response to the Government's suggestions or appeals, increased their holdings of live stock. At the beginning of the present year they had 66,828,000 cattle, although the annual average for the five years that ended with 1914 was only 58,676,000, and the number of hogs had increased from an average of 61,865,000 to 71,374,000. Secretary Houston's report shows that the production of beef, pork, and mutton rose from 16,325,360,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1917 to 19,495,000,000 in 1918. Larger herds and this growth of meat supply permitted exports of 2,847,688,154 pounds of beef, pork, and dairy products in the fiscal year that ended with last June, although the average for three years preceding the war was only 1,208,693,789. The cultivation of new gardens and other small tracts of land has made considerable additions to the vegetable supply which are not included in official crop reports.

There is no danger that we shall suffer from hunger because 20,000,000 tons are taken for those who are on short rations, or even starving, in Europe.—New York Times.

Never since war began has Europe made an appeal for food so insistent as the one that comes now.

The first recommendation sent home by President Wilson is for an appropriation of \$100,000,000 to stem the tide of famine, while the same menace has led to the creation of an inter-Allied commission with Mr. Hoover of Belgian Relief fame in charge.

The democratic peoples are called upon to safeguard the fruits of their victory over Prussianism by saving the new countries in Europe from the bloody disorders of Bolshevism. Unless the Allies supply Eastern and Southern Europe with food enough to keep conditions normal, the mad agents of Bolshevism will supply the people there, who grope for true freedom, with the foul poison of their doctrine.

It is as if the war had not ended but was keeping on with Bolshevism in Prussia's place and a great shortage on the front of freedom of essential ammunition. That is food.

To give up the habit of food conservation is to jeopardize the whole happy result of the war. A world won for democracy must not be thrown away to anarchy.

Food that goes from America to Europe now is for the souls and bodies of men for whose rights we are, by reason of Victory, responsible. By new and even more determined saving of food in America, and only in that way, can humanity be sustained for just and progressive living.—Montreal Star, January 6.

SHRINKAGE IN ARGENTINE LIVESTOCK.

The "Republica" of Buenos Aires calls attention to the serious position of the livestock situation. Pointing out that the greater part of Argentina's wealth lies in her livestock and the industries connected with it, the "Republica" warns the country that the stock of cattle and sheep is shrinking in an alarming manner. The shrinkage between 1908-1914 in cattle was 3,249,862 head, and in sheep for the same period 23,986,302 head. That this should have happened when every other country was increasing its capital stock reflects adversely on the business capabilities of the Argentine breeder. Some drastic action should be taken, and at once, to stop this serious drainage of livestock, which is the result of the exportation of breeding cattle and the great activity of the local cold-storage companies.

This year's wheat acreage in the Argentine is estimated at 16,970,000, against 17,574,000 in 1917, and the yield at 180 millions. About 150 millions bushels of maize remain available for export.

The Lisbon Municipal Administrative Commission has resolved to approve a proposal to increase the number of butchers' shops under the municipality in order that its influence on the free market prices may be more efficaciously exercised, so that the supply of meat of Lisbon be again brought under the control of the municipality.

WHO'S WHO AT THE FOOD BOARD



Mrs. Jean Muldrew.

Mrs. Jean Muldrew, from the first has held the responsible post of Director of Household Science to the Food Controller and then to the Food Board. She has in turn visited every province in her lecturing tours. Mrs. Muldrew first came before the public as teacher. She trained for household science at Guelph, and when the new Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue was being erected, she was offered the post of house mother. Her splendid pioneer work there for five years helped to make her reputation in the province. She had over one thousand girls under her care. In 1907 she went to Red Deer, Alberta, to be principal of a girls' school, and in 1917 accepted the invitation of the Agricultural Department of Alberta to take up work in connection with women's institutes as librarian and assistant superintendent for the province. From there she joined the Food Board. The excellence of Mrs. Muldrew's work as director of the Domestic Science Section of our large voluntary food measures is only measured by its importance and its success. Mrs. Muldrew has also had a large amount of pioneer work among the women's institutes of Ontario and Quebec; she has contributed to the women's pages of many Canadian magazines and newspapers, and in addition, has been for the male members of the staff a "very ready help in time of trouble" in the intricacies of such things as the chemistry and caloric values of foods.

Every county in Massachusetts now has a leader on full time for the boys' and girls' clubs organized in the state under the direction of the Department of Agriculture and the state agricultural colleges.

A great source of revenue to the Dominion is being neglected where no attempt is made to organize egg circles. Denmark's commercial strength has centred wholly in her co-operative agricultural system and her central marketing agencies. Similar results might be attained in Canada.

Mr. James Parker was born at Stirling, Ontario, being the son of the late Dr. Parker. In 1894 he entered Queen's University, Kingston, where he received the degree of B.A. in 1898. During his course he was secretary of Queen's Rugby Football Club, and in 1898 was one of three to organize and establish the Inter-Collegiate Rugby Football Union, of which he was the first secretary-treasurer. After leaving the University he went into banking and during the three years prior to 1908 was assistant manager and manager of the foreign exchange department of the Sovereign Bank of Canada at Montreal. Mr. Parker attended Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was called to the bar in 1911. During that time he was with McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt at Toronto, and in 1912 entered the firm of Balfour & Parker, Barristers, etc., Toronto, of which he is still a member. In 1908 he was elected vice-president of the Capital Brewing Company, Limited, and, in 1912, president, from which position he resigned in 1913. He is secretary and a director of Messrs. Stephen Smith & Company Canada Limited, a subsidiary company of Stephen Smith & Co., Limited, of London (England), and a member of the Toronto & York County Patriotic Fun-Committee. Since April 18th, 1918, he has been with the Canada Food Board as solicitor and legal adviser.



Mr. James Parker.

It is a curious coincidence that the rate of increase in the acreage under army cultivation during the past two years has been almost identical with the rate of increase of small cultivation by the civilian population.

From reports provided by the bee-keepers of the province the honey crop of British Columbia for the season of 1918 is estimated to be approximately 2 1/2 tons, being an increase of 65 tons over that of 1917 and by far the biggest in her history.

RETAILING FISH IN THE MODERN WAY.

In awarding certificates of merit to the fish dealers who have complied with its requests, the Food Board has had an opportunity to show appreciation of the work of Canada's two pioneer women fish dealers. Four years ago Mrs. Chambers opened up a fish store on Danforth avenue, Toronto, and made a specialty of filleting. Her mother was a fish dealer in Greenock, Scotland, and she grew up with a working knowledge of the business, so that when she came to Canada she was able to start out by herself. The way was uphill at first. Filleted fish was practically an unknown quantity in Toronto. She could get little custom for anything but salmon and halibut. However, she persisted. Her store was always well stocked with different varieties of fish. She kept a good window display and went on filleting, despite the fact that she could only sell about ten pounds of haddock a day. Now she easily sells two hundred pounds a day. Mrs. Chambers attributes much of her success to the Food Board's efforts to popularize

fish and get it on the market plentifully and in good condition.

Mrs. Benwell, the other woman winner of a certificate of merit, bought an old established fish business in Brantford, Ont., about a year ago. She had no previous experience in handling fish but she had had some selling experience in a store. Her business grew rapidly and all summer she sold a ton of lake and sea fish every day, while during November her receipts were three times greater than they were a year before. She does her own buying and advertising. To quote Mrs. Benwell: "A certain amount of the increase is due to the advertising of sea fish by the Canada Food Board and I look for an even larger demand in the future. I have every reason to believe that a woman can engage in the fish business with success. The first essentials are to keep the store absolutely clean and tidy and to dress the cases attractively. It is work that should appeal to women and the demand for fish is increasing so fast that it is undoubtedly profitable."

FISH AND MEAT PRICES.

Below are prices of some fish and meats for three years in a typical Canadian city:—

Fish—	1912. Cents.	1914. Cents.	1918. Cents.
Mkt. cod . . . . .	...	...	11
St. cod	12½-14	14-16	17½
Haddock	10-12½	10	12
Halibut	18-22	18-22	30
Salmon, Q.	15-17½	14-16	20
Salmon, R. . . . .	...	...	35
Mackerel . . . . .	...	15	18
Trout	16-18	16-18	19
Whites	16-18	16-18	17-19
Pickled	14-16	14-16	17-19
L. Herring	10	11	10
Meats—			
Rump roast . . . . .	...	18	30
Sweet breads . . . . .	...	10	35
Sirloin	20	26	35
Lamb loin . . . . .	...	25	35
Lamb leg . . . . .	...	24	39
Sausage . . . . .	...	20	30
Sirloin steak . . . . .	...	30	36
Pickled pork . . . . .	...	20	44
Corned beef . . . . .	...	15	30
Veal . . . . .	...	25	30
Pork chops . . . . .	...	25	44
Round steak . . . . .	...	24	35
Turkeys	22-24	30	45
Chickens	22	25	40
Lamb chops . . . . .	...	25	42
Geese . . . . .	...	22	30

For various reasons the catch of lobsters in the fisheries of Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces during the 1918 season was not as large as that of 1917.

FROZEN DRESSED HADDOCK.

Large quantities of headless and dressed frozen haddock were sent to Toronto for a special demonstration campaign conducted under the auspices of the Canada Food Board. These fish were taken from the banks off Nova Scotia. Fishermen have latterly been bringing in record catches since resuming work, which was suspended for several months because of the menace of the German submarine. Haddock is a tasty Atlantic fish, and is becoming increasingly popular in the Dominion. In its frozen state the housewife is guaranteed that it reaches her table in the best possible condition.

It is really simple enough to prepare many of the accustomed dishes without the use of cane sugar at all. Honey, molasses, maple sirup, and corn sirup make up a considerable list of sweetening agents from which to select, almost any one of which may be used to replace the solid sugar to which we have been accustomed. Raisins, dates, figs, and the somewhat neglected dried pear, all serve to add sweetness to the foods with which they are combined, and help to save sugar.

In general it may be said that 1 cup of sugar may be replaced in any recipe by 1 cup of honey, cane or maple syrup or molasses, or by 1½ cups of corn syrup.

ONTARIO WOMEN'S WORK.

The splendid assistance given by the Women's Auxiliary of the Ontario Organization of Resources Committee to the work of the Food Board is well expressed in the following summary:—

"For more than a year past the women of Ontario have displayed a fine spirit of co-operation in the work of conservation and greater food production. When the women were fully awakened to the fact that their saving in the kitchen was just as essential to the winning of the war as our men's work in the trenches, they were stimulated to do all in their power to conserve the necessary foods.

"Women's organizations in city and country held meetings and had speakers explain the situation, often visualizing for them, by means of charts and exhibits, just what the European countries had accomplished in the matter of food rationing. When the rations of Great Britain and France, and the empty plates of Belgium and Serbia were compared with the bountiful tables of Canada, the object lesson was most effective.

"The circulation of the Food Pledge cards was the first intimation that the women, and in fact the general public, had of the seriousness of the food situation throughout the world. Aside from the pledge cards the splendid publicity part was well worth the effort.

"'Starvation of the Garbage Pail' has become the slogan in most households. When compulsory methods were introduced for the saving of flour and sugar it met with the approval of the great majority of women. When the regulations regarding public eating places were enforced, this also met with the hearty commendation of women's organizations and women in general. Many expressed regret that they were not able to show, in concrete form, the actual amount of their savings. Hearty co-operation came from the women keeping large boarding-houses, also from girls' schools, etc. It speaks well that there has not been a prosecution of any institutions. Many societies that had been in the habit of serving tea and refreshments at their meetings, discontinued this practice. In some instances they erred on the side of saving rather than in serving too much.

"No opportunity was missed of addressing large gatherings of women, at their annual or executive meetings, on the need of food conservation, when these meetings were held within the province. In many

cities and towns the Women's Auxiliary have had window displays illustrative of food needs, and the women's share in bringing about the desired results. These window exhibits proved most educational. At the Toronto Exhibition in the Food Conservation Building, the auxiliary had a large and attractive booth under the personal supervision of the secretary. Here literature was distributed and queries and questions answered on the many phases of the work. The Commodore Hotel Company of New York held a War Savings Cooking Contest in the building, and the secretary of the Women's Auxiliary was asked to be one of the three judges on the committee. At her suggestion the pupils in Domestic Science at the Technical School were the contestants. The Auxiliary also had educational booths at the Windsor and Napanee fall fairs, as well as providing the material for several other like exhibits.

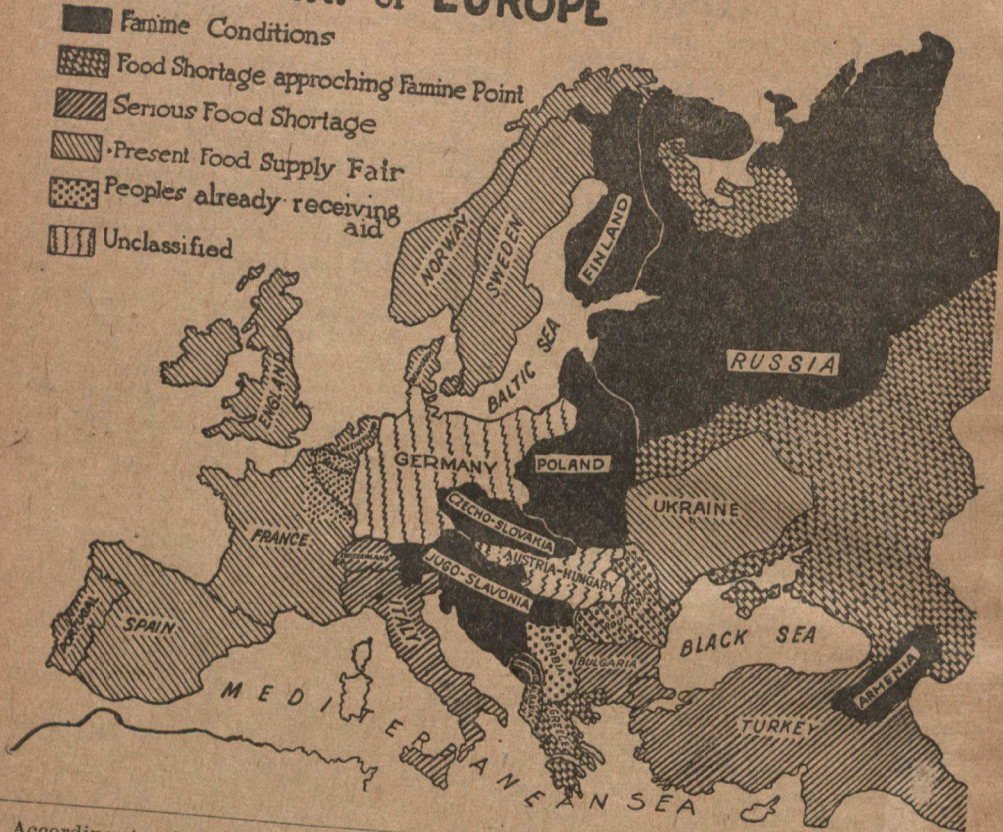
"In the month of July fish demonstrations were held for two weeks in Toronto, when Mrs. Gurnett was asked to take supervision of them. Great interest was evidenced. Hundreds of women attended the lectures which were held by the Canada Food Board in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries of Ontario.

"The Dominion Chautauquas very kindly placed their organization at our disposal, and we co-operated with them during the month of August. We provided a speaker on Food Conservation who gave talks on this important subject in twenty-five different towns. These proved most interesting and resulted in requests for demonstrators to be sent to the places to teach the women the use of substitutes, especially of flour.

"Quantities of literature, including Food Bulletins, Orders in Council, special articles and circular letters on important matters, have been sent out from the office of the Women's Auxiliary to the women of the province through the Auxiliaries, Women's Institutes, Local Council of Women, Red Cross and Patriotic Societies. All have co-operated magnificently."

Cable information from Europe is to the effect that the people of the liberated territories are daily and urgently calling for food. Pending the preparation of the complete world relief programme, ships carrying emergency cargoes are now on their way across the ocean. Food supplies have gone into Southern Europe where the food situation was most critical.

HUNGER MAP of EUROPE



According to the bulletin on crop prospects in sugar issued by Willett and Gray there will be a falling off in the world's production of sugar of some 74,158 long tons.

Russians who were prisoners of war in Germany and who have returned through the Bolshevik lines, declare that the rations of the Bolshevik troops is a considerable quantity of black bread and three dried herrings daily to each man.

Because the meat ration was specially doubled for the week preceding Christmas in England and Wales, and for the New Year in Scotland, the Food Controller also decided to raise the ration of nut butter for vegetarians by 4 ounces per coupon.

The arrival of the first steamer carrying food supplies for the Serbians at Trieste, and the sending of a special mission to Warsaw to organize food relief in Poland and another to Vienna to investigate food conditions there, were announced in a cablegram on December 31. A commission also has left for Belgrade to take charge of the food situation.

It was reported on December 27 that food is very scarce in Moscow, and even the Bolsheviks are unable to obtain enough of it for themselves.

According to the final figures available, the total wheat harvest in Australia for 1917-18 is 121,772,000 bushels, as against 152,420,189 bush. last year.

The captain of a Swedish steamer, which has just reached a Swedish port from Petrograd, reports that the men engaged to load his ship were so emaciated they could hardly work six hours daily. They were so hungry that they eagerly seized food from garbage barrels.

