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FOOD CONTROL HAS MATERIALLY EENEFITTED BOTH PRODUCER AND CONSUMER AND ENABLED AMERICA TO FEED THE ALLIES

While Prices Have Increased Only 53% to the Consumer, the Man Who Produces Gets 100% More, Food Administrator Wattles Tells Newspaper Men.

(An Address by Gurdon W. Wattles, Federal Food Administrator for Nebraska, June 20, 1918.)

No other influence has been as potent as the public press of the state of Nebraska in the promotion of the work of the Food Administration. From the very beginning of our work down to the present time, the support of the editors of the newspapers of this state has been most constant and helpful.

I want to take this occasion to express my appreciation of the great help the newspapers of this state have rendered me as Federal Food Administrator for Nebraska in the performance of the arduous duties that have been placed upon my shoulders during the past year.

At the beginning we sailed out on an unknown sea; there were no charts to mark the way; there was no compass by which to guide our course, We were told at the first meeting with Mr. Hoover in Washington that each Food Aministrator should do the best he could to find the best means to accomplish the desired end-that of conserving the food that would be needed by our armies, the Allies and the starving people of Europe.

Nebraska's Loyal Response.

Knowing that the people of Nebraska were patriotic and ready to re- people. spond to any call for sacrifice to help win the war, we proceeded to con- country against exorbitant prices for Law, duct an educational campaign for the food products which usually prevail. The saving of essential food profood saving campaign about to be be- tion has been exerted. The result of this state was most satisfactory; marized as follows: more than 237,030 pledges were re-

every school district that would re- been more than 100 percent. Retail April, 1914, a prewar year, our exturn 100 percent of the residents of food prices in the United States have that district as signers of piedge increased less than in any other couneards. It required more than 300 try. As against an increase in this exported 359,058,000 pounds of beef

ous work began. It had always been percent, Germany 160 percent, my plan to secure a good machine with which to do any important work. I therefore proceeded to organize the state by appointing a County Food Administrator for each county and in turn he appointed his general commit-

This machinery when once put in motion quickly reached all parts of products. mail order house in this city told me led that in every single instance where he shipped more sugar to country towns than the rules permitted. he had been caught by the local Food

Two Thousand Loyal Workers.

in Nebraska brought into its service year to the American people. this state has received of being in the 30 cents per pound retail. front rank in the work of the Food Other necessities, not under control, Democrary Will Be Saved.

accomplished by it?

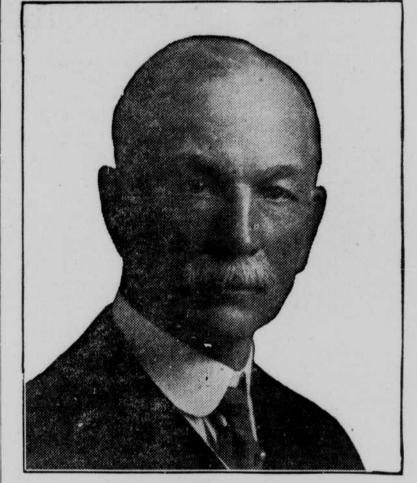
foods, such as wheat, meat and sugar, cent. to supply the demands that would be made on this country during the first year of its entrance into the war.

For want of ships or on account of blockades, food products from other damental food products and it has countries could not be secured and the also eliminated the purchase and sale duct of their war operations and for the supply of our own soldiers was to he the United States of America.

Must Save to Meet Demand.

available surplus of 20,000,000 bushels of wheat to take care of a demand which we knew would be for tea times that amount. If we failed to supply food, the war would be lost before our country became seriously engaged in it. The same situation to a greater or less degree existed with our supply of meat, sugar and some other staple food commodities. We could, therefore, only supply that which we could save and the necessit; for saving exportable food by substituting others that could not be shipped was imminent and important.

Rules and regulations in conformity with the Food Law were inaugurated by the Food Administration and while ee mistakes have been made, in a



GURDON W. WATTLES Federal Food Administrator for Nebraska

The retail prices of food stuffs in turned to this office and many com- the United States have increased on bushels of wheat this country has almunities reported 100 percent signa- the whole about 53 percent over prewar years; the increases received by I enthusiastically offered a flag to the producer for such products have

Consumer and Producer Benefit.

While the price of a loaf of bread has increased in the United States 60 more than 800 percent without mapercent, the producer receives 140 terially impairing the health or necespercent more for the wheat that goes sities of our own people. Our exports into it. The price of beef has in- of condensed milk have increased 30,and many country precinets in the creased about 40 percent and of pork 000 per cent; sugar, 4,000 percent; about 50 percent. The producer gets rice, 2,500 percent. 100 percent more for the raw

At the beginning of the work of the All this has been accomplished by the state with any message from Food Administration, May 15, 1917, the voluntary submission of the Amerilent to 86.68 per barrel.

At the present time the wholesale winning the war. price of sugar is 7.3 cents per pound; Newspapers, public men and of-

have increased as follows: Muslins, But what was the necessity for all from 9 cents per yard to 30 cents, an this work and what has really been increase of 233 per cent; ginghams, from 61/4 cents per yard to 221/2 cents, The answers to these questions will an increase of 244 percent; stockings, either justify the existence of the 100 percent; woolen serges, a staple, Food Administration or will mark it 500 percent; overalls 200 to 300 peras a failure. In the first place, it cent. Department store owners say early became apparent that there the average increase in all articles would not be enough of the staple handled has been not less than 80 per-

Speculation Eliminated.

The Food Administration has practically eliminated speculation in fun sole reliance of our Allies in the con- of futures. There is no way to determine the full extent of the financial saving to the American people by this wise and necessary regulation.

Those food products that were not Briefly stated, we had barely an fore not been strictly regulated, such Rebellion.

THROUGH THE WINTER.

last hepo-if we fail, then Democracy fails.

The Federal Food Administration Asks You —

TO EAT ONLY TWO POUNDS OF SUGAR EACH MONTH.

TO EAT ONLY 11/4 POUNDS OF CLEAR BEEF EACH WEEK

IF FOSSIBLE, NOT TO EAT ANY WHEAT OR WHEAT PROD-TO CAN AND PRESERVE SUFFICIENT FOODS TO RUN

We must supply sufficient foods for our army and for the armies

We must also build up a reserve which will meet all demands of

and civilian population of our associates in this war. America is the

the future. To the present time, every pound of meat and every ounce

of wheat we have saved has been for immediate use. In the face of an abundant crop, we must lay aside a reserve and conservation will

general way the desired result has as corn, oats and vegetables, have been accomplished without any great shown a much greater increase in cost disaster or inconvenience to our to the consumer than have those products that have been carefully regulat-To protect the consumers of this ed under the provisions of the Food

purpose of pledging the housewives of during war periods, the full power ducts by the voluntary action of the the state and nation to assist in the and authority of the Food Administra- people of the United States has been so great that we have been able to The result of this campaign in its efforts in this regard may be sum- ship to foreign countries unprecedented amounts of such products. Out of a visible surplus of barely 20,000,000 700,000 pounds. In April, 1918, we country of 53 percent England shows and pork products. Before the war an increase of 105 percent, Canada 65 our average exports per annum of ments were-beef, 3,000,000 pounds; pork and its products, 43,000,000 pounds.

We have increased these exports by

Response is Voluntary.

the price of flour per barrel at Min- can people to the rules and regulaguilty party could escape. To illustrate—the manager of a wholesale The difference between what the force these necessary rules and regugot for his wheat and the lations but the patriotism of our peowholesale price of flour was equiva- ple has been so great that no law was needed except the law of necessity for

one year ago it was 8.33 cents per ficials in all departments of the state pound. This is reflected in the price and the Government have joined in to the consumer and represents a say- the great work of saying food to win The splendid machine inaugurated ing of approximately \$55,000,000,000 per the war. This work has furnished an cutlet for the spirit of self sacrifice about two thousand active, earnest Both sugar and flour offered un which has been born anew since this workers, and to those County Food precedented opportunities for special world war began. Every man, woman Administrators and their committees lation. Had it not been for the food and child in this country has been and the general committees of the regulations, flour would undoubtedly given the opportunity of making a state with their efficient chairmen sup- have been \$30 per barrel and sugar small sacrifice in order to help his plemented by the help of the newspa- 25 to 30 cents per pound at this time, country in its time of peril. This has pers, we owe the distinction which During the civil war sugar went to made better citizens and better patriots of us all.

We are marching with a new step o fhe music of our national anthem. We are sacrificing and saving to help our brothers who are fighting our bat les. We are reviving anew the spirit of our forefathers and we will come out f this great conflict not only with ictory upon our banners, but as beter citizens with new thoughts and espirations and new desires to serve our country, the country which has furnished to us one and all opportunities and privileges under its free form of government, unequaled by those of any country under the control of a monarch or a king.

We will save democracy for future generations and will preserve the heritage handed down to us by our forefathers who fought the battles of freedom in the Revolution and again considered essential and have there to preserve them in the battles of the

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