

HOOVER TELLS OF FOOD SITUATION

Administrator Issues Message on Conservation.

IS GREAT PROBLEM OF WAR

America's Production and Needs of the Allied Nations Set Forth—What We Must Do to Keep Wolf From the Door.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Herbert C. Hoover, United States food administrator, today issued to the American public his statement covering the food situation as it now exists and the necessity of conserving the food resources of the nation to provide for the future during the continuance of the war. The statement follows:

Food is always more or less of a problem in every phase of its production, handling and consumption. It is a problem with every farmer, every transporter and seller, every householder. It is a problem with every town, state and nation. And now, very conspicuously, it is a problem with three great groups of nations, namely, the allies, the central empires and the neutrals; in a word it is a great international problem.

The food problem today of our own nation, therefore has as its most conspicuous phase an international character. A sufficient and regular supply of food for the maintenance of the great field armies of our fighting allies and of their no less great armies of working men and working women in the war industries, and finally for the maintenance of the women and children in the home, is an absolute necessity, second to no other, for the successful prosecution of the war for liberty. In the providing of this food for the great allied food pool, the United States plays a predominant part.

With the present diversion of tens of millions of men from the farms into the fighting and industrial armies, resulting in a marked lessening of food production, and the present necessity of increasing the daily ration of other millions of men turned from sedentary occupations into those of strenuous physical labor, resulting in a marked increase of consumption, this deficiency between the food needs and the food production of the allies becomes greater than ever, with the consequence of a large increase in the food quantities imperatively needed from the United States if the allied armies are to be able to "carry on."

World's Larder Examined.

This is a general statement of a condition which only needs to be elaborated in detail to show just what we have to do. The time has come when this detailed statement can be made. Our harvest and the harvests of Europe can now be forecast. We can also survey our combined stocks of food animals; in other words, the size of that part of the world's larder on which we and the allies can draw for the next twelve months can now be estimated. This estimate shows at once that it contains too little for our own and our allies use unless we all administer the supply with the greatest care and wisdom. The allied peoples are energetically undertaking this administration. It lies now with us to do our part. If we fail, the people of the allies cannot be maintained at war. Their soldiers cannot fight without food. A certain definitely determinable part of that food must come from us. Let us then examine carefully the world's larder as it appears today, or so much of it as is at our disposal.

I propose to review the situation first, as regards the cereals, second, as regards food animals and their products, third, as regards sugar, fourth, as regards vegetables, fifth, as regards fish and sea foods, and, finally, as regards our duty in the matter.

Cereals.

The 1917 harvest is now so far advanced that we may compare it with previous production, and with the demands which are going to be made on it.

TABLE NO. 1.					
Commodity.	Production.	Imports	Imports Net Imports	from U. S.	from Other Countries.
Wheat	590,675,000	79,426,000	112,900,000	188,478,000	97,445,000
Corn	121,169,000	10,811,000	135,675,000	265,596,000
Oats	570,890,000	67,833,000	16,580,000	88,612,000	682,955,000
Barley	125,261,000	4,946,000	6,660,000	63,639,000	195,793,000
Rye	78,573,000	567,000	60,000	11,237,000	90,537,000
Total	1,486,448,000	102,533,000	136,209,000	457,134,000	2,214,276,000

Commodity.	Probable U. S. 1917	Average	Probable U. S. Consumption	Add possible Surplus	Canadian Surplus
Wheat	678,600,000	596,304,000	88,600,000	120,000,000	
Corn	3,124,000,000	2,653,828,000	470,000,000	63,000,000	
Oats	1,453,000,000	1,148,713,000	304,000,000	30,000,000	
Barley	214,000,000	178,829,000	35,000,000	9,000,000	
Rye	55,100,000	35,866,000	20,200,000	18,000,000	
Totals	5,525,100,000	4,607,410,000	917,200,000	239,000,000	

United States, on which they were accustomed to rely before the war. The Russian supply cannot be got out. Bulgarian and Roumanian supplies are in the hands of the central empires. The voyage from Australia and India is three times as long and therefore requires three times as many tons of shipping as is required from North Atlantic ports. It is also twice as dangerous because of the longer exposure to submarine attack. There has been a large failure in the South American countries and the new harvest from that quarter will not be available in Europe until next spring. As already said, all the allied countries are and have been for some time rigorously administering and economizing their food. In Belgium, the relief commission has been compelled to reduce the consumption of cereals by nearly 50 per cent; this brings the food supply so low that the population are incapable of labor.

From the above tables it will be seen that on normal bases of consumption the total allied wheat import requirements are 577,000,000 bushels against a North American surplus of 208,000,000 bushels—and from our United States supplies we must reserve a certain amount for neutrals from which we receive vital supplies and also an amount to protect our stocks better next year than this last. There is therefore on normal consumption a deficit of over 400,000,000 bushels. In the other cereals used in Europe mostly for animal feed, the import necessities of the allies on normal consumption basis are about 674,000,000 against a North American surplus of 950,000,000. But again a reserve for neutrals and increased "carry over" will absorb all the margin. In any event it means we must multiply our exports of these cereals 20 times. However, upon the basis of our present crop prospects we should be able to supply their requirements in cereals other than wheat.

Wheat Situation Difficult.

The situation in wheat is one of great difficulty and concern, and must be met by an elimination of waste and reduction of consumption on the part of the allied peoples and ourselves in one word, by an effective administration of the available supply.

The allies are unable to use other cereals alone for bread. They can use them only as added to wheat flour to make the war bread now in universal use in European countries. Except in Italy, whose people normally consume much corn, our allies have few corn mills and cornmeal is not a durable commodity and therefore cannot be shipped in great quantities.

Moreover, for generations they have bought bread from the bakeries; they have no equipment nor do they know how to bake in the household. Every American knows that it is infeasible to distribute corn bread from bakeries, and it is therefore necessary for us to furnish our allies with sufficient wheat to enable them to have a wheat basis for the loaf. However, they can use and must use other cereals for mixture in their war bread, and by this substitution and by savings on their part a great deal can be accomplished.

Dairy Products.

The world's dairy supplies are decreasing rapidly for two important reasons. First, the dairy cattle of Europe are diminishing, for Europe is being driven to eat its cattle for meat; second, the diversion of labor to war has decreased the fodder supplies and the shortage of shipping has limited the amount of imported fodder and therefore the cattle which can be supported and the productivity of the individual cow have been reduced. Even our own dairy supplies are not keeping pace with our growth of population, for our per capita milk supply has fallen from 90 to 75 gallons annually in the past 15 years. Yet today we must ship increasing amounts of dairy products to our allies.

The dairy supplies of the allies in normal times came to a considerable degree from western Scandinavia, Holland and Switzerland, but under German pressure these supplies are now partly diverted to Germany. The men under arms and the wounded must be supplied with condensed milk in large quantities.

The net result of these conditions, despite rigorous reduction of consumption among the adults of the civil population in Europe, is that our allies are still short of large quantities and again the burden of the replacement of this shortage must fall on North America. The growing exports of dairy products from the United States to the allies are shown in the chief countries of Europe:

Prod'n.	Consump'	Surp. (t)
(short ton)	(short ton or def'tn. tons)	(tons) (cwt.)
Germany ... 2,525,399	1,229,585	11,223,314
Austria ... 1,651,889	679,204	972,688
Russia ... 1,639,947	1,322,285	337,662
United Kingdom ... 2,656,000	2,656,000	
France ... 75,252	70,830	9,712,712
Italy ... 211,692	190,000	21,025
Belgium ... 27,918	120,358	135,560
Holland ... 246,146	131,538	114,608

As appears from the table, France, Italy, Russia and Belgium were self-supporting, while the United Kingdom drew its entire sugar supply from exterior sources. The supply of the United Kingdom came to the amount of about 70 per cent from countries from which it is now cut off by the war. Ten per cent came from the East Indies and 20 per cent from the United States and the West Indies.

The prospective 1918 crop in France has diminished to 207,000 tons and that of Italy to 75,000 tons, and they are therefore short 500,000 tons. The displacement of United Kingdom supplies amounts to 1,435,000 tons; and therefore, in total, these three allied countries must import about 2,700,000 tons in order to maintain their normal consumption. Of this, 2,000,000 tons must come from new sources.

The disturbance of shipping reduces the tonage available and drives the demand to a large degree upon the

desire to get into the same atmosphere with the great people of Japan. Marshal Prince Yamagata, foremost of Japan's elder statesmen, some years ago erected a splendid house at Odawara, a suburb of the capital, and upon a site that commanded a superb view of Mount Fujiyama. Now, this Saito has paid a fabulous price for a large estate located on the Iriyama hill, higher up than the mansion of the distinguished prince, and has erected thereon a charming country house. His view is obstructed by the hokkara house of the narikin. The

shut out the view from the famous Kokian or "house of rare age," by which name the prince's villa was known, of beloved and revered Mount Fuji. To quote the vernacular journal: "The 'house of rare age' built when the prince had attained seventy years—described by Confucius as 'the rare age'—is no longer a quiet bower to which the aged Yamagata can repair at all seasons and enjoy rest from the distracting worries of national politics. His view is obstructed by the hokkara house of the narikin. The

prince hasn't visited Odawara this summer."

Few Feet Are Perfect.

How many bones in your feet? Most likely you don't know. Few people do, and it is usually a surprise to learn that there are so many and that the foot is about the most complicated and delicately constructed part of the body. That is, perhaps, the reason why at least 75 per cent of all adults have some kind of foot trouble.

Dr. William M. Scholl of Chicago, an

authority on foot troubles and their mechanical correction, says not one adult in 100 has feet that are completely free from defects. He has made a life study of the subject and has patented a great number of appliances for correcting defective conditions and giving comfort.

Dog Aids War Horses.

In Victoria, British Columbia, there is a successful collector for the Blue Cross fund for horses disabled in war. His name is Prince and he is a New-

foundland. For months, with his box decorated with the Blue Cross, strapped to his collar, Prince has served his king and country as faithfully and as true as any subject of George V, by petitioning alms for the horses wounded and suffering in the great war.

the great majority of thrifty people can save a little—and the more luxurious elements of the population can by reduction to simple living save much. The final result of substituting other products and saving one pound of wheat flour, two ounces of fats, seven ounces of sugar and seven ounces of meat weekly, by each person, will, when we have multiplied this by one hundred million, have increased our exports to the amounts absolutely required by our allies. This means no more than that we should eat plenty, but eat wisely and without waste.

Food conservation has other aspects of utmost importance. Wars must be economy in consumption everywhere. The normal American consumption is about 90 pounds per person per annum and is just double the French consumption.

Vegetables.

We have this year a most abundant crop of vegetables for our use as a result of a patriotic endeavor almost universal throughout the country. Our potato harvest alone promises an increase from 255,000,000 bushels last year to over 400,000,000 bushels this year. The other vegetables are likewise enormously increased through the planting and extension of millions of gardens. The sweet potato crop promises to be from 10 to 20 per cent above what it was last year, and the commercial crop of sweet corn for canning purposes is estimated to be from 20 to 30 per cent above that of last year. The commercial crop of tomatoes for canning purposes will probably be somewhere between 10 and 20 per cent above what it was last year. There is an increase in the acreage of late onions of about 54 per cent over the area harvested in 1916.

Pork Products.

The hog is the most efficient of machines for the production of animal fat. The hog not only makes more fat from a given amount of feed, but also the products made are specially capable of preservation and most economical for commercial handling.

The swine of Europe are rapidly decreasing and the consumption demand induced by the war is much increased, particularly because bacon, ham and lard are so adaptable for military supplies. Moreover, our allies are isolated from many markets and a large amount from northern neutrals is being diverted to Germany.

While our hogs have increased in number by 3,000,000 animals, the average weight at slaughter is falling and our production is probably only about maintained. The increasing demand upon us since the war began is shown by the following figures of comparative exports:

Three-year pre-war average, 493,614,000 pounds.

Year ending June 30, 1916, 1,339,103,000 pounds.

The impact of Europe has been engaged ever since the war began in the elimination of waste, the simplification of life, and the increase of its industrial capacity. When the war is over the consuming power of the world will be reduced by the loss of prosperity and man power, and we shall enter a period of competition without parallel in ferocity. After the war, we must maintain our foreign markets if our working people are to be employed. We shall be in no position to compete if we continue to live on the same basis of waste and extravagance on which we have lived hitherto. Simple temperate living is a moral issue of the first order at any time, and any other basis of conduct during the interest of the country and the interest of democracy.

The impact of the food shortage of Europe has knocked at every door of the United States during the past three years. The prices of foodstuffs have nearly doubled, and the reverberations of Europe's increasing shortage would have thundered twice as loudly during the coming year even had we not entered the war, and it can now only be mitigated if we can exert a strong control over the production of food.

It is a revelation to the reader to learn that during the first half of 1917, 160,000 automobile licensees were issued in Alberta, twice as many as in the whole of 1916. In Saskatchewan, 21,000 licenses were issued up to the first of May, 1917. In its monthly bulletin for June the Canadian Bank of Commerce makes special reference to this phase and to the general prosperity of the West in the following:

"Since that time we have acquired altogether a section and a half of land, in addition to renting another three-quarters of a section. If we had to sell out now we could probably realize about \$50,000, and have made all this since we came here. We get crops in this district of from 30 to 35 bushels of wheat to the acre and oats from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre. Stock here pays well. We have 1,700 sheep, 70 cattle and 60 horses, of which a number are registered Clydes."

Similar successes might be given of the experiences of hundreds of farmers throughout Western Canada, who have done comparatively well. Why should they not dress well, live well, have comfortable homes, with all modern equipments, electric light, steam heat, pure ventilation, and automobiles. Speaking of automobiles it will be a revelation to the reader to learn that during the first half of 1917, 160,000 automobile licensees were issued in Alberta, twice as many as in the whole of 1916. In Saskatchewan, 21,000 licenses were issued up to the first of May, 1917. In its monthly bulletin for June the Canadian Bank of Commerce makes special reference to this phase and to the general prosperity of the West in the following:

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