BRITAIN'S FOOD SUPPLY IS LOW DUE TO BAD HARVEST, NOT SUBS

Farmers Guaranteed Minimum Prices for Six Years on Wheat, Oats, Potatoes, and Farm Laborer's Wage Raised.

A despatch from London says: Premier Lloyd George said in a speech in the House of Commons on Friday that the ultimate success of the allied cause depended on the ability to solve the tonnage shortage, which was now affecting the ordinary needs of the nation and military exigencies. The situation called for the gravest measures.

The Premier said there was no sure way to victory without hunting the submarine from the deep. Enormous sacrifices were necessary from the British public and the Government proposed to dispense with all non-essential importations to save tonnage.

Can Face the Worst.

The Premier declared he had not the slightest doubt that if the whole programme were carried out and if all those who could help in production did help, "I honestly say we can face the worst the enemy can do, and that is what we ought to be prepared to do."

In dealing with the question of production, the Premier said:

"Then there is the question of our home supplies of food. I want the country to know that at present our food stocks are low. This is not due to submarine, but to the bad harvest. It is essential to the safety of the nation that we put forth every effort to increase production this year.

There are still a few weeks to sow spring wheat, oats and barley; to induce the farmer to plow up pasture land immediately. The Government proposes to guarantee the farmer a minimum price for a definite period, while a minimum wage of 25 shillings weekly will be fixed for the laborer."

The Premier said that before the war British tonnage had been just adequate, and since that time there had been an enormous increase in the demand for tonnage. More than 1,000,000 tons of British shipping had been allocated to France alone, and a very considerable amount had been set aside for Russia and Italy; in addition, a considerable amount had been sunk.

Must Be Drastic Measures.

For some time there has been a shortage of tonnage required for the general needs of the nation, and even slight shortage in the tonnage for military purposes. The nation should realize absolutely what the conditions were.

"If we take drastic measures," he continued, "we can cope with the submarine menace, but if the nation is not prepared to accept drastic measures for dealing with the menace disaster is before us."

"The Government is hopeful of finding means of dealing with the submarine, but we should be guilty of folly if we rested tranquilly upon the expectation of realization of that hope. We have to deal ruthlessly and promptly with the tonnage problem by measures which impose great sacrifices upon the country.

Three Sets of Measures.

"There are three sets of measures: First, by the navy, as described by Sir Edward Carson (First Lord of the Admiralty); second, the building of merchant ships; third, dispensing with unnecessary commodities from abroad and production of as much food as possible at home."

The opinion was expressed by the Premier that food prices were not likely to decrease for a long time after the war, inasmuch as Germany would then be a heavier purchaser than ever before. Therefore it was safe to grant to the farmers a minimum price over a definite period of time, which was the only way to bring about immediate action.

The Premier announced that the Government would guarantee a price of 38s. 6d. for oats this year, 32s. for the next two years, and 24s. for the three following years. The price of potatoes would be guaranteed, for the coming season only, at £6 a ton.

For wheat the Government will guarantee the farmer the following minimum prices per quarter: For the present year, 60s.; for 1918 and 1919, 55s.; for 1920, 1921, and 1922, 45s.

To Compel Production.

The Premier said powers would be given to the Board of Agriculture to compel landowners to cultivate their ground.

The minimum wage for farm labor announced by Mr. Lloyd George, 25 shillings a week, represents an increase of 50 to 80 per cent. over the present prevailing payment.

Brewing will be cut down to 10,000,000 barrels annually. A similar reduction will be made in the output of spirits, affecting a saving of 600,000 tons of foodstuffs.

The importation of apples, tomatoes and fruits will be prohibited. The only exceptions made in the prohibition of fruit importations will be in the cases of oranges and bananas, in which the amount brought in will be restricted 25 per cent. The same restriction will apply to nuts. Canned salmon importations will be reduced fifty per cent. The importation of foreign tea, coffee and cocoa is prohibited, and even the amount of India tea which may be brought in is reduced. The importation of aerated, mineral and table waters will be prohibited.

Save 900,000 Tons Shipping.

The Premier said it was expected to save 900,000 tons of shipping yearly on foodstuffs.

The importation of paper, the Premier announced, must be curtailed by a further 640,000 tons annually. In announcing the decision to restrict the importantion of paper, Mr. Lloyd George said the Government had arrived at the conclusion that a very substantial reduction was necessary, and that the amount would be cut to half of what is now allowed. This would reduce the allowance to 640,000 tons.

Essential Foods on Free List.

All essential articles of food, he continued, would be on the free list, but certain articles would be reduced or prohibited. The stoppage of importation of coffee, tea and cocoa for the time being was due to the fact that large supplies were on hand. The Premier said he regretted very much the cutting off of certain luxuries which came from France and Italy.

These restrictions would be imposed immediately, said the Premier. Steps would be taken to prevent speculative buying, and if necessary the food control of the commodity. The restrictions had been carefully considered, and he asked the House to take them as a whole.

To Promote Shipbuilding.

Premier Lloyd George said it was necessary to get as much work as possible out of the shipyards, not merely for the mercantile marine, but to enable the building of boats to cope with submarines. Timber to the amount of 6,400,000 tons had been imported, he said, and if this tonnage was to be saved, this timber problem must be dealt with. Investigation was being made as to the best methods of economizing timber behind the lines and in England. Another method was to make the army in France self-supporting.

Ore Importations.

The next heaviest item of import is iron ore, which now amounts to 8,000,000 tons annually. Regarding this item the Premier said: "We are importing millions of tons, but the importation cannot be diminished unless more iron ore is found in our country. There is plenty of low grade ore, however, in this country, and if the supply of labor can be augmented we can increase enormously our output. The saving of tonnage would be large, but, unfortunately it would come late in the year."

Tonnage Urgently Needed

"Farmers can increase even now by hundreds of thousands of tons for this year," said Premier Lloyd George, "the food cupplies of the country. If all the plans are carried out a very considerable quantity of tonnage will be saved, but future tonnage is urgently needed. The French Ambassador has been here begging for more ships, and the Italian Ambassador has just left after making the same request.

"We need an immediate and substantial saving of tonnage. Let us come down ruthlessly on imports which are not essential. It is idle to suggest that we who are comfortable at home should not be prepared to surrender the things unnecessary."

VERDUN EFFORTS SERIOUS REVERSE

Hindenburg Issues Statement Censuring German Losses in Memorable Conflict.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters in France says a copy of an order issued by Field Marshal von Hinderberg has come into the possession of the British forces. In part, the order says:

"The operations at Verdun from October to December resulted in serious and regrettable reverses. Incapable officers must be ruthlessly removed. The number of prisoners, which was unusually large for German troops, some of whom evidently surrendered without serious resistance, or without suffering heavy losses, shows the morale of some of the troops engaged was low."

The order adds, according to the correspondent, that the reason for this requires a most careful investigation, and that steps must be taken to revive the old spirit of the German infantry.

FOOD SCANDAL IN AUSTRIAN ARMY

Troops at Front Were Deliberately Left Without Food.

An Exchange telegram despatch from Amsterdam says it is reported from Vienna that Baron Hazai has been removed as Hungarian Minister of National Defence, Major-General von Szurmay having been appointed in his place. This change and also the removal from command of the Austro-Hungarian army of Field-Marshal Archduke Frederick, who has been made second in command to the Emperor, are reported to have been in consequence of a scandal in the army management which was revealed recently at headquarters by the fact that large bodies of troops were without food for upwards of a day.

According to this report, food intended for the troops was misapplied with full knowledge of the higher command. The Emperor is said to have decided to proceed with many additional cases which are described as being of a sensational nature.

ARREST MEMBERS OF SINN FEIN ORDER

Men Released From Internment Camps in England Again in Custody.

A despatch from Dublin says: A number of Sinn-Feiners, who had recently returned from internment in England were arrested on Thursday in Limerick, Galway and Skibbereen, as well as in Dublin. The arrests were made under the defence of the realm act. Altogether about fifty members of the Sinn-Fein and the Gaelic League had been arrested and arrests are continuing. Thirty-five men were taken into custody in Dublin alone. In Galway on Thursday night a prominent member of the Oughterard District Council and a prominent Athenry merchant were arrested. Among those arrested in Dublin, the despatch says, are Councillor S. T. Kelly, J. J. O'Kelly, editor of the Catholic Bulletin; Darrel Figgis, a well-known writer, and Captain Liam Mellowes.

LEADING MARKETS

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Feb. 27—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.96½; No. 2 do., $1.93½; No. 3, do., $1.88; No. 4 wheat, $1.79, track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 71½c to 73c; No. 3 C.W., 70½ to 72c; extra No. 1 feed, 70½ to 72c; No. 1 feed, 69½ to 71c, all rail delivered en route.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.15, subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 63 to 65c, nominal; No. 3 white, 62 to 64c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.75 to $1.77; No. 3, do., $1.73 to $1.75, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, $2.45, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.20 to $1.22, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.28, nominal, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.40 to $1.42, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $9.50; second patents, in jute bags, $9.00; strong bakers', in jute bags, $8.60, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, $7.25 to $7.35, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment; $7.00, bulk seaboard, export grade.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $37; shorts, per ton, $42; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—Extra No. 2, per ton, $12; mixed, per ton, $9 to $11.00, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $9, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 36 to 38c; creamery prints, 43 to 45c; solids, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—New-laid, in cartons, 55 to 56c; out of cartons, 52 to 54c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 23 to 26c; fowl, 20 to 22c; ducks, 22 to 26c; squabs, per doz., $4 to $4.50; turkeys, 28 to 33c; geese, 18 to 20c.

Live poultry—Fowl, lb., 17 to 19c; chickens, lb., 18 to 20c.

Cheese—New, large, 25½ to 26c; twins, 26 to 26½c; triplets, 26½ to 26¾c; old, large, 27c; twins, 27½ to 27½c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb. tins, 14 to 14½c; 5-lb. tins, 13½ to 14c; 10-lb., 13 to 13½c; 60-lb., 12½ to 13c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 9 to 9½. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz., $2.75; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2 to $2.25.

Potatoes—Ontario, per bag, $3.50; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $4 to $4.25; Albertas, per bag, $350 to $3.75.

Beans—Imported, hand-picked, per bush., $6.25; Canadian, hand-picked, per bush., $7.00; Canadian primes, $6.00 to $6.50; Limas, per lb., 11½ to 12c.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 26 to 27c; do. heavy, 23 to 24c; cooked, 37 to 38c; rolls, 21 to 22c; breakfast bacon, 27 to 29c; backs, plain, 28 to 30c; boneless, 31 to 33c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 21½ to 21¾c; tubs, 21¾ to 22c; pails, 22 to 23¼c; compound, 16¾ to 17c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 18 to 18½c per lb.; clear bellies, 18 to 18½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Feb. 27—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, $1.30 to $1.32. Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, 75 to 76c; do., No. 3, 73 to 74c; extra No. 1 feed, 73 to 74c. Flour—Man. Spring wheat patents, firsts, $9.60; seconds, $9.10; strong bakers', $8.90; Winter patents, choice, $9.25; straight rollers, $8.50 to $8.80; straight rollers, bags, $4.10 to $4.25. Rolled oats—barrels, $6.75 to $7.15; do., bags, 90 lbs., $3.25 to $3.45. Bran, $35; Shorts, $38; Middlings, $40 to $42; Mouillie, $45 to $50. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $13. Cheese—finest westerns, 26 to 26½c; do., finest easterns, 25 to 25½c. Butter—choicest creamery, 42 to 43c; seconds, 39 to 41c. Eggs—fresh, 55 to 58c; selected, 48c; No. 1 stock, 45c. Potatoes—per bag, car lots, $3.00 to $3.50.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, Feb. 27—No. 1 Northern, $1.73⅞; No. 2 Northern, $1.70⅞; No. 3 Northern, $1.65⅞; No. 4, $1.56⅞; No. 5, $1.38⅞; No. 6, $1.10⅞; feed, 96c. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 58½c; No. 3 C. W., 56½c; extra No. 1 feed, 56½c; No. 1 feed, 56c; No. 2 feed, 55½c. Barley—No. 3 C.W., 97c; No. 4 C.W., 92c; rejected, 80c; feed, 80c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $2.53½; No. 2 C.W., $2.50½.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, Feb. 27—Wheat, May, $1.80; July, $1.74½. Cash—No. 1 hard, $1.90 to $1.94; No. 1 Northern, $1.82 to $1.88; No. 2 Northern, $1.78 to $1.87. Corn, No. 3 yellow, $1.00½ to $1.02. Oats, No. 3 white, 56½ to 57½c. Flour—Fancy patents, $9.45; first clears, $8.25; other grades unchanged. Bran unchanged.

Duluth, Feb. 27—Wheat, No. 1 hard, $1.83⅞; No. 1 Northern, $1.82⅞; No. 2 Northern, $1.87⅞ to $1.90⅞. Linseed, on track, $2.81½ to $2.82; to arrive, $2.81½; May, $2.83½ asked; July, $2.83⅞ asked.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Feb. 27—Choice heavy steers, $10.85 to $11.25; do., good, $10.35 to $10.60; butchers' cattle, choice, $10.35 to $10.65; do., good, $9.80 to $10.10; do., medium, $8.75 to $9.00; do., common, $7.50 to $7.57; butchers' bulls, choice, $9.25 to $9.75; do., good bulls, $8.40 to $8.85; do., medium bulls, $7.15 to $7.60; do., rough bulls, $5 to $5.25; butchers' cows, choice, $8.90 to $9.25; do., good, $8.40 to $8.60; do., medium, $7 to $7.25; stockers, $6.25 to $8; choice feeders, $8.25 to $8.75; canners and cutters, $5 to $5.50; milkers, good to choice, $85 to $110; do. com. and med., ea., $40 to $60; springers, $50 to $110; light ewes, $10 to $10.50; sheep, heavy, $8.50 to $9.50; calves, good to choice, $12.75 to $14.75; lambs, choice, $14 to $15; do., medium, $9.75 to $10.25; hogs, fed and watered, $14.75; do., weighed off cars, $15; do., f.o.b., $14.00.

Montreal, Feb. 27—Choice steers, $10.25; good, $8 to $10; butchers' cows, choice, $7 to $8.50; good, $6 to $7; butchers' bulls, choice, $7 to $8.50; good, $6 to $7; canners' cows, $5; canners' bulls, $5.50; calves, $12 to $14; hay-fed, $6 to $7; sheep, $8 to $9; lambs, $13 to $13.50; hogs, choice selects, off cars, $14.50 to $15; sows, $12.50 to $13.

MOST OF THE U-BOATS SINK BUT SOME HAVE BEEN CAPTURED

Fully 200 Have Not Returned to Their Base, Declares Alfred Noyes, the English Poet.

A despatch from New York says:—England's anti-submarine fleet consists of 4,000 private yachts, whalers and fishing vessels, manned by 60,000 men, and this force already has destroyed 200 German submarines, Alfred Noyes, the English poet, asserted in a statement here Wednesday night.

"Every boat is armed with guns throwing 12 or 14-pound explosive shells, and has 1,000 yards of steel netting trailing behind," he declared. "All the home waters are mapped out in blocks and each block patrolled.

"Imagine 60 trawlers stretching a steel undersea net from the English to the Irish coast and you get some idea of the British Admiralty's anti-submarine campaign, by which the German submersibles have been driven from home waters and forced to attack neutral vessels on the high seas."

Mr. Noyes said he had spent many days with the trawlers, and was informed by their captains that a submarine rarely will attack an armed vessel. What becomes of a submarine after it strikes a trawler's net, the poet said, is a naval secret.

"Some have been captured and taken to England, but most of them sink," he added. It is impossible to save the crews. What is done to them when they hit the net I am forbidden to say."

CAPTURED AT LOOS, SENT HOME TO DIE.

A despatch from London says: The following brief item in the Times tells one of many sad stories: "A verdict of death from tuberculosis, accelerated by privations and unsuitable food while a prisoner-of-war in Germany, was returned at the inquest on Joseph Wright, aged 29, private in a Lincoln regiment, who died at a military hospital on Tuesday. Wright was formerly a butler in Chester. He was slightly wounded and taken prisoner at Loos. He was a prisoner-of-war in Germany nine months before being sent to Switzerland, where he arrived in a terribly emaciated condition."

RUSSIA IS OPENING OFFICE IN OTTAWA

Will Purchase Supplies in Canada, Not Through New York.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The Russian Government, which has hitherto conducted its war purchases on this continent from New York headquarters, has, on the suggestion of the Canadian Government, decided to open up an office at Ottawa, to take charge of the purchasing business in Canada. Col. Kovaleff, of the Russian army, has arrived at the capital to take charge of the new office, Russia is now buying several million dollars' worth of various war supplies in Canada, and it is expected that the orders will be increased during the present years.

HUNGER CLOSES WAR PLANTS.

Six Thousand Austrian Munition Workers Reported Out.

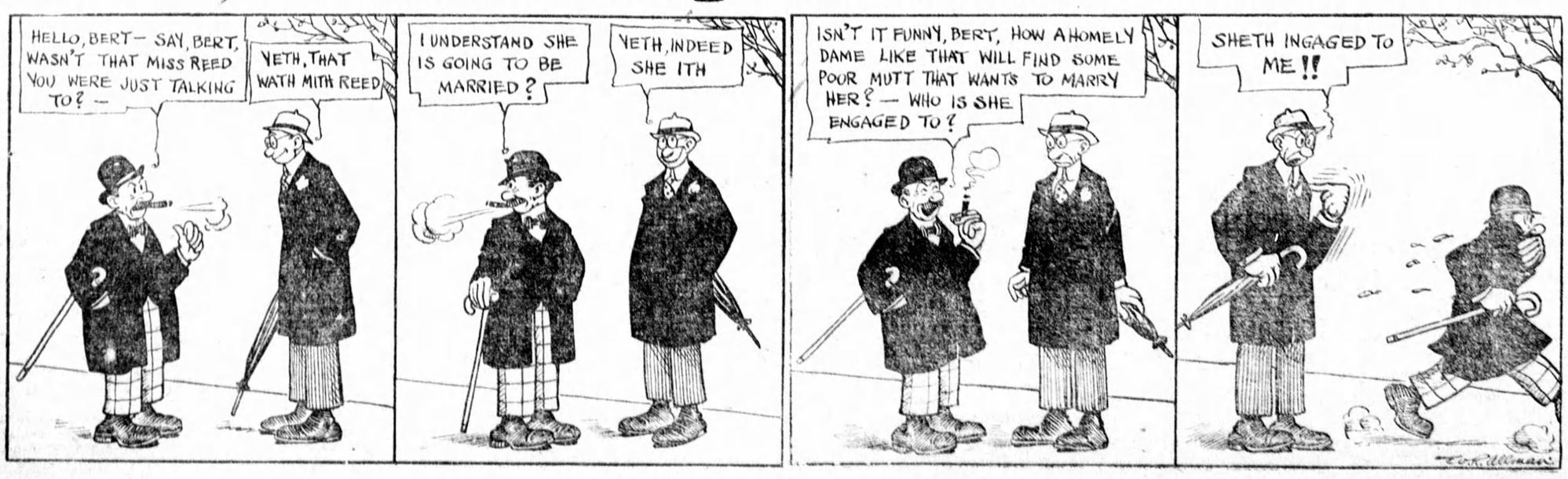
A despatch from London says: Reports from neutral sources tell of increasing suffering in Germany and Austria as a result of the shortage of coal and food. Six thousand munition workers in Austria have been forced to quit work because of hunger.

CANADIAN RECORD FOR RAIDS BEATEN BY THE LONDON TROOPS

New Zealanders Entered German Lines South of Armentieres to a Depth of 300 Yards.

A despatch from British Headquarters in France says:—Further details regarding the successful raid made by the New Zealand troops south of Armentieres show that they entered the German lines to a depth of 300 yards and remained there for half an hour, wrecking dugouts and various trench works.

They found the enemy support lines full of dead from the bombardment which preceded the raid. Forty-four prisoners were brought back by them.

This is but one of the successful raids carried out. The London troops set a new high record for raids by bringing back 120 prisoners near Ploegsteert. The Canadians previously held the record of 100. The men from Canada say they are determined to exceed the bag of the Londoners before the raiding season is ended.

The Doings of the Duffs.