

# 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 26s. 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, toma-

atoes 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 importation 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 supplies 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."

# BRITISH FORCE ACROSS TIGRIS

## Position on Left Bank of River Was Secured and Consolidated.

A despatch from London says: A British official communication dealing with the fighting along the Tigris River shows that in addition to having occupied Turkish trenches over a front of nearly 2,000 yards in the Sannaiyat region, the British troops also have been able to cross to the left bank of the Tigris in the Shumran bend, west of Kut-el-Amara, and to consolidate a position there. More than 500 prisoners were taken.

# 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 freight outside.

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

Peas—No. 2, \$2.45, according to freight outside.

Barley—Maltin, \$1.20 to \$1.22, according to freight outside.

Buckwheat—\$1.28, nominal, according to freight outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in 50 lb. bags, \$9.50; second patents, in 50 lb. bags, \$9.00; strong bakers', in 50 lb. bags, \$8.50, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, \$7.35 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, \$27; 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 25c; 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 27c; old, large, 27c; twins, 27½ to 28c.

Honey—White clover, 23-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, \$3.50 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 28c; backs, plain, 28 to 30c; boneless, 31 to 33c.

Lard—Pure lard, tins, 21½ to 21c; tubs, 21½ to 22c; pails, 22 to 23c; compound, 16½ to 17c.

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

## 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 \$4.26.

Rolling oats—Barley, \$7.75 to \$7.85; do. bags, 90 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.45; Bran, \$3.5; Shorts, \$3.8; Middlings, \$4 to \$4.2; Mouillie, \$4.5 to \$5.0. 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, \$1.73½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.70½; No. 3 Northern, \$1.65½; No. 4, \$1.58½; No. 5, \$1.53½; No. 6, \$1.48; 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, 55c; 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 \$1.85; No. 2 Northern, \$1.76 to \$1.87. Corn—No. 3 yellow, \$1.00 to \$1.02; Oats—No. 3 white, 56½ to 57c. Flour—Fancy patents, \$9.45; first clears, \$8.25; other grades unchanged. Bran unchanged.

Duluth, Feb. 27.—Wheat, No. 1 hard, \$1.83½; No. 1 Northern, \$1.82½; No. 2 Northern, \$1.77½ to \$1.80½. Lined, on track, \$2.81½ to \$2.82; to arrive, \$2.81½; May, \$2.83½ asked; July, \$2.83½ 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 \$7.75; butchers' bulls, choice, \$9.25 to \$9.75; do. good bulls, \$8.40 to \$8.95; do. com. and med., \$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., \$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, \$16; 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, \$8 to \$7; sheep, \$8 to \$9; lambs, \$13 to \$13.50; hogs, choice, selected, off cars, \$14.50 to \$15; sows, \$12.50 to \$13.

# THE GREATEST GERMAN RETREAT IN TWO YEARS

## Under Cover of Fog and Mist Heavy Guns Had Been Withdrawn To New Defence Line.

British Headquarters in France, Feb. 25, via London, Feb. 26.—On one portion of the British front at least the war to-day became a war of movement. Under cover of fog and mist, which have been particularly heavy in the past 48 hours, the Germans carried out the greatest retirement they have made on the western front in the last two years, and the British have swept into possession of Pys, Serre, Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, including the famous Butte de Warlencourt, which has been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war, and in places is deep with the bones of dead men.

The exact extent of the German retirement is not known to-night, but it is estimated that it approaches a depth of three miles at some points. British patrols are out in all directions, harrassing the Germans and keeping in touch with their movements. Until they report it will not be possible to say just where the Ger-

mans have determined to fix their next line of resistance.

Nevertheless it can be stated that the British now, or soon, will be in a position possibly to force the evacuation of Bapaume, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. The points which already have fallen into the British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting on this front and had been most stubbornly defended. Only a week ago, when the British attacked on a 2-mile front east and south of Miraumont and Pys, the German resistance was bitter and the high ground desired was won only after desperate hand-to-hand encounters and the taking of more than 800 Germans prisoner.

The British had been waiting for a clearing of the foggy weather before pressing the advance, but meantime it is apparent that the German high command decided to retire without any further fighting to stronger positions prepared well to the rear.

# 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.

# FOOD CONTROLLER ISSUES WARNING.

A despatch from London says: In response to reports which filled the newspapers on Saturday of impending increases in the prices of most commodities mentioned in the list of restricted importations, Baron Devonport, the food controller, Saturday night issued the following official warning: "Baron Devonport desires to repeat the warning given by Premier Lloyd George in his speech Friday that no speculative buying or cornering of food supplies, with a view of raising the existing level of prices, will be permitted or tolerated. Should any such attempts be made, the food controller will immediately take the necessary steps to protect the interests of the consumer. Baron Devonport will confer in due course with representatives of the various trade interests affected."

# 17,000 KRUPP WORKERS ARE OUT ON STRIKE

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The frontier correspondent of the Telegraaf says that a strike in the Krupp works at Essen involving 17,000 workmen, has been in progress for a fortnight. The men, the correspondent declares, are demanding higher wages and increased food rations. Many of the strikers he adds, have been sent to the front.

# 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 submarines 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."

# DUMB SUFFERING LYING BY THE ROAD

## One-third of the Armenian Race Has Been Massacred.

A despatch from New York says:—One-third of the Armenian race has been massacred or died from starvation and disease since the European war began, and one-half of those remaining are homeless and dying in exile, according to a cable message from John Masfield, famous English writer, made public here Wednesday night by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief. The message said in part:

"Far away as she is from the main conflict, Armenia has suffered more in this war than has any devastated land in Europe. She is like a victim met by troops on the march and beaten and stabbed and left to die. There is nothing in her misery to make a headline of a battle cry. It is just dumb suffering lying by the road."

# 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."

# PLYMOUTH HARBOR CLOSED TO NEUTRALS

## Port is One of Britain's Biggest Naval Bases and Dockyards.

A despatch from London says:—It is officially announced that the port of Plymouth has been closed until further notice to all ships except those of the allies. Other vessels entering the harbor are punishable under the defence of the realm regulations and liable to detention.