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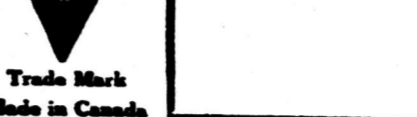
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READ THE ADS

If Waste were Eliminated

It is impressive to learn that enough good food is wasted in Canada every day to feed every Canadian soldier who has gone overseas to fight for us.

Through carelessness and inefficiency there is wasted in garbage every year throughout Canada, food to the value of \$56,000,000 or about \$7.00 per capita of the home population, according to the recent estimates of the Canadian Food Controller. To this huge sum must be added a large, though indeterminate, number of millions lost through poor storage, delay in transportation, and unhygienic surroundings. What the grand total would be there are no present means of discovering. The important points are that this waste is needless and preventable.

Wasting \$7.00 worth of food per year means a daily waste of only 1.92 per head. Without doubt, larger crops, better distribution, closer buying on the part of the housekeeper, more careful preparation and more thorough utilization of our foodstuffs, would not only correct this waste, but would appreciably reduce the actual cost of living very considerably. Let it be assumed that, by complete national organization and rigid economy, the cost of living could be reduced by 5 per cent for each individual. Roughly, then, counting in the elimination of garbage waste, we would have a saving of 7c per day, or \$25.55 per capita annually. The national grand total saving would then amount to the astounding sum of \$204,400,000; enough to feed an army of one million men for a year. These figures are appalling, but they are not beyond the range of achievement.

For the sake of clearness let us summarize the estimates given above: Estimated cost of feeding Canada's overseas soldiers: \$50,000,000. Estimated annual preventable waste in Canadian garbage: \$56,000,000. Estimated annual saving possible by preventing garbage waste and further reducing cost of living by 5 cents per head (total 7 cents per head).

But there are other equally cogent illustrations of what economy in little things can accomplish. Suppose, for example, that one million families in Canada waste one slice of white bread per week. For convenience we shall consider that the one pound loaf divides into 14 slices of 1.14 oz. each. The sum is simple. 1 slice of bread (1-14 of loaf), weighs 1.14 oz. If one million families waste one slice per week, the weekly total waste of bread is 1,140,000 oz., or 71,250 one pound loaves or enough for 333 divisions for one division (21,500 men) for three and one third days, or 10 meals to each man.

The annual national waste rising from the same source is impressive: annual total result of 1,000,000 families wasting 1 slice of bread per week 3,705,000 one pound loaves; or 2,593,500 lbs. flour; or 3,573,000 lbs. wheat; or 59,244 bus. wheat.

The tremendous importance of waste prevention and of food economy is clear. It is appropriate to touch briefly on a subject that, in these times of war, is equally vital, the possibilities of substituting other staples for wheat flour.

If, once a week, one million Canadian families use a one pound loaf of corn or rye bread instead of a similar loaf of white, the weekly and yearly saving would be:

Substituting one pound loaf of corn or rye bread per week would save 1,000,000 lbs. of white bread; or 700,000 lbs. of flour; or 3571 bushels of flour or 16,079 bus. of wheat.

The yearly saving on the same scale would amount to 52,000,000 lbs. bread; or 36,400,000 lbs. flour; or 185,712 bushels of flour; or 835,708 bushels of wheat.

What applies to the saving of wheat flour is also, in greater or less degree, applicable to the saving of beef and bacon, the two other commodities that Canada must strive above all things to ship overseas. It is not to be doubted that habits of economy induced by watching carefully the consumption of flour, beef and bacon, will automatically bring about savings in all other foodstuffs. Thus the suggested saving of 7 cents per head seems not only attainable, but may lead to even greater economies.

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