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FOOD SITUATION IN
CENTRAL EUROPE, 1917

COMPILED AND TRANSLATED BY

ALFRED MAYLANDER



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INTRODUCTION.

Next to military problems the food problem plays the most important part in the present world War. "Food will win the War" is the general slogan now in all belligerent countries. Special food administrations with the most far reaching dictatorial powers have been established in every country at war and volumes of food laws, decrees, orders, etc., have been enacted, abrogated, and amended. In the countries of the entente powers the food problem was of secondary importance until the end of 1916. In the central European countries, however, the food situation has been acute ever since the proclamation of their blockade by Great Britain. Since then the food shortage in these countries has assumed more threatening proportions from month to month and the control of food supplies has become more and more stringent.

In view of the importance of the food problem in the present War, the Bureau of Labor Statistics during the past year has published in its Monthly Review a series of articles on Government food control in European belligerent countries. These articles contained brief summaries of the food legislation enacted in the various countries and of the general food situation, which were supplemented by comments on the enforcement of food regulations. With respect to the central European countries these articles were of course somewhat fragmentary, owing to the fact that direct mail service with them had been impossible, at first, on account of the British censorship and later on because of the entry of the United States in the War. British official and unofficial sources and reports of correspondents of the American press had to be relied upon in the compilation of the articles in question. Of late, however, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has had access to complete files of a considerable number of leading daily papers of central European countries, particularly of Germany, some of these files reaching back for months.

Availing itself of this opportunity to obtain unbiased news as to the present food situation in central Europe the bureau has compiled the present bulletin.

The material presented in this bulletin covers the food situation in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey during 1917, up to the end of October. Original articles on the food situation in leading German and Austrian newspapers were plentiful and careful discrimination had to be exercised in making a suitable selection from the wealth of material at the disposal of the bureau. Comments on food orders, their enforcement, and the practical result of their application were available from organs of all political parties, thus representing every point of view. Material relating to the food situation in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey was much scarcer, as newspapers from these countries, particularly from Turkey, are very difficult to obtain. Those parts of the bulletin which cover the food situation in these three countries are therefore less comprehensive than the parts covering Germany and Austria, and in some respects they are even fragmentary. As far as it was possible the material for each country covered was arranged in the following order: First, an official or unofficial summary of the food situation in 1917, or both. This is followed by an outline of the food policy for the coming year, harvest reports, food orders relating to individual foodstuffs, comments on and criticism of these orders and their practical application, data on the supply and prices of individual foodstuffs and their rationing, war kitchens, profiteering, illegal procuring of food (food excursions, etc.), food-card systems, measures for the cheapening of food for the poorer classes, and on the effect of the food shortage on the health of the civilian population.

The newspaper articles used in the compilation of this bulletin were translated in full whenever their importance warranted such procedure, while in other instances brief digests were prepared. In quoting criticisms of official orders and of their application, it has been attempted, whenever possible, to quote on the same subject organs of several political parties, such as socialist, liberal, conservative, agrarian, junker, and other organs. This will enable the reader to balance these quotations with each other and in this manner obtain a general point of view on disputed questions. No attempt has been made to draw any conclusions as to the possible effect of the present food situation in central Europe on the outcome of the War.

GERMANY.¹

THE GERMAN FOOD SUPPLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW HARVEST YEAR.

At the beginning of the fourth year of the War a good deal of stock taking of the food supply was going on in the German press. The most important review—important, it is true, less by its intrinsic value than by the position of its author—was one given in a statement made on September 6, 1917, by the new food controller (the new secretary of state for the War Food Bureau), Herr von Waldow, to a gathering of press representatives.

This statement first explains the recent changes in the organization of the War Food Bureau. In place of the "president" a "secretary of state" has been appointed as head of the bureau. Thus, the War Food Bureau has been placed on the same footing as the other imperial bureaus, and its functions have been extended by transferring to it the business of the food section of the war department, so that now the food supply of the whole civil population, including workers in the munitions industry, is combined under one authority, thus bringing about more unity in this sphere.

The tried features of the War Food Bureau—the directorate, the food advisory council, the parliamentary advisory council, the committees of experts, and the women's advisory council—remain without change. By his appointment as minister of state and Prussian food commissioner the head of the War Food Bureau receives also the executive power in the largest of the Federal States.

After stating that no change of the system of food control is intended because the main lines of German war food economics in the new harvest year have already been laid down by the orders and regulations of the Federal Council (*Bundesrath*), the chancellor, and the former president of the War Food Bureau, and will be followed, Herr von Waldow sketched the prospects for the winter supply of food as follows:

As regards the prospects of the food supply in the current harvest year, it is at present impossible to obtain any exact survey of the situation. The grain harvest is still in progress, and we have not at present the necessary basis for an estimate of the total yield. Nevertheless, the reports up to date from most

¹ The present article has been compiled from various German daily papers in the form of translations and digests. For previous articles on the same subject see: Bulletin of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 170, "Foreign Food Prices as affected by the War," and Monthly Review of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May, 1917, pp. 703-727; June, 1917, pp. 921-928; and July, 1917, pp. 66-69.

parts of the Empire justify the confident expectation that the bread grain supply is secured for the whole year.

The prospects for the potato crop are, to judge by all the reports so far received, satisfactory, and if quite extraordinary weather conditions do not supervene, they can hardly be seriously impaired in the future. To judge by the preliminary measures taken by the Imperial Potato Office, we can count with certainty on a considerably better potato supply this year than last and on escaping such trials as we have had to bear in the last two months.

More difficult are the conditions in regard to fodder corn and raw fodder. Here the crops will fall somewhat below those of 1915, and it requires great care to strike a right balance between the needs of the army, of agriculture, of industry, and of town horses. It is obvious that, besides meeting the essential needs of the army, we must, in the first place, have regard to the maintenance of agricultural production. Hence, before all, agricultural draft animals must be adequately fed. If, as is unfortunately probable, the fulfillment of this duty is incompatible with the provision of sufficient fodder for the fattening of swine and the maintenance of our present stock of cattle, we must in good time, i. e., before the winter sets in, proceed to a systematic reduction of our stock of pigs and cattle. Naturally, that will have its effect on the supply of meat, milk, and fat. In the case of meat a temporary increase in the rations would be followed by a decrease. It will be particularly difficult this winter to keep up the supply of milk and butter; this requires, before all, a careful development of the collecting offices to get hold of dairy products in the producing districts, and at this task the Imperial Fat Office is working without relaxation.

The fruit and vegetable supply has improved lately. The prospects for autumn vegetables are not everywhere uniform; in some places drought and excessive prevalence of insect pests have disappointed our hopes. Special care is necessary to prevent any waste of stocks under the system of public control. All that is requisite is being done, and the common report that grain stocks have been spoiled is untrue.

Special energy must be put into the fight against illicit trade and profiteering. It will be the special duty of all administrative authorities to oppose these abuses.

The general situation may be summed up by saying that we may with full confidence expect to overcome the difficulties of the fourth year of the war also.

The *Leipziger Volkszeitung* (Sept. 8), a minority Socialist organ, is by no means satisfied with this statement. It writes:

Herr von Waldow's statements contain nothing new. That the grain harvest was a moderate, medium harvest, that the supply of bread grain is assured, that the potato crop is better than last year, and that the want of fodder compels a diminution of our stocks of pigs and cattle which will lead to considerable difficulties in the supply of meat, milk, and butter—all these are things which we had heard from various quarters long before Herr von Waldow. His program went no further than the statement that no change of system is intended. He will continue, therefore, on the lines of Von Batocki. The maximum prices will continue to be in very truth "maxima," the war companies will continue to control foodstuffs in a way displeasing to the consumers, the agrarians will continue to make their profits, and the great mass of the people will feel just as before. What then is really altered?

That the prospects of the food supply for the coming winter are not overbright is generally recognized in the German daily press.

The bread-grain harvest is believed to be about an average one, but nothing definite will be known until after the general survey of the grain crops ordered for the period September 20 to October 5 by the War Food Bureau has been made. Much is hoped from the potato harvest, and something from the imports from occupied territories. In other respects the prospect is not encouraging, and the authorities hardly attempt to make it appear otherwise.

In this connection it is of interest to note a long article by R. Schmidt, Socialist member of the Reichstag, on the future prospects, which appeared in the *Brunswick Volksfreund*,¹ and which seems, on the whole, to take a sane view, not notably exaggerating on the side of either optimism or pessimism. This article contains the following remarks:

Although the statistics of the new harvest are not yet available, it is possible to look forward into the next harvest year. The harvest results alone are not decisive; previous experience shows how very much depends on organization.

The War Food Bureau has begun to realize that food production must bear some relation to the cattle stocks. Important plant foods must not be drawn upon too heavily for fodder. The stock of pigs must be reduced. The increased meat ration was made possible only by drawing heavily upon the cattle stocks, but they still approach the peace level.

The bread-grain harvest in Germany is an average one. Tolerably large supplies from Roumania may be counted on, and the occupied territories will at least furnish a fair amount for the army. It may be taken as certain that the bread ration can be maintained and possibly increased to make up for the shortage of oat and barley food preparations; for in these two grains there is a relatively unfavorable harvest, and their use as fodder can not be entirely prohibited, as a considerable portion of the harvest will be needed for horses.

That a 10-pound weekly ration of potatoes is possible is admitted even by the farmers. But the urban supplies are not assured. The Imperial Potato Office is relying too much on the agricultural card instead of requisitioning. It is essential that all supplies not carried to the towns in autumn should be specially stored in the keeping of the village communes and near railway stations to lessen the difficulties attendant upon transportation in winter. Otherwise the shortage may be even worse than last year, because there can be no substitutes in the form of barley and oat preparations.

He then utters a strong warning against any permission of trading not under Government control.

The strict control of the War Food Bureau is absolutely necessary. Owing to the shortage of the fodder harvest, there will be greater temptation than ever to use bread grain and potatoes. The control must not even be delegated to local authorities, but it must be exercised from the central office by independent persons. The more grain that comes into the hands of the Imperial Grain Office the less danger will there be of misuse. Early thrashing must go on. There is no lack of storage room. Not again, as last spring, should grain be allowed to lie unthrashed in the farmers' open ricks, there to rot and become food for vermin.

The meat supply will be poor. It must be insisted upon that where the farmer has to kill his stock because of fodder shortage, it shall be made possible for

¹ Braunchweig, Sept. 13, 1917.

him to sell. Instead of being kept on starvation diet during the winter, the stock should be killed now, while it is well nourished, and the meat should be preserved in cold storage.

He has nothing reassuring to say in regard to milk and butter:

The rise in prices will not lead to a better supply. More might be done in the way of collecting foliage for fodder, especially by the aid of the military authorities.

Continual complaints are made about the fruit and vegetable supply. It is doubtful if the jam factories will be provided with sufficient fruit for their requirements. The prices of canned vegetables will be enormously high, as the vegetables can only be bought up at high prices, and large quantities will be spoiled by being put up in tin, an unsuitable material. The central office must arrange for vegetables to be dried rather than canned, and it must be done by experts to avoid a repetition of last year's wretched production.

Very serious is the spread of illicit trading, but it can be stopped only by supplying better rations. If, for instance, the potato ration is fixed at 10 pounds a week, no one then would take the trouble to go out into the country and beg and pray for potatoes.

The prospects of the food supply are in no way joyful. We do not know with what new difficulties we have to reckon. Price quotations have not fallen, and in many instances have advanced. We can not at present see what anomalies may arise in consequence of transport difficulties and unfavorable weather. But so much is clear: We shall escape a repetition of the deprivations of this spring and summer only if the new harvest is resolutely seized for human consumption.

At present the situation, due to the raising of the bread ration and to a better supply of potatoes, fruit, and vegetables, is probably easier than it has been for some time. But it is not encouraging, and there is in the daily press evidence of very considerable discontent, not among the working classes only.

GERMAN FOOD POLICY FOR 1917-18.

The food policy of the German Government for the coming economic year could be best illustrated by giving here a summary of recently issued food regulations. It is to be regretted that this can not be done, because for some time the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been unable to obtain German official publications. In the absence of official sources it has been decided to reproduce here extracts of an article by Dr. Schlittenbauer, director of the Agricultural Central Cooperative Society of Ratisbon and a well-known leader of the Bavarian agrarians, on the imperial economic plan for 1917-18.¹ This article furnishes in a summary form a very useful conspectus of the various food orders for the current harvest year and, in addition, contains some severe criticisms of the regulations discussed.

According to Dr. Schlittenbauer, the special features of the new economic plan for the 1917 harvest are: (1) The altered policy as to price; (2) the new imperial grain regulation.

¹ *Europäische Staats- und Wirtschafts-Zeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 4, 1917.

As regards the altered policy as to price the following should be remembered: When the War broke out Germany had splendid supplies of live stock—21,000,000 horned cattle and 25,700,000 pigs. Moreover, the weight of this live stock was constantly on the increase in consequence of scientific improvements in breeding. Because of this high standard, and the fact that in the first stage of the War Germany preferred to feed her armies on the live stock of the conquered territories, in the first five months of the War the nation had not only the lowest prices for many years for slaughter cattle and meat, but also an abundance of fat and meat. But, unfortunately, the high level of the stocks was not altogether a natural result of Germany's national economy. To a considerable extent it was due to the huge imports of foreign fodder. German cattle breeding, therefore, largely depended on outside sources, and this had unpleasant consequences during the War. Animal foods, such as meat, fat, butter, and milk, diminished in proportion to the diminution of supplies of foreign fodder, to the diminution of imports from neutral countries owing to the increasing pressure of the English blockade, and to the decline in the stock of home fodder owing to difficulties of production and to the increasing restriction of cereals and root crops to the human food supply.

As it was natural to expect these tendencies to develop still further, as early as 1916 the prices for agricultural produce ought to have been so fixed as to secure, under all circumstances, not only a sufficient production of bread grain and potatoes, but also their exclusive, or at least preponderating, use for human food. But instead of this, the regulations of July, 1916, fixed very low prices for bread grain and potatoes and very high prices for fodder grain, concentrated fodder, waste fodder, root crops, vegetables of every sort, and lean cattle. The consequences of this disparity very soon became evident; the area cultivated with bread grain and potatoes has decreased, and bread grain and potatoes have been used more largely for fodder than the supply of food justified.

In the spring of 1917 the responsible food authority, the War Food Bureau, perceived the danger of this price policy, and with the approval of 11 agricultural professors it resolved to reverse the system. The basic prices for bread grain were raised by 50 marks per metric ton (32 cents per bushel of 60 pounds), the prices for barley were decreased on an average 60 marks per metric ton (31 cents per bushel of 48 pounds), the prices for fodder beets and edible turnips of the 1917 harvest were decreased, the prices of lean pigs were lowered on an average by 30 per cent beginning with May 1, and the prices of lean oxen were lowered from July 1 by 15 to 20 per cent on an average, according to the scale of weight.

No objection can be raised against the principle in itself. It resulted, on the contrary, as the inevitable consequence of the circumstances. But there are very grave objections to be made to its detailed execution, for the transformation of the price policy took place without any consideration for keeping up production. Such consideration would have necessitated two lines of action: (1) A gradual diminution, adjusted step by step to the economic conditions, of prices for fodder and lean cattle; and (2) a timely balance between the loss on the one hand and the increased receipts on the other.

But in reality no trouble was taken about any diminution worth mentioning in the prices for fodder of any kind, especially for concentrated and substitute fodders. The high prices of fodder have continued, while the prices of cattle have not merely been lowered, but let down with a rush. That constitutes a vicious circle dangerous to production. It is impossible to raise cheap produce with expensive means of production. Besides it remains true that the prices for concentrated and substitute fodders in the economic year 1917 are still

higher than the basic prices for bread grain, indeed, in some instances much higher than the basic prices and the early thrashing premiums together.

The prices of live stock dropped violently without any compensation for the loss of receipts, amounting roughly to one and one-half billion marks, from the sale of lean cattle. The compensation would have lain (1) in a corresponding raising of the prices of milk and (2) in the higher receipts from the new grain prices.

In accordance with this the prices of cattle might have been reduced by about 5 per cent on June 1 if, simultaneously with the publication of the new scheme of prices on March 19, a minimum milk price adapted to the increased costs of production had been fixed in the different Federal States, differing in accordance with the circumstances of each. The second lowering might then have been made when the cheap green fodder came in, i. e., about August 1, and the third after the raised prices of grain had had their effect, i. e., about October 1.

Agriculture and cattle breeding can not be treated apart from each other. Together they constitute one complicated mechanism. Anyone taking out a wheel at the wrong place and time puts the whole machine out of gear.

But in reality the time and extent of the lowering of prices were determined by certain political considerations as to the mood of the masses. It was feared that the diminution of the bread and flour rations which was necessitated by the inventory of February 15 would cause discontent and perhaps even dangerous commotions. Therefore, the doubling of the meat ration for four months was immediately promised, and in order to obtain the deliveries of lean cattle necessary to carry out this promise, the farmers were threatened with the boggy of a considerable fall in the price of pigs on May 1, and the terror of a like fall in the price of lean cattle for July 1. The effect of this is that Germany's stock of pigs is decimated, further breeding is checked, and a serious shortage of fat is imminent. The raids on the larger live stock in a few weeks became intolerable. Hundreds of thousands of thin animals, which might in the summer have put on flesh finely for the winter in the green pastures, fell a sacrifice to the butcher's ax. Even the milch cows, the plough oxen, and above all the stock of calves and heifers, which were to have prevented the milk famine, unfortunately have been slaughtered. The doubling of the meat ration was bound to have a bad effect on the stock of horned cattle as soon as the supply of pigs ready for slaughter gave out, which took place somewhere about May 20. The doubled meat ration necessitated from this time onward not a double amount of slaughtering from the stock of oxen, but a treble amount, owing to the fact that the civil population formerly supplied its meat needs principally from pork, and that in summer the average killing weight of pigs had seriously diminished. At the cattle collecting office in Ratisbon, for instance, the average weight in January, 1917, was 484 kilograms [1,067.03 pounds], but in June no more than 370 kilograms [815.70 pounds].

Not only cereals, fodder, eating turnips, and livestock, but also potatoes, have been involved in the new price policy. Here, however, a uniform regulation was avoided, and only outside limits were fixed of 160 marks per metric ton [\$1.04 per bushel of 60 pounds] for deliveries between July 1 and September 14, and of 100 marks per metric ton [65 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] for deliveries from September 15. Starting from these maxima, the State central authorities or the officers appointed by them have power to raise the price for their district or parts of their district, with the consent of the Imperial Potato Office, to 200 marks per metric ton [\$1.295 per bushel of 60 pounds] for the period July 1 to July 31, and to 120 marks per metric ton [78 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] from September 15, 1917. For the period August 1, 1917, to September 14, 1917,

they can also lower the price to a final price of 100 marks per metric ton [65 cents per bushel of 60 pounds]. In this manner there will be in effect a series of different potato prices in the different parts of Germany, and probably also the graduated decline from week to week which last year induced the growers in many cases to dig unripe potatoes so as to secure the higher price of the earlier week.

The principle of the reversal of the War Food Bureau's price policy was right, but the method of carrying it out was wrong, from the point of view of both the producer and the consumer, for production has been seriously hindered and partly stopped, but the consumers are also injured because in this time of extreme scarcity every limitation of production falls on the consumers in the end, since Germany will have to make its own produce do for many years to come, and this can be done only if the foundations of production are being guarded.

Besides the change in price policy the new imperial grain regulations are conspicuous in the economic plans for 1917-18. In several points the regulations for the 1917 harvest differ materially from those for 1916.

(1) The total requisitioning extends not only to bread grain as in 1916, but also to barley, oats, pulse, buckwheat, millet; not merely to flour, but also to bruised grain, groats, hulled barley, grits, and flakes.

(2) All grains and grain products and pulse come under the management of the Imperial Grain Office. The Imperial Barley Office and the Pulse Office are shelved, and the Oat Purchasing Office degraded to a mere intermediary office between the Imperial Grain Office and the War Office. The buying up of oats and barley for the manufacture of food preparations and beer against special purchasing vouchers ceases, and proper amounts and qualities for this purpose will be allotted by the Imperial Grain Office.

(3) The economic autonomy of the communal unions for the harvest year 1917-18 is considerably curtailed. Only those are to count as economically autonomous communal unions, which, according to the experiences of the harvest years 1915 and 1916, as far as can be foreseen, have sufficient for the supply of their population until May 15, 1918; that is to say, for nine months (three months in the spring).

(4) The communal union must see to it, at its own risk, that the crops cultivated in its district are harvested and thrashed in a suitable way, and that the requisitioned supplies are suitably garnered and treated and delivered according to regulations. For the fulfillment of its task it may requisition the agricultural machines, tools, and working stock of every kind existing in the district.

(5) The communal unions shall make use of commissioners and communes for collecting the requisitioned grain. In every communal union there must be at least two commissioners for this work. It is intended in this way to create a certain competition, and thus promote a quicker seizure of the grain.

The communes have the same duties as the communal unions regarding suitable harvesting, etc., as specified here under (4).

(6) That the entire crop will be seized is to be guaranteed by the introduction of the agricultural card. The communal union must keep for every agricultural undertaking in its district an economic card according to the form fixed by the Imperial Grain Office, and must allow the Imperial Grain Office and its deputies to inspect the agricultural cards on demand. The communal union may also impose on the member communes the obligation of keeping agricultural cards for their district.

The extension of requisitioning undoubtedly means a greater assurance that the civil population and the army will be fed, and a certain guaranty that the

trade in grain products and the preparation of beer actually gets the amounts assigned to it in the economic plan.

The concentration of the management of all grain, grain products, and pulse in one office facilities a clear view of all the supplies existing, and guarantees their better distribution and a stricter control of consumption. The abandonment of purchasing vouchers stops outbidding, and thus simplifies the task of getting the goods. The agricultural industry will be glad of this concentration, as sales are thus considerably simplified.

Through the limitation of economic autonomy numerous communal unions lose its advantages in the economic year 1917-18. These advantages are the following: (a) An economically autonomous communal union may have the bread grain, procured by itself or assigned to it by the Imperial Grain Office, milled for its own use to the amount it requires, deducting the seed supply; (b) it may make contracts with the mills of its district and so occupy the milling trade of its district in a useful way; (c) it can procure the crops requisitioned on its own account and deliver them as seller to the Imperial Grain Office according to its business conditions.

The nonautonomous communal unions, on the other hand, are subject to the favor or disfavor of the Imperial Grain Office. They must ask for their flour from the Imperial Grain Office, and so lose all the advantages of autonomous milling. They may not themselves sell the supplies requisitioned in their district, and so lose all the gains of autonomous delivery; small mills are at a standstill in their districts. These disadvantages are undoubtedly of great economic significance, especially for medium and small agricultural undertakings. In Bavaria this limitation of the autonomy of communal unions will not be made.

The power, given to the communal unions, of requisitioning, in case of need, agricultural tools and working stock of every kind, means a considerable guaranty for the food supply of the nation. In the carrying out of early thrashing this authorization is already playing a great part.

The appointment of at least two commissioners in every communal union has its serious drawbacks. The help of the communes will considerably facilitate the getting of supplies, provided there is in the commune a good burgo-master, or, if he is at the front, a good deputy, and provided that he has good auxiliary forces at his disposal.

The object of the agricultural card is to ascertain the results of the harvest as accurately as possible, and to control sharply the private consumption of farmers and the amount to be delivered by them. The agricultural card is to ascertain the superficial area of each farm, the areas cultivated with each crop, the number of people belonging to each household, and the live stock owned, the results of the preliminary crop estimates, and, after harvest, the amount of grain for the farmer's own consumption and for fodder, the minimum quota for delivery, and the consignments actually sent in. The system is doubtless ideal in theory, but impossible in practice. Indispensable for its realization would be:

- (1) Months-long preparations for the production of a suitable card index.
- (2) The existence of a sufficient staff skilled in making card indexes.
- (3) Continued preservation of details of agricultural cards for the course of a whole year, with reference to all changes which unforeseen circumstances, errors of estimate, changes in quota demanded, diminution by loss, accidents, and decay would have as their consequence.

What man in his senses could believe that after the harvest of 1917 has already begun it would be possible to create the necessary machinery for the

smooth working of the imperial agricultural cards? But if this is impossible the agricultural card is but a blunt sword, a huge burden for the communal unions, a means of dishonest chicanery on the part of producers without the guaranties of any corresponding results.

The regulation of the potato supply for the economic year 1917-18 offers no strikingly new points as compared with last year. The system of compulsory consignments has been adhered to. Evidently the idea of making the potato supply certain by means of delivery contracts which Herr von Batocki, the former president of the War Food Bureau, announced in December, 1916, as a new gospel, has not led to the desired results in practice. If the 1917 system is not to fail just as miserably as that of 1916, then the following is necessary:

(1) The assessment of the individual communal union and its assessment, in turn, upon the individual potato growers must to some extent correspond with the actual harvest. Therefore, this assessment must not be made until by superficial tests the probable crop can be calculated with some amount of accuracy.

(2) The buying up must be better organized.

(3) The arrangements for delivery must be made more quickly.

(4) Consignments must as far as possible come from places near at hand, and unnecessary carriage expenses are to be avoided.

(5) The demands of the communal unions must be tested as regards their justification, within the prescribed quota, and storing and consumption must be better superintended than hitherto.

Also the potato must be included on the agricultural card. The agricultural card drawn up to suit the Bundesrath regulation of June 21, 1917, must be supplemented by a weekly note sent in to the central office by the communal unions as to the stock in store on the day the note is sent, and as to what comes in and goes out every week; for the scarcity of the past year must not be wholly attributed to faulty requisitioning from the producers, but at least as much, if not more, to illegal consumption on the part of the communal unions.

The supply of fruit and vegetables is meeting with the same difficulties as last year. All the activity of the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office, and of the different State, provincial, and district offices, and all the fixing of maximums, even if they hit producers, wholesale dealers, and retail trade equally, could not alter it in the least. It seems that such perishable goods do not admit of State control. To this must be added the impossibility of uniform prices throughout the Empire, and as long as these do not exist the danger of diverting goods from the low-priced to the high-priced neighborhoods is inevitable. In addition to this, it is not in the least to the interest of the towns to supervise the prices fixed for wholesale and retail trade and to punish for excessive prices, for every town which tries to carry out the law in this direction risks entire cessation of imports. Perhaps it would be best if the quota were sharply defined in the case of the preserving trade and for the sake of better control were entirely managed by the State, otherwise allowing unrestricted free trade.

Dr. Schlittenbauer concludes his article, which is remarkable because the criticisms contained in it emanate from an agrarian, a member of a class particularly favored by the German Imperial and State Governments, with the following admonition:

If you pinch your foot in too tight a shoe you will end by not being able to walk. This fate threatens the whole State economically. We must therefore

moderate our centralization and monopolization. Let us by all means improve the institutions necessitated by the war, but do not let us create new ones which serve the interests of the capitalists rather than the community, nay, injure the community more than they benefit it.

EARLY THRASHING PREMIUMS.¹

A survey of food stocks taken in the spring of 1917 brought to light the fact that the stocks of bread grain had fallen much below what they had been thought to be. It became evident that by the middle of August the stocks of bread grain would be insufficient to tide over into the new harvest year. Without taking much time to investigate the causes of this discrepancy in stocks the Government, in order to promote early thrashing of the new harvest, on June 2 issued a decree providing premiums for the early thrashing and delivery of bread grain, barley, and oats. This decree granted to farmers a premium of 60 marks per metric ton (39 cents per bushel of 60 pounds) for delivery of new grain on or before August 15, of 40 marks (26 cents per bushel of 60 pounds) for delivery during the second half of August, and of 20 marks (13 cents per bushel of 60 pounds) for delivery during September.

With respect to the effect of these premiums Herr Sundermann, editor of the bulletin of the German Agricultural Association makes the following statement:²

The thrashing premiums have done their work, favored by the dry harvest period. In the chief bread grain provinces the deliveries from the early thrashing districts have in some parts been very large, even up to the last hours of the period fixed. In very many districts the thrashed grain is estimated at two-thirds to three-fourths of the whole harvest. Control of the harvest is rendered easier thereby, so that it is the duty of all concerned to see that the grain is properly stored. In some parts it has been difficult to obtain the necessary storage room and these difficulties are not yet removed; but they are being removed, of that there is no doubt. The yield is on the whole that of a medium harvest; here and there it is below this, although the premature ripening has not assumed the proportion feared in certain districts. In any case there will be no grain to spare, as we might have expected from the first, and we shall have to strain every nerve to make the grain last till the next harvest. The good quality, fortunately, guarantees that the bread will be wholesome and more nutritious.

An official notice with respect to the early thrashing premiums, sent by the War Food Bureau to a Berlin daily paper,³ contained the following statement:

The early thrashing bonus of 60 marks per metric ton (39 cents per bushel of 60 pounds), valid for all kinds of grain till August 15, has had the desired effect of a prompt delivery of bread grain. Oats and summer barley have,

¹ Vossische Zeitung. Berlin, Aug. 22, 1917.

² Idem. Aug. 30, 1917.

³ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Aug. 15, 1917. Evening edition.

however, not only been supplied in inferior quantities, as was to be expected owing to their late time of ripening, but have not even been sufficient to meet the needs of the army. The president of the War Food Bureau has therefore decided in an order of August 11 (amending the early thrashing order of June 2, 1917) that the early thrashing bonus of 60 marks per metric ton should continue in force for the delivery of oats and barley. How long the bonus will remain so high depends upon the amount of the deliveries in the next few weeks.

With respect to the large deliveries of bread grain a Munich daily paper¹ states that for some time past the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior has been contemplating a measure calculated to stem the large influx of bread grain into towns, which the present shortage, both of storeroom and labor, has rendered it difficult to deal with. An order has accordingly been issued in conjunction with the War Food Bureau and the Imperial Grain Office that in Bavaria the deliveries of bread grain should be stopped for 14 days. Further, the early thrashing bonus, reduced on August 15 from 60 marks to 40 marks per metric ton (39 to 26 cents per bushel of 60 pounds) will be paid during the period September 1 to 15. The ministry has telegraphed to all communal unions to suspend acceptance of bread grain from farmers for 14 days. Exceptions may be allowed by the State grain office.

It may be added that the same newspaper under date of August 15 gives an account of the grain-drying institution in Munich. The process lasts 2½ hours in each case, and reduces the moisture from 22 to 11 or 12 per cent, after which the grain can be milled and the flour baked.

At the end of a debate in the Reichstag on the question of a State subsidy to secure food for the poorer classes, the social-democratic motion for the payment out of funds of the Imperial Treasury of all expenses for early thrashing premiums was carried.²

USE OF GRAIN AS FODDER.

A Silesian paper³ states under date of September 12 that the War Food Bureau has issued an order stipulating the amount of fodder grain (oats, barley, and mixed corn) which may be used for animal fodder. So far it is only a question of fixing the amount till November 15, as a final decision can not be arrived at until the result of the harvest survey (undertaken from September 20 till October 5) giving a clear estimate of the stocks at disposal, is known.

Farm horses and mules are entitled to a supply of oats or a mixture of oats and barley at a basic ration of 1½ kilograms (3.31 pounds) daily, besides which heavy-working draught horses, with

¹ Münchner Neueste Nachrichten. Munich, Aug. 17, 1917.

² Frankfurter Zeitung. Frankfurt on the Main, Oct. 2, 1917.

³ Schlesische Zeitung. Breslau, Sept. 12, 1917.

the approval of the communal unions, will receive a supplementary ration of 2 kilograms (4.41 pounds) daily; draught oxen and cows (used on the fields in default of other draught cattle and limited to 2 cows per farm) will receive 50 kilograms (110.23 pounds), and bulls for breeding purposes, 25 kilograms (55.12 pounds), for the whole time (Sept. 12 to Nov. 15). Pigs for breeding purposes may be supplied with 50 kilograms of oats, barley, or mixed corn for the whole time.

The 1½-kilogram ration could, under this order, be supplied only to those town horses which were used in commercial trade, and industry, on war work. All other horses, especially fancy horses maintained for convenience or pleasure only, were excluded from the supply of grain fodder. Communal unions are authorized by the order to graduate the rations for horses, within the limits of their total returns, according to local conditions, having regard to the importance for war purposes, amount of work executed, breed, and fodder stores.

INCREASED RATIONS OF BREAD AND FLOUR.

The incoming of the new harvest of bread grain has induced the Imperial Government to increase the bread ration. The principles newly announced assume a bread ration of 2 kilograms (4.41 pounds) per person per week from August 13. The fixing of the actual ration has been left to the local food boards and consequently varies slightly from town to town. The new regulations for the bread and flour supply of Leipzig for the period August 14 to October 1, 1917, may serve as a typical example of local regulation. With respect to these the *Leipziger Volkszeitung*¹ makes the following statement:

Those entitled to the supply will quickly discover what this new regulation means to them. Instead of the meat supplement, 500 grams [1.1 pounds] of bread will be supplied till October 1. That this is not sufficient compensation need not be pointed out. After October 1 the 500 grams of bread will be omitted and potatoes supplied instead. It is not possible to go on substituting one food for another in the hope of making the consumers believe they are thus being compensated.

The general rule in supply is that infants under a year receive 500 grams [1.1 pounds] of white bread or 375 grams [0.83 pounds] of rusks; children from 1 year of age to 6, 1½ kilograms [3.31 pounds] of bread; and all persons above that age 2 kilograms [4.41 pounds]. Instead of 500 grams of white bread, 375 grams of flour or 7 rolls can be drawn. Those entitled to the supply may, besides bread, draw every 4 weeks 100 grams [0.22 pound] of flour (if the supply permits). Those between the ages of 12 and 18 entitled to a supply of bread, if not receiving the "heavy workers'" supplement, can obtain 500 grams extra; so, too, "heavy workers." "Heaviest workers" may draw up to 1 kilogram [2.2 pounds]

¹ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Aug. 7, 1917.

extra. Domestic servants will not receive the heavy workers' supplement after August 14, but those having hitherto received it may continue to do so till September 3. It is expected that when the final regulations for the coming economic year (including those as to potatoes) are fixed, the heavy workers' ration will be revised and reduced.

The flour supplement of 500 grams, or, if desired, 350 grams [0.77 pound] of bread, for expectant and nursing mothers will be continued, as well as the supply for infants and invalids. The rate of milling of 94 per cent for wheat and rye will remain in force. These new regulations do not affect the supply of bread or flour in lieu of potatoes.

In Berlin the normal weekly bread ration for adult persons, to come into force August 13, has been fixed at 1,950 grams (4.30 pounds).¹ In addition, 250 grams (0.55 pound) of meat, 50 grams (0.11 pound) of butter, and 30 grams (0.066 pound) of margarine will be the weekly rations in Greater Berlin.

It should be mentioned here that during the past summer Germany had considerable trouble with so-called "ropy" bread. The Experimental Institute for Grain Preparation issued to the press the following statement giving hints as to how to prevent the trouble.²

This peculiar bread disease, which has made its appearance in several localities during the hot sultry weather, is well known to the expert, as it occurs almost every year in particularly hot spring days and at the height of summer. When cut, the bread emits a peculiar smell, which is at first almost fruity, and not exactly disagreeable, but afterwards grows sharper, and finally becomes overpowering and offensive. The crumb of such bread is first somewhat moist, then becomes sticky, more or less yellow to yellow-brown in color, and when cut or broken hangs together in long, sticky, tough threads, whence its name of "ropy" bread. Such bread, since it causes nausea and is otherwise not innocuous, is not to be eaten but must be burned immediately. The causes of this bread disease are fungi, the so-called hay or potato bacteria, which are found in almost all kinds of flour, particularly the dark flour. The germs of these bacteria are very heat resisting, and survive the process of baking unweakened. The comparative rarity of the disease is due to the fact that for the development of these bacteria a very high temperature is necessary. The bacteria themselves and their germs are harmless. It is therefore only necessary to prevent their development and the consequent spoiling of the bread. Bakers are not immediately responsible for the appearance of this bread disease, all the less as the bread does not begin to decay until some days after baking. When a baker learns that his bread goes ropy he can check the disease by leavening the dough sharply, by baking the bread well, and by washing out his utensils with acids. But the public must cooperate by storing their bread in a cool, airy place. The closed bread tin is quite unsuitable for storing the essentially moist war bread during hot weather; it acts as a veritable forcing ground for the bacteria. The bread should either be kept under a wire cover or hung up like a ham in a linen or gauze bag. The baker should at once be informed when the disease appears.

¹ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Aug. 12, 1917.

² Idem. Aug. 3, 1917.

POTATOES.

After the continuous undernutrition suffered during the winter and spring the German people hoped that the early potato crop would bring some relief, but as late as August 14, 1917, the Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung stated that expectations in this respect had been disappointed, for the promised $2\frac{1}{2}$ -kilogram ration of potatoes (plus $2\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms more for "heavy" workers) had, despite the high prices still maintained, scarcely ever been effective in practice. During the same week, however, there was considerable improvement of the potato supply, and, as the potato crop promised to be a good medium one, the president of the War Food Bureau issued the following regulations:¹

Provisionally the weekly ration of potatoes is fixed at a maximum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms (7.72 pounds). This ration is only a unit of reckoning, and the communal unions may vary the actual ration according to local conditions, by age classes, with a view to the individual consumer's occupation, or in other ways; but the average ration must not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms.

In order to guarantee the supply under all circumstances, even should the coming harvest unexpectedly prove small, it is further provided that the whole potato crop must be secured for public control. The farmer may use of his crop of potatoes suitable for consumption only those required for his own household, and may use as fodder only small potatoes less than 1 inch in length and such as are diseased. In potato-drying and starch factories only potatoes grown on the factories' own land may be utilized. Dried potatoes are expropriated and are to form a reserve for periods of frost during which fresh potatoes can not be delivered. Potatoes can be used for the production of spirits only for the military administration.

As already stated, the $3\frac{1}{2}$ -kilogram ration is only provisional. The final regulation can be issued only when, at the end of November, the inventory has shown the size of the crop. Only then, too, can it be decided whether the farmer may retain for his own use further quantities than those now fixed. Under any circumstances such further quantities can be granted only when the winter supply of importing districts is fully guaranteed, and in addition sufficient quantities are available for the supply next spring.

An order of the Federal council regulating the supply of seed potatoes was issued simultaneously.¹ By this order contracts for deliveries of seed potatoes are permissible only when the deliveries are to farmers or communal unions, and must be concluded by No-

¹ Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger. Berlin, Aug. 18, 1917.

vember 15, 1917. The potatoes may be delivered even after this date. Potatoes which have been contracted for as seed by November 15, and the contracts for which have been approved, may not be drawn on by the authorities for eating purposes. Traders are allowed to act as middlemen in the supply of seed potatoes.

The producers' prices for potatoes are regulated by the order of the Federal council of March 19, 1917. To cover the winter's need a moderate increase will be allowed temporarily, including an allowance for transport to the dispatching station. The retail maximums will be fixed by the communal unions, to which no limits will be prescribed, as retail prices must vary according to local conditions.

During September the potato supply continued good. Many demands and suggestions as to an increase of the potato ration were put forth from various quarters. In particular urban opinion was almost unanimously in favor of raising the weekly ration from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 kilograms (7.72 to 11 pounds), and the undersecretary of the War Food Bureau expressed a vague hope that this may be possible.¹ Meantime, local authorities were everywhere making arrangements for the winter supply. These arrangements include a regulation allowing households to lay in their own winter stocks in advance.

At the eleventh hour the War Food Bureau granted bonuses to growers for speedy delivery, loading, and dispatch of potatoes, which not only raised the price greatly but inconvenienced the municipalities, most of which had already made their price arrangements. The bonuses have, therefore, aroused much adverse criticism. The *Leipziger Volkszeitung*,² for instance, summarizes an article of the *Hannoverscher Volkswille* on the winter prices of potatoes in Hanover as follows:

The price for late potatoes in the province was, from September 15, provisionally fixed at 6 marks per centner [78 cents per bushel of 60 pounds]. Throughout the Empire, however, regulations have been made to grant bonuses, similar to the thrashing premiums, to potato growers. For the period September 15 to December 15, a speed bonus of 50 pfennigs per centner [6.5 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] for delivered potatoes has been fixed. In addition, a loading bonus of 5 pfennigs [0.65 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] and a dispatch bonus of 5 pfennigs per centner [0.65 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] and kilometer [0.62 mile], reckoned by distance from farm to station, are allowed. These premiums are to be borne by the purchaser, i. e., the communal authorities. For them, therefore, the price per centner to place of loading consists of a basic price of 6 marks, an agent's commission of 35 pfennigs [8.3 cents], a speed bonus of 50 pfennigs, a loading bonus of 5 pfennigs, and possibly a 20 to 80 pfennigs [4.8 to 19 cents] dispatch bonus, which brings up the price to about 7.50 or 8 marks [97 cents to \$1.03 per bushel of 60 pounds] without freight to the receiving office. There still remains

¹ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 4, 1917.

² *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Sept. 3, 1917.

the cost of freight, cartage from the station, and storing in cellars, and thus in the fourth winter of the war the price of potatoes may amount to 10 marks or more per centner [\$.30 per bushel of 60 pounds].

These bonuses and the fear that the producer's price would be reduced had the effect that potatoes poured into most towns at a quite embarrassing rate. In some places rations were doubled, while in others two or three weeks' rations were issued in a single week. The potatoes were arriving in such quantities that the communes could not advantageously dispose of them. Nevertheless, the Imperial Potato Office ordered that they be accepted. The consequence was that for want of cartage facilities the railroad cars could not be unloaded and stood in the freight yards impeding traffic. The potatoes deteriorated, and had to be sorted by women specially appointed for this purpose by the communes. As these potatoes were mostly of the first late variety, and did not keep well, they could not be stored for winter use, and large quantities were in this manner lost to the food supply.¹

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT.

The failure of all fodder crops in most parts of Germany has led to a renewal of the demand for large slaughterings, and, consequently, for an increased meat ration during this autumn and winter. Beginning August 15, 1917, the weekly meat ration was reduced from 500 grams (1.1 pounds) to 250 grams (0.55 pound) when the bread ration was raised. In September, however, the meat supply had grown so unsatisfactory that even the reduced ration was frequently unobtainable, in part or whole.

In Berlin the validity of the meat cards had to be extended, as many could not be redeemed.² But even this device had to be abandoned on September 22, on which date the municipal administration announced³ that "the validity of the meat cards on which in the current week no meat could be delivered will not be extended to next week owing to the scanty deliveries of the livestock dealers' unions and to the inconveniences caused by the previous extension, and that next week's coupon will certainly be fully met." In Saxony the Livestock Dealers' Union published a statement⁴ to the effect that although it had hitherto supplied the Saxon towns regularly with the livestock sufficient for a weekly ration of 250 grams (0.55 pound) it would probably be necessary during the coming weeks to reduce the ration to 200 grams (0.44 pound). In this connection

¹ Vorwärts. Berlin, Oct. 6, 1917.

² Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger. Berlin, Sept. 13, 1917.

³ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Sept. 22, 1917.

⁴ Deutsche Tageszeitung. Berlin, Sept. 20, 1917. Evening Edition.

it should also be stated that in Saxony the rural meat ration was reduced at the beginning of September to 150 grams (0.33 pound).¹ Munich, too, was in great difficulties, and it is only by dint of the most strenuous exertions that livestock could be secured there.²

The entire situation with respect to the meat supply is summed up in an article by Otto Braun in the *Bremer Bürger-Zeitung* protesting against the reduction of the meat ration.³

After quoting an expert opinion from the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* that the hasty inspection of the stocks in June by the parliamentary commission—the inspection which extended over the entire Empire was made in the brief period of 19 days—could lead only to “distorted and erroneous views resulting in inexpedient measures,” he applies this criticism to the measure under discussion:

It is true the commission declares that under no circumstances must agricultural products needed for human beings be used for fodder. But what are the cattle to be fed on? Vegetable products must now be used to cover the needs of man, and to so cover them that man shall not gradually perish through underfeeding. Only what is left may be used for animals. If this is so the cattle can not be kept at the high level maintained upon importation of foreign fodder to the amount of 100,000,000 marks [\$23,800,000] annually, which during the war has almost entirely ceased. The following figures show the condition of the stocks:

Kind of stock.	December, 1913.	June, 1916.	June, 1917
Cattle.....	20,873,629	20,118,067	21,462,071
Pigs.....	¹ 25,500,000	14,357,578	12,763,610
Sheep.....	5,520,768	.....	6,167,400

¹ Approximate number.

It is beyond question that these large stocks can not be scientifically foddered without endangering the food supply. Chancellor Michaelis, the former Prussian food commissioner, as well as other High Government officials, have admitted that prohibitions are insufficient to stop foddering with grain. Denmark has taken steps for the reduction of her cattle stocks this year, and Germany will have to do the same to avert a food catastrophe next spring. If fodder sufficient for 6,000,000 cows is stretched to feed 10,000,000, the quality and quantity of the milk declines. Stable manure also depends, not on the number of cattle, but on the kind and amount of fodder. In the autumn the cattle fresh from the pasture are at their best, and both fat and meat are lost to the food supply if they are brought back to insufficient fodder in the sheds. The stocks can not be endangered by a 500-gram [1.1 pound] meat ration if in peace times 1 kilogram [2.2 pounds] per head was the average consumption. Pigs, geese, and other poultry, and the game (unrationed at present) should alone suffice to provide 500 grams per head per week for six months. If it is considered impossible to ration geese, let them be requisitioned at

¹ *Fleischer Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 8, 1917.

² *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Sept. 16, 1917.

³ *Bremer Bürger-Zeitung*. Bremen, Aug. 25, 1917.

suitable prices for hospitals, war kitchens, etc., thus releasing other meat for the rationed sale.

By taking under State control all meat produced and imported, and by equitable distribution, the 500-gram ration could be maintained without serious danger to the livestock. Never again must it come to livestock being fed on grain and potatoes while men are being fed on fodder root crops.

It should be remarked that Braun probably does not sufficiently allow for the results of increased slaughtering since the census of June 1, 1917, or for the smaller weight of cattle, which, of course, means that the same number of head will not produce the same amount of meat. There may, of course, in addition, be a tendency on the part of the stock breeders to hold back stock from the market; but whatever the reason, comments of the daily press on the meat supply make it clear that there is, at least temporarily, an increasing difficulty in getting live stock and, consequently, meat.

In Saxony a new order has been issued to establish stricter control over the cattle trade.¹ This new order concerning trade in live stock for breeding and other purposes provides that in the future any one who wishes to procure a bullock, calf, sheep, pig, or sucking pig, unless he is a compulsory member of the Livestock Dealers' Union or is a butcher buying slaughter cattle on a purchase voucher, must obtain a purchase license from his communal union or his local authority. The same holds good for those who wish to buy a pig or suckling pig in order to fatten it for their own consumption. Such will be able to obtain a license only if they can prove they are in a position to feed the animal on released fodder during the whole of the three months of fattening.

If cattle are scarce at present, pigs, among which heavy slaughtering has taken and is taking place, are still scarcer. With a view no doubt to preventing irregularities due to this shortage, new regulations have been introduced securing a stricter control over the trade in pigs. The *Lokal-Anzeiger*² states that, according to a new order no more private sales of pigs may take place in the town district of Berlin or in the province of Brandenburg. On October 6 the same daily paper reports that this prohibition of the private trade in pigs has been extended to the entire Empire by an order and regulations containing the following provisions:

Pigs weighing more than 25 kilograms (55.12 pounds), even if not for slaughtering, may be sold only to cattle-receiving offices appointed by the State. New regulations, reducing the supply of meat allowed to self-providers,³ were issued at the same time.

From October 15, 1917, self-providers must deliver the following quantities of bacon or fat to communal unions from home slaugh-

¹ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Oct. 6, 1917.

² *Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Oct. 5, 1917.

³ Persons providing their own meat from stock they have raised themselves.

terings of pigs, for a suitable remuneration: From pigs weighing from 60 to 70 kilograms (132.28 to 154.32 pounds), 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds); from pigs weighing from 70 to 80 kilograms (154.32 to 176.37 pounds), 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds); from pigs weighing over 80 kilograms a further ($\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram) (1.1 pounds) for every 10 kilograms (22.05 pounds), or fraction thereof, in excess of 80 kilograms. From former breeding pigs 3 per cent of the weight of the animal when killed must be delivered in bacon or fat. The State central authorities may raise the quota, but may also decide that nothing need be delivered from pigs supplying less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms (3.3 pounds) of lard.

Self-providing industrial establishments, hospitals, etc., and self-providers who are allowed a supplementary fat supply on account of trying manual labor, are not required to deliver anything. Game and poultry is accounted for at the old rate.

Meat from slaughtering cattle, except calves up to three weeks old, and pigs, may be retained by the self-provider on the basis of two-thirds above the weekly amount allowed by the meat card. Meat from calves up to 3 weeks old and of pigs should be reckoned on the basis of the following weekly quantities per person: Calves up to 3 weeks old, 500 grams (1.1 pounds); pigs weighing more than 60 kilograms (132.28 pounds), 500 grams; 50 to 60 kilograms (110.23 to 132.28 pounds), 600 grams (1.33 pounds); 50 kilograms or less, 700 grams (1.54 pounds). The War Food Bureau may temporarily raise the rates for these reckonings.

Self-providers may keep sufficient meat from home slaughterings occurring between September 1 and December 31, 1917, to keep them for one year, and from home slaughterings at any other time an amount sufficient to keep them until the end of the year.

Local improvements in the meat supply were reported at the end of September.¹ Thus the stoppage in the supply of meat in Berlin has been remedied, through the energetic measures of the Prussian State meat office. From an announcement in the *Vossische Zeitung*² it would even appear that the situation is better everywhere. This paper learns from a competent source that even during the time when cattle are being removed from pasture to winter quarters, beginning on November 1, the public meat supply will be guaranteed at a weekly ration of 250 grams (0.55 pound) per capita.

GAME.

Of all German towns, Berlin, before the war, consumed the largest quantities of game. However, since the beginning of the war game has become a rarity in spite of the endeavors of the War Food

¹ *Fleischer-Zeitung*. Berlin, Oct. 1, 1917.

² *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Oct. 6, 1917.

Bureau to supply the large towns with game. The numerous new regulations published produced no improvement in the Greater Berlin supply; rather, the deliveries diminished. This game scarcity has been due, no doubt, to the export prohibitions of individual Federal States, provinces, and districts. According to sporting and trading circles, not much game is to be expected this year for Greater Berlin. The civil and military hospitals must be supplied; even the war prisoners receive game if there is not sufficient beef. The Greater Berlin State distributing office has already dealt with the question of game supply and concluded contracts providing that 50,000 wild ducks are to be sent from bathing resorts on the North Sea to Greater Berlin, to be sold to the public at very low prices.¹

In order to regulate the trade in game with a view to guaranteeing the supply of large towns and industrial districts, the Prussian minister of agriculture has issued an order to establish, if possible, in every Prussian rural district (*Landkreis*) a district game office to which experts will be appointed and which will cooperate with the German game protection society. Their duties will consist in supervising the deliveries and the purchase of game. Only that game is subject to delivery which has been killed at a hunt or similar shooting expedition by a number of guns—i. e., red deer, fallow deer, wild boars, roe deer, hares, rabbits, and pheasants. Up to three head of big game (*Schälwild*) and up to 10 head of small game are left at the disposal of the person owning the game preserve. The remainder of the bag is subject to delivery and is to be divided into halves, one for the local supply, the other for the supply of large towns. Holders of a hunting license may sell game only to consumers or to officially authorized game dealers.

The supply of game is also being controlled in Bavaria, where, according to a Munich daily paper,² the State meat supply office issued the following new regulations with regard to compulsory deliveries:

Two out of every three wild boars killed must be delivered to the commune, also four out of every five hares, pheasants, and partridges after the first five. Maximum prices are fixed for partridge and wild duck. Hares are to be sold by the pound instead of so much a head. Though the game shooting rests on the good will of the huntsman, and it is almost impossible to keep a strict control, there are penalties imposed for breach of the regulations, involving the possible forfeiture of the hunting license. The huntsmen are urged not only to limit their own consumption in game, but also to supply the public with game beyond the compulsory delivery.

¹ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Aug. 15, 1917.

² Münchner Neueste Nachrichten. Munich, Aug. 29, 1917.

Another food card has been added to the rest, states the *Leipziger Volkszeitung*,¹ a card for hares being the latest. It is issued in five sections; for a whole hare the entire card must be delivered; for back and legs four sections; back or legs separately, two each; forelegs or head, liver, etc., one section each. The card will be issued only on application. Every household of one to three persons is entitled to a card, children under 6 years of age being reckoned half a person. The hare card restricts the ration, but does not entitle the holder to demand delivery.

FISH.

A Brunswick paper² reports that the German Government has been dealing with the exorbitant prices demanded for imported fish. On September 30, 1916, the imperial chancellor issued a proclamation as to the centralization of the foreign fish and fish-preparations industry, which was to be controlled by the Central Purchasing Association. This centralization was to come into force immediately, but such goods were not to be subject to expropriation if imported before November 30, 1916, bought before October 7, 1916, and reported (by submitting the invoice to the Central Purchasing Association) before October 11, 1916. The order assumed that, considering the great demand for all kinds of foodstuffs, these freely imported goods, except in special cases, would be disposed of by the trade in the ordinary course of business. Yet foreign goods, particularly Norwegian preserved fish, are still found in shops at prices two or three times as high as those of similar goods imported by the Central Purchasing Association and distributed by the district offices.

The War Usury Bureau is constantly learning that such prices are due to middleman abuse and profiteering. Steps are therefore in contemplation for an early fixing of maximum prices for foreign prepared fish, especially canned fish. This will not substantially affect lawful traders, who are already forbidden to hold back goods with a view to profiteering.

According to the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*³ a meeting of the Central Fisheries Society of Schleswig-Holstein protested energetically against the serious rise in prices, for which, it was contended, the fishermen are not themselves responsible. Maximum prices for brood and edible fish were foreshadowed.

It should be noted here that a new delicacy has been added to the list of war foods under the name of "preserved whale." This is a dun-colored meat, of a fiber similar to beef and of a strong flavor. A

¹ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Sept. 11, 1917.

² *Volksfreund*. Brunswick, July 24, 1917.

³ *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*. Hamburg, July 27, 1917.

piquant seasoning renders it almost like game. The meat used is not that of the sperm whale, but of porpoise or "Tümmeler," a much smaller species which is found in German waters.¹

The *Lokal-Anzeiger*² reports that Roumanian fish has been sent to the Berlin market—at present only an experimental consignment. The military authorities in the occupied territory have appointed a special fisheries department under a Hamburg expert. The fish to be sent are carp, giant pike-perch, pike, tench, crucians, and various kinds of sturgeon.

In an article on the poor supply of fish a Berlin daily³ writes:

Like so many other foodstuffs, fish has also disappeared from the Greater Berlin market during the war. There is a pressing need, particularly in winter when, besides the ever-scanty meat ration, experience has proved that other foodstuffs are also not very abundantly distributed in the capital, that the population should receive larger supplies of fish as compensation. The imperial commissioner for the fish supply has given our representative the following information:

Up to about a week or fortnight ago relatively large supplies of sea fish reached Berlin. Now, however, heavy storms have set in in the North and Baltic seas, rendering fishing extremely difficult and, in parts, stopping it altogether. The prospects for future imports of sea fish are difficult to estimate. The home catch, which, owing to the abnormally cold winter, was rather small from January to March, increased quite considerably in the spring. The catches were bought up and distributed quickly, but naturally were insufficient to cover the great demand. At present strenuous efforts are being made to increase the fishing industry in order to store up as much as possible for the winter, but too great expectations must not be indulged in. In distributing the fish large towns will naturally be favored before the country. Districts unaccustomed to a fish diet will receive only small quantities. In the season, watering places had, of course, to receive special consideration, while communes, when distributing, must give preference to hotels and restaurants in the interest of the tourist traffic. Attempts have also been made, based on expert experience, to establish "taste districts" (*Geschmacksgebiete*) and to supply the various kinds of fish to places where, in peace times, they were chiefly consumed. Smoked fish, the staple fish supply of the military and naval authorities, is at present very scarce, the communes having in past months been supplied with larger quantities for distribution. The import of herrings has now stopped. Endeavors are, however, being made to increase the catch. Roumanian salted and smoked carp have also been obtained. The sample loads which have reached us brought good marketable wares. The military authorities would do well to release large quantities of these carp for Greater Berlin, as they will form a good and not too expensive complement to the daily menu. We are endeavoring to increase the home fishing industry and imports, and hope that our organization will succeed in achieving good results.

¹ *Darmzeitung*. [Berlin] July 24, 1917.

² *Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Aug. 30, 1917.

³ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Sept. 11, 1917. Evening edition.

POULTRY.

Efforts, says a correspondent of the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*,¹ to increase the urban food supply by poultry keeping are laudable, but rural conditions can not be adopted unaltered in the towns. Insufficient space and insufficient food result in a poor supply of eggs. The solution is to be sought in a bantam hen, and urban economic bodies are now encouraging the breeding of these varieties and the formations of combinations among poultry keepers with this object.

The *Berliner Tageblatt*² announces that on August 1 the sale of frozen fowls and ducks will open in the Berlin municipal markets. The stocks for sale will be announced on placards. Fowls will be sold in three qualities at the following prices: First quality at 5.50 marks per 500 grams (\$1.19 per pound), second quality at 4.60 marks (99 cents per pound), and third quality at 3.85 marks (84 cents per pound). Ducks will sell for 4 marks per 500 grams (86 cents per pound).

The Saxon ministry issued an order on the trade in geese in Saxony.³ It prescribes that living geese are to be sold by weight. The price for living geese bought from a poultry keeper or fattener must not exceed 2.80 marks per 500 grams (61 cents per pound.) When resold by the trader, a further charge not exceeding 25 pfennigs (6 cents), inclusive of carriage, may be added. The local authorities will fix maximum prices in a revised municipal order. A special license is required for trading in geese. Poultry keepers or persons or establishments licensed to sell geese for killing are allowed to sell directly to consumers only in public places of sale, thus preventing private sales. The sale is allowed only on presentation of the goose card and four-tenth of a meat card for every 500 grams dead weight of untrussed, plucked goose. Goose cards can be obtained only on application to the local authorities. Every household of not more than four persons may receive one card. Innkeepers may receive one card for every four regular guests.

The municipal administration of Berlin has fixed the following maximum prices per 500 grams (1.1 pounds) retail to the consumer for fresh and pickled goose and for manufactured preparations:⁴

Giblets:	Marks per 500 grams.	Per pound.
Head and neck	4	\$0.95
Wings (without pointed wing portions)	4	.95
Gizzard and heart	4	.95

¹ *Deutsche Tageszeitung*. Berlin, July 31, 1917.

² *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, July 31, 1917.

³ *Fleischer-Zeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 7, 1917.

⁴ *Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Oct. 5, 1917.

	Marks per 500 grams.	Per pound.
Pickled giblets -----	10	\$2. 16
Liver -----	9	1. 95
Liver sausage -----	8	1. 73
Leg -----	6. 50	1. 41
Leg, smoked -----	9	1. 95
Breast with bone -----	8. 80	1. 90
Breast, smoked, with bone -----	11. 50	2. 49
Breast without bone -----	9	1. 95
Breast, smoked, without bone -----	12. 50	2. 71
Frame, with breast and legs, but without internal parts or giblets -----	6. 25	1. 35
Scraps of meat -----	4. 30	. 93
Back fat -----	10	2. 16
Stomach fat -----	7	1. 52
Internal fat -----	8	1. 73
Dripping -----	14	3. 03
Melted pieces of fat -----	10	2. 16
Pieces, roasted -----	11	2. 37
Pieces, smoked -----	13	2. 81

Goose-liver pie may be sold to consumers at prices fixed by the Union of Goose-liver Pie Manufacturers, and stated on the covering of the box.

EGGS.

In the summer the egg supply was insufficient almost everywhere, and in August, a Berlin paper reported¹ that prices had risen from 33 (7.9 cents) to 36 pfennings (8.6 cents) per egg. The same paper writes on this subject as follows:²

The egg-supply organization has proved a great failure. Stoppages have continually occurred, and certain districts receive no eggs at all, while others have a surplus. This is undoubtedly due to faulty organization. A special organization, the State Food Association, was formed some time ago in Berlin for the purpose of collecting and distributing eggs. Trade circles were much pleased when it became known that a well-known tradesman, from whose direction much was expected, had been appointed as manager. To the great loss of the community, however, the greatest difficulties have, from the start, been placed in the way of this organization. The superior authorities showed so little understanding of the functions of an egg-supply organization that, despite all commercial efforts, no success was obtained. All practical suggestions for improving the prevailing conditions were simply ignored. This state of affairs caused the manager of the organization to resign.

A Hamburg paper³ in quoting the above states that "Hamburg recently received no eggs for four weeks. In reply to complaints made, the Berlin wholesale dealers have declared that the majority of the large towns are in the same plight, if they do not happen

¹ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Aug. 29, 1917.

² Idem. Aug. 28, 1917.

³ Hamburger Fremdenblatt. Hamburg, Aug. 28, 1917.

to be situated in close proximity to a producing district. The consumers' prospects are now worse. The egg-supply organization is now exclusively managed by officials, i. e., nonprofessionals, so that an improvement of the prevailing conditions can scarcely be hoped for for some time to come."

A further rise in the price of eggs took place in the first week of September, the Central Purchasing Association having raised the price of imported eggs from 36 (8.6 cents) to 40 pfennings (9.5 cents) per egg.¹

BUTTER.

During August, of the current year, there was much discussion in the daily press as to a projected raising of milk and butter prices. A well-informed correspondent wrote to a Hamburg daily² as follows:

There is undoubtedly a great lack of coordination between milk and butter prices. Now the milk and the fat supply in the large towns has suffered from this. Hitherto the butter prices have been fixed uniformly for the whole Empire, whereas milk prices were regulated by the State central authorities, or in Prussia, by the provincial central authorities. Hence, great confusion. The remedy is to adjust the butter and cheese prices in the various parts of the Empire to the milk prices there prevailing; in other words, to decentralize them. There must be a fixed ratio between milk and butter prices, but with the proviso that the latter must not exceed a certain figure, because the greatest inducement should always be that for the delivery of fresh milk to the towns. It must be remembered that the expenses of dairy farmers have greatly increased, owing to the year's bad fodder harvest and other causes. Next winter the fodder difficulty will be intensified, and the production of milk will diminish.

After long consultations with an unusually large number of experts the War Food Bureau at the end of August issued new regulations for the price of butter which the *Frankfurter Zeitung*³ thus summarizes:

There is no intention of a general increase of basic prices, but the new order will make possible a moderate increase in separate parts of the country where the economic conditions call for it. The order contains five sections. In the first the existing basic prices are maintained, except that the division into three classes of goods is replaced by two classes. The most important innovation is in the second section, in which the State central authorities are empowered to fix maximum prices for separate parts of the country at variance with the basic prices. This is, however, limited by two restrictions. The butter maker's price may not exceed a certain proportion of the milk producer's price, and also it shall not amount to more than 3 marks per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram [65 cents per pound]. The butter price per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram shall not amount to more than 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ times the price of 1 liter [1.06 quarts] of whole milk. In districts, therefore,

¹ *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*. Hamburg, Sept. 7, 1917.

² *Idem*. Aug. 15, 1917.

³ *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfurt on the Main, Aug. 30, 1917.

where the milk producer's price is 30 pfennigs per liter [6.7 cents per quart], the butter price of the manufacturer must not exceed 2.63 marks per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram [56.9 cents per pound].

The third section provides for the fixing of uniform prices for the sale of butter in importing districts. The fourth section fixes the increases in price in the passage from manufacturer to consumer, amounting in all to 30 marks per 50 kilograms [6.5 cents per pound]. For the larger towns a further limited increase of profit for the wholesale and retail trade will often be unavoidable. The fifth section, in addition to regulations for the transition period, contains the authorization of the Imperial Fat Office to take account of special conditions in certain parts of the country by extending the limit fixed by the order.

Side by side with these new prices the control of the milk and butter trade will be extended by organizations adapted to local conditions and by combating illicit trade.

MILK.

The milk supply has diminished considerably in Germany. It appears that not only is the quantity less, but the quality is considerably poorer; for an agricultural daily¹ comments on the admitted low percentage of fat contained in milk ever since the cows were taken to the pastures in the spring, and especially since June:

In former times milk with less than 2 per cent of fat was undoubtedly skimmed milk, but to-day milk that certainly has not been tampered with contains only 2 per cent or less. This is attributed to poor pasturage following the very deficient winter foddering. In former dry seasons the quantity of milk was less, but the percentage of fat greater. This year the fat has decreased.

As milk continued to grow more scanty, the milk rations were cut down in nearly all large towns. In Greater Berlin the local fat office reduced the young children's ration of whole milk.² The change of age limit in connection with the order of the fat office of Greater Berlin of August 24-25, 1917, modifies the quantity of milk to which each child is entitled. Henceforth all children born during the time October 1, 1911, to September 30, 1913, will receive per day one-half liter (0.53 quart) of whole milk; those born during the time October 1, 1913, to September 30, 1915, three-fourths liter (0.79 quart); and those born since October 1, 1915, also three-fourths liter. Children born during the time July 1 to September 30, 1911, will henceforth receive, not whole milk, but skimmed milk. In order to make up for the reduction from a 1-liter to a three-fourths liter ration for children born after October 1, nursing mothers will receive a special card valid for one-fourth liter (0.26 quart).

According to a telegram from Nuremberg to a Munich daily³ that municipal administration decided, on the advice of the medical board, and considering the continued decline in the milk delivery as

¹ Deutsche Landwirtschaftliche Presse. Sept. 5, 1917.

² Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger. Berlin, Sept. 17, 1917.

³ Münchner Neueste Nachrichten. Munich, Sept. 19, 1917.

well as the fact that much of the special whole milk allowed to big families is consumed not only by the children but by the entire family, to reduce the whole milk ration for children. The ration for children up to two years of age has been reduced from 1 liter to three-fourths liter (1.06 quarts to 0.79 quart), and for those in the third and fourth year from three-fourths to one-half liter. In addition to the milk allowance, however, children up to two years of age will receive a monthly supplementary allowance of 300 grams (0.66 pound) of sugar and 500 grams (1.1 pounds) of food preparations (prepared oats, groats, etc.). The supplementary allowance of food preparations will also be granted to children in the third and fourth year. Persons over 75 years of age are allowed 500 grams of food preparations weekly.

In Hanover the milk ration was reduced¹ beginning with October 1, 1917, from 1 liter to three-fourths liter for children up to one year old. For children in their second year the ration will remain at 1 liter. The milk saved by the reduction will be used for invalids.

The price of whole milk in Berlin was raised on September 23, 1917, from 40 pfennigs per liter (9 cents per quart) to 46 pfennigs per liter (10.3 cents per quart).²

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

During the summer of 1917 the problem of supplying the large towns with fruit and vegetables occupied more space in the German daily press than any other food topic. The supply in most of these towns was quite inadequate during July and the War Food Bureau was petitioned to take remedial steps. Among the special difficulties were the competition between towns (e. g., Berlin and Breslau), and the loudly denounced custom, prevalent in many places, of well-to-do consumers buying direct from producers in the place of production, thus leaving the public markets unsupplied. In a pungent article in the *Bremer Bürger-Zeitung*³ Robert Leinert exposes the confusion that reigns in the fruit and vegetable market, and derides the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office with its elaborate machinery and "topsy-turvy regulation of prices." His panacea is the fixing and enforcement of a uniform scale of producers' wholesale and retail prices. On the other hand, Agricultural Councilor Schifftan in an article in a Berlin daily⁴ demands the total abolition of maximum prices for these wares.

¹ *Hannoverscher Kurier*. Hanover, Aug. 31, 1917.

² *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Sept. 21, 1917. Morning edition.

³ *Bremer Bürger-Zeitung*. Bremen, July 27, 1917.

⁴ *Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, July 25, 1917.

The *Vorwärts*¹ contains the following communication from the Berlin municipal administration:

The German Towns Congress has been conducting an inquiry among the 42 German towns with over 100,000 inhabitants (not including Greater Berlin) as to whether, and to what extent, there has been a shortage in fruit and vegetables during the last few weeks, and whether the imports are now satisfactory. Thirty-nine replies have been received, which with very few exceptions establish that the supply of fruit and vegetables in these towns, and especially the imports from other districts, have been entirely inadequate during the last few weeks, and are so still.

Several towns complain that the supply obtained through the imperial office is inefficient. One adds that neither written nor personal appeals have had any effect. Strong protests are raised against the export prohibitions and restrictions which still exist in all parts of the country. From several quarters the complaint comes that it is impossible to obtain goods in the growers' districts even at maximum prices, because of the illicit price raising. A number of towns attribute their distress to the activities of buyers from other towns.

In view of these results the German Towns Congress has petitioned the president of the War Food Bureau to put in motion as soon as possible the measures he agreed upon with the food committee of the congress at its last sitting, which, in addition to the abolition of all internal trade restrictions, provide for a more comprehensive acquisition by the imperial office of the supplies of fruit and vegetables in the most important producing districts. It also petitions that the fulfillment of delivery contracts be enforced by all means at the disposal of the Government.

The rivalry between Berlin and large provincial towns in the effort to obtain vegetables is well illustrated by an article in the *Leipziger Volkszeitung*.² Briefly summarized this article says:

The municipal administration of Breslau complains of the way in which the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office has gone to work to supply Berlin with vegetables. Hitherto the maximum prices in Berlin have been only slightly in excess of those in the Provinces. In order now to induce the growers to sell to Berlin, the maximum prices have been raised considerably as the following prices per 500 grams for French beans, effective in Berlin and Breslau during the second half of July, will show:

	Breslau (since July 21, 1917).		Berlin (since July 23, 1917).	
	Price per 500 grams.	Price per pound.	Price per 500 grams.	Price per pound.
	<i>Pfennigs.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Pfennigs.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Grower's price	24	5.2	50	10.8
Wholesale price	29	6.3	65	14.1
Retail price	37	8.0	80	17.3

¹ *Vorwärts*. Berlin, July 25, 1917.

² *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, July 27, 1917.

Complaint is also bitter that the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office did not think it necessary to acquaint the provincial offices with the proposed increase. This is not to be wondered at since such information would have frustrated the object of the measure. The object was to attract as large a quantity of vegetables to Berlin as possible by these unprecedented high prices. This purpose is attained at cost of the large towns in the Provinces. The Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office seems to be indifferent to the enormous damage thus done to the inhabitants of these towns. The Breslau municipal administration has protested by telegram to the chancellor and the Prussian food commissioner against the attitude of the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office.

In the first part of August the vegetable supply increased considerably, owing to more favorable weather. The *Vossische Zeitung*¹ reports that on August 1 vegetables were so plentiful in Berlin retail shops that, despite the great demand, stocks were by no means sold out. Carrots, all kinds of cabbage, beans, cauliflowers, and tomatoes were abundant.

In August the War Emergency Sauerkraut Co. made the following announcement with the consent of the imperial chancellor's representative:

As, in order to supply the army and the civil population with the prescribed quantities of sauerkraut during the harvest year 1917-18, exceptionally large supplies of fresh vegetables (white cabbage and roots) are required, the War Company grants communal unions, communes, and wholesale consumers (factories, public kitchens, nursing homes, etc.) permission to purchase white cabbage for the manufacture of sauerkraut, either in their own establishments or to their order, only on condition that the entire quantity of sauerkraut produced is put at the disposal of the War Company. The War Company can not for the present allow the unrestricted sale of sauerkraut which the above-mentioned authorities produce from white cabbage or roots of any kind of their own growing, either in their factories or to their order. This sauerkraut must also remain, until further notice, at the disposal of the War Company. If at all possible, however, the communal unions, etc., will, later on, be allowed a portion (not exceeding 50 per cent) of the sauerkraut manufactured in their own establishments, without the deduction of this amount from the prescribed ration of the Federal State concerned.

In commenting on this order the *Schlesische Zeitung*² states that—

It may safely be expected that no communal union will risk manufacturing sauerkraut which in all probability will be taken from it. Thus the sauerkraut supply still remains solely in the hands of the sauerkraut company, whose work last winter is still unpleasantly remembered.

According to the following account³ of the vegetable-supply situation the small supply was due to a failure of the crop:

¹ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Schlesische Zeitung*. Breslau, Aug. 16, 1917.

³ *Deutsche Tageszeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 23, 1917. Evening edition.

The reports on this year's vegetable crop are for the most part quite hopeless, and one need not wonder if prices remain high. In the south and west of Germany a favorable condition of things is generally reported; but in the chief producing districts in north, east, and middle Germany the prospect is very unsatisfactory. Probably the worst reports are from Mecklenburg and Pomerania, where almost the majority of the cultivation contracts can be carried out to only a small extent. In certain parts of Silesia and Bradenburg, where thunderstorms occurred at the right time, a medium harvest may perhaps be obtained. The drought has retarded not only the growth of the rather poor seed from last year, but has delayed excessively the planting of most kinds of cabbage so that in many districts this could not be done till after the refreshing showers at the end of July. But the worst is the plague of vermin which can not be overcome with the insufficient laborers available. Various pests are rife and are ruining whole plots, especially in the southern part of the province of Saxony.

The fruit crop having been but mediocre, and in the case of apples and plums very poor, the fruit supply was as insufficient during the summer as the vegetable supply. To prevent growers as well as wholesale and retail dealers from charging extortionate prices for fruit the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office in August fixed the following maximum prices for apples, pears, and plums:¹

Kind of fruit.	Maximum prices established.					
	Grower's price.		Wholesale price.		Retail price.	
	Per 500 grams.	Per pound.	Per 500 grams.	Per pound.	Per 500 grams.	Per pound.
	<i>Pfen-nigs.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Pfen-nigs.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Pfen-nigs.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Apples:						
Grade 1 (select apples)	40	8.6	48	10.4	65	14.1
Grade 2	25	5.5	30	6.5	40	8.6
Grade 3 (including windfalls, cider apples, etc.)	10	2.2	12	2.6	18	3.9
Grade 4 (plucked and unsorted, but not windfalls)	20	4.4	25	5.5	32	6.9
Pears:						
Grade 1 (select pears)	35	7.5	46	9.9	60	13.0
Grade 2	20	4.4	26	5.6	35	7.5
Grade 3 (including windfalls, cider pears, etc.)	8	1.7	10½	2.3	16	3.5
Plums:						
Select plums	30	6.5	40	8.6	50	10.8
Common plums (various sorts except those used for distilling)	20	4.4	28	6.1	35	7.5
Common plums (for distilling)	10	2.2	13	2.8	.....	.....

By this measure the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office hopes to prevent worm-eaten fruit being sold as select fruit. The regulation was opposed by the fruit growers, who desired that select fruit should remain free of maximum prices, as last year, that they might continue making excessive profits at the expense of the consumers. This, however, was a necessary measure, since this year 8,000,000 centners (440,920 short tons) of fruit are to be used by the jam factories. Fats will be scarce this winter in Germany, and jam will

¹ Hamburger Fremdenblatt. Hamburg, Aug. 8, 1917. Evening edition.

consequently be an important article of diet. For this reason the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office has appointed officials in those Federal States which are large fruit producers, in order that such States shall not be better supplied with fruit than the rest.¹

With a view of getting hold of and regulating the supply of what stocks there are of fruit the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office on August 20, 1917, issued a comprehensive order, which, although it avoids general expropriation, attempts to control the supply by other methods. In an interview given by von Tilly, head of the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office, to representatives of the press, the provisions and scope of the order were outlined as follows:²

A necessary condition for the success of the measure is the readiness of producers, dealers, and the public to cooperate with the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office. The imperial office is against any expropriation of fruit, owing to its perishable nature. Such a measure will be resorted to only if a grower does not voluntarily deliver his crop to the imperial office, which will then see to it that the fruit is shipped to a district where it is needed. All fruit intended for use in his own household will be left to the grower.

The order provides that no apples, plums, or common plums (*Zwetschen*) may be sold for shipment in the German Empire without the permission of the competent State, provincial, or district offices. This permission, if shipment by rail, boat, cart, barrow, or beast of burden is in question, must be given in writing by the issue of a transport certificate (*Beförderungsschein*). The details of this are left to the State offices, which may also delegate their right to issue transport certificates to other offices. Sale in the open markets alone needs no license. It is also lawful to sell direct to the consumer amounts up to 1 kilogram [2.2 pounds].

It is unavoidable that the jam factories must be first supplied. In addition to the 5,300,000 centners [292,110 short tons] needed by the civil population, the army needs 2,700,000 centners [148,811 short tons]. The jam factories will be under continual supervision, and the ingredients of the jam must be certified. Jam will continue to be rationed in the future. It is hoped that for nine months every person will receive 30 grams [1 ounce] of jam per day. All fruit not needed for jam factories will be sent to the markets.

Shortly thereafter the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office issued an order, which came into force at once, prohibiting the commercial manufacture of plums into jam. This order provides that plums may be used commercially for drying and for the making of fruit jelly only by permission of the War Company for Preserved Fruits and Jams. The utilization of pears for pear jelly is permitted when done by the grower for his own use.³

The *Leipziger Volkszeitung*⁴ reports that until further notice imports by parcel post of southern fruits, such as figs, raisins, apricot kernels, pine kernels, almonds, dried apricots, etc., must be diverted to the needs of the army, and will therefore be withdrawn

¹ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Aug. 7, 1917. Evening edition.

² *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Aug. 22, 1917. Morning edition.

³ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 7, 1917. Morning edition.

⁴ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Sept. 3, 1917.

from the open market. The Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office will, however, after supplying the army, deliver the surplus of the above-mentioned fruits to those firms which were carrying on an import trade in them prior to August 1, 1914. These must then supply the wholesale dealers, who in turn will supply the retail trade.

The new fruit order is in general favorably commented on by the press, though opponents of State control foretell its failure, and socialists are inclined to think it ought to have gone farther.

"The fruit order just published," says the *Frankfurter Zeitung*,¹ "involves beyond question a serious interference both with owner and consumer, but it is a necessary interference. The Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office has gone to work in a more practical and expedient manner than last year. It is not a question of requisitioning but of controlled sale, and providing in the first place for jam making."

Die Konjunktur,² an economic journal, disliking, as usual, any public control, predicts that—

The new regulations will not only bring no improvement, but will make things worse. Herr von Tilly pleads for the cooperation and good will of producer, dealer, and public. But it is impossible to use the services of the trade in conjunction with the system of maximum prices. Even a schematic regulation of prices is out of the question. The working of the new compulsory measure does not depend on good will. Its failure is based on the system of maximum prices which makes trade transactions almost or wholly impossible. The jam factories will not receive their supplies, and the towns will have very little fresh fruit. With every new attempt to make the perverted system workable by fresh compulsory measures, we find the evil becoming not less but greater, and this applies to the whole domain of the food supply.

It seems that the somewhat gloomy prediction of the *Konjunktur* was not fulfilled, for in September the fruit supply in the north—in the south it had for some time been fairly satisfactory—had improved a good deal. Thus, as regards Berlin, the *Berliner Tageblatt* states:³

Fruit imports from all parts of the Empire have this week considerably increased. Hundreds of wagonloads daily enter Berlin. Itinerant sellers have again appeared in the principal streets, offering for sale peaches, apples, and pears, and frequently grapes also. Certainly the peaches are not yet quite ripe, the apples and pears not of the first quality, but the populace buys, and is satisfied with its purchases. We hear from well-informed quarters that in the next few weeks fruit imports into Berlin will be further substantially increased; besides the above-mentioned fruits, plums and bilberries are to arrive in large quantities. Thanks to the rich fruit crop in south Germany, the requirements of jam factories will be completely covered. Over 2,000,000

¹ *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Aug. 26, 1917.

² *Die Konjunktur*. Berlin, Aug. 30, 1917.

³ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Sept. 8, 1917. Evening edition.

centner [110,230 short tons] of fruit are reported to have been already delivered.

And as regards Hamburg, the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*¹ states that the delivery of fruit for the Altona jam factories has been so plentiful that they have been unable to handle the supply. In order to prevent any waste a considerable amount was released for sale to the public. The prices per 500 grams amounted to 28 pfennigs (6.1 cents per pound) for plums, 40 pfennigs (8.6 cents per pound) for second-quality apples, and 35 pfennigs (7.5 cents per pound) for second-quality pears, windfalls 18 pfennigs (3.9 cents per pound). The supply card for special distributions had to be shown, and only one kilogram could be supplied per person in each household.

In the following important statement to the press,² Von Tilly, head of the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office, said that the compulsory measures taken with regard to fruit had had excellent results, and he announced similar measures for the compulsory acquisition by the State of vegetables:

When the official announcement came into force, on August 20, the jam factories had only 360,000 centner [19,841 short tons] of fruit at their disposal and feared they would not be able to get any more; now they have 2,000,000 centner [110,230 short tons]. If the supplies of fruit keep up at this rate the civil population will be able to count on ample supplies of jam from October 25, or at latest from November 1 onwards. Perhaps in the manufacture of the jam the fruit will be mixed with carrots, pumpkins, and beets. In spite of the great quantities supplied to the jam factories, there is, at present, abundance in the fresh-fruit market, thanks to the measures taken against illicit trade. The prospects of the fresh-fruit market are not, however, so good, as much of the late fruit has been plucked before it was ripe. To counteract the effect of this, prices will be increased every fortnight from September 15 onwards. On September 17 the transport certificate (*Beförderungsschein*), which is only another form of the export permit, comes into force.

The principal vegetables (white and red cabbage, savoys, carrots, kohlrabi, beets, and onions) may be compulsorily acquired by the State in the same way as the apple, pear, and plum crops. An order published September 12 and coming into force on September 15 empowers the State vegetable offices to decree that in their districts, or parts of them, with the approval of the imperial office, the above-enumerated vegetables, or some of them, may be sold only by permission of the State office. The vegetables so acquired are to be distributed by the imperial office among the factories which make use of them, and the fresh-vegetable markets. The imperial office may also decide how much of the crop is to be sold fresh, and what is to be done with the surplus. Direct sale from producer to consumer is exempted from the restrictions upon the sale of vegetables, so long as not more than 5 kilograms [11 pounds] is sold to the same consumer; and similarly retail sale and sale in the public markets remain free. The producer's right to employ his vegetables for his own domestic use is not subjected to any limitation. The imperial office will only acquire

¹ *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*. Hamburg, Sept. 8, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 13, 1917.

compulsorily the principal vegetables in each district, e. g., onions in Kalau, white cabbage in Wesselburen, and so on. It is hoped that too frequent use will not have to be made of these requisitioning powers.

The Berliner Tageblatt reports¹ that the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office has instructed the State vegetable offices, in fixing wholesale and retail prices for autumn vegetables, to proceed on different lines from those followed in the case of early vegetables. Since there is less danger of waste, a wholesale addition of 30 per cent to producers' prices is too high. The expenses, especially the average cost of freightage, must be carefully estimated, that the vegetables may not become too dear for consumption. The same line is to be followed in fixing retail prices.

The high fruit prices, due to the policy of the authorities, are creating a good deal of dissatisfaction, even in quarters where it would not be expected. In a communication, for instance, to the agrarian Deutsche Tageszeitung, Justizrath Hanke (Homberg) writes:²

When the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office changed its policy and issued the fruit order of August 25, 1917, the commission merchants, the heads of collecting offices, and the wholesale fruit dealers were urged to strive unceasingly to obtain fruit for jam, and instead of the former trifling commission a recompense of 3 marks per centner [0.7 cent per pound] was promised to them. This worked wonders. Great quantities of fruit have been brought together. The joy over this is somewhat dampened when one comes to consider what the jam, under the circumstances will cost the consumers. The grower's maximum price for windfall apples has been fixed at 10 marks per centner,³ for picked apples at 20 marks,⁴ and for pears at 8 marks [1.7 cents per pound]. Add to this the buyer's commission of 3 marks, the working expenses, and a fair profit for the jam factories, and the price will be so high that for poor people the jam will be almost inaccessible, and they will have to renounce the "absolutely necessary accompaniment to their bread" and eat it dry, unless the Imperial Government bears part of the price of the jam.

OILS AND FATS.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung states⁵ that, as a consequence of the experience gained in the past year, alterations have been made in the control of oil-producing plants by an order of the Federal Council (*Bundesrath*) of July 23, 1917, as to oil fruits and their products, and by the order of the president of the War Food Bureau of August 7, 1917, as to the delivery of oil, the trade in manufactured oils, and the prices of oleaginous fruits.

¹ Berliner Tageblatt. Berlin, Sept. 15, 1917. Morning edition.

² Deutsche Tageszeitung. Berlin, Sept. 17, 1917. Evening edition.

³ This is equivalent to from \$0.95 to \$1.08 per bushel, according to the number of pounds allowed to the bushel.

⁴ \$1.90 to \$2.16 per bushel.

⁵ Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung. Berlin, Aug. 12, 1917.

The amalgamation of oil mills, ordered by the war committee for the saving of coal and labor, has rendered the extraction of oil from oleaginous fruits too difficult for growers, and in future the entire crop, with the exception of certain quantities of seed and amounts up to 500 kilograms (1,102.3 pounds) of linseed, must be handed over to the committee. Instead of having the right to keep back 30 kilograms (66.14 pounds) of oil-producing seeds, the person delivering may claim the return of oil from the war committee, in proportion to the quantity delivered, between limits of 5 and 50 kilograms (11.02 and 110.23 pounds), the maximum of 50 kilograms being obtainable where more than 6,000 kilograms (13,228 pounds) of rape or poppy seed are delivered, more than 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds) of linseed, gold-of-pleasure, or mustard seed, or more than 16,000 kilograms (35,274 pounds) of hemp or sunflower seed. Contractors who deliver oil seeds from several agricultural establishments may claim a return of oil for each such establishment. The price of the oil to be delivered to farmers has been fixed very low, amounting to 1.50 marks per kilogram (\$1.37 per gallon) of linseed oil, 2.30 marks (\$2.07 per gallon) for poppy-seed oil, and 1.60 marks (\$1.44 per gallon) for rapeseed oil.

In order to avoid a double supply being obtained by oil-seed growers, either through the war committee or by extracting oil from quantities kept back, a strict control has been found necessary. The right to extract oil from vegetable substances has therefore been made dependent on the sanction of the president of the War Food Bureau, but will only be granted in exceptional cases, unless the stock in question is under the control of the war committee. Linseed growers not intending to make use of the 500 kilograms (1,102.3 pounds) of linseed to which they are entitled may, upon renouncing their claims to a return, deliver their whole crop to the war committee and receive the maximum price. It is then left to their choice to take either 25 kilograms (55.1 pounds) of oil and 70 kilograms (154.3 pounds) of oil cake for every 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) of linseed, or a remuneration of 18 marks (\$4.28) beyond the ordinary price. In order that the oil may be constantly fresh, linseed oil is deliverable in installments to those supplying the seed. Where oil has been extracted from seed of this year's harvest in accordance with the old regulations, this will be counted in the quantity due under the new regulations.

The conditions of purchase of oil-producing plants by the war committee have been amended in favor of the farmer. The weight may be registered at the place of loading, in accordance with the regulations to be found in the purchase contracts issued by the war committee. Differences over the prices offered by the committee will in future be adjusted by "settlement committees," presided over by

a higher official with a dealer and a farmer as expert associate members; the members of the committee are to be appointed by the State Central Office.

With a view to advancing further the cultivation of oil-producing plants in 1918, an increase in price of 15 marks per 100 kilograms (52 cents per gallon) has been fixed, as well as an increased return of oil cake. The return of oil cake, which in the last few years has been frequently the cause of complaint, will this year be as promised, thanks to the war committee's regulations. A number of drying establishments have been leased by the war committee, so that even damp seed can, after treatment, be utilized.

The oil gained from oil-producing fruits will, in consequence of the expected decrease in butter production, constitute, in the form of margarine, an important element in the fat supply of Germany in the coming winter. The requisitioning of the entire crop of oil seed is therefore absolutely necessary.

The collection of bones for fat-producing purposes has been controlled by the Government since May 1, 1916. According to the *Münchner Post*,¹ during the first year of this control the total return of bones in Germany amounted to 64,967,944 kilograms (71,614.6 short tons), from which 9,998,588 kilograms (11,021.4 short tons) of bone fat were obtained. The War Committee for Oils and Fats has stated that in consideration of the manifold products to be gained from bones, the collection of bones is very important and should be extended. The war committee is most willing to assist in single cases and to give any necessary instruction.

The *Vossische Zeitung* writes² that a new source of oil production is now being drawn on—tomato seeds. The analysis of tomato seeds undertaken by the War Committee for Oils and Fats gave a result of 20 to 24 per cent of oil, 9.1 per cent of water, and 4 per cent of nitrogen. In most preserving factories the whole tomatoes are used without taking out the seeds; where this is not the case the war committee has seen to the collection of tomato seeds. This has been done also in the occupied territories, especially in Roumania. The oil obtained is used as a table oil.

Significant at once of the anxiety of the authorities to obtain oil, and of the general shortage of foodstuffs, is an announcement in the *Lokal-Anzeiger*³ that the collecting offices for fruit kernels are paying cash or soup cubes for fruit kernels and melon seeds from which to extract oil for margarine. The oil itself can not be supplied to collectors, as the kernels contain only 5 per cent of oil. The soup

¹ *Münchner Post*. Munich, Sept. 24, 1917.

² *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 27, 1917. Evening edition.

³ *Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Oct. 3, 1917. Morning edition.

cubes are delivered to collectors of kernels as a special favor and are rated at the cash price of $2\frac{1}{2}$ pfennigs (0.6 cent) per cube.

SUGAR.

On the prospects of the sugar-beet harvest the *Schlesische Zeitung*¹ reports as follows:

Very shortly the sugar-beet harvest will be in full swing everywhere, and a very satisfactory crop is expected this year. Only a rough estimate of the sugar production expected from this year's crop can at present be made. But even on a cautious calculation—given at least fairly normal weather and harvesting conditions—a sugar production of at least 34,000,000 (1,873,910 short tons) and perhaps over 35,000,000 centner (1,929,025 short tons) in raw sugar may be expected for the German Empire. On a careful reckoning the expected production compares with the statistics for the last three fiscal years as follows:

	Short tons.
1914-15, 52,000,000 centner-----	2,865,980
1915-16, 30,000,000 centner-----	1,653,450
1916-17, 32,000,000 centner-----	1,763,680
1917-18, 34,500,000 centner-----	1,901,468

Though the extraordinarily large decrease of production in the first year of the war has been followed by continuous increases, these are unfortunately not large enough to put an end to the prevailing scarcity of sugar; but they do modify it to some extent. A steady endeavor considerably to increase cultivation next year may effect a thorough improvement.

With this may be compared the following report from Magdeburg in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*:²

The raw sugar distribution is now announced, and amounts for the months October and November to 15 per cent each, i. e., in all some 8 million centner (440,920 short tons) of the production. Thus all factories are assured good employment. Most of them are for the time being provided with coal, but the means for surmounting the other difficulties—lack of skilled labor and of teams for sugar-beet transport, etc.—are as inadequate as those for transporting the finished product to the refineries, whether by rail or water. Particular importance is attached by the distribution office to water carriage, but here the difficulties have much increased lately. Notably the Elbe and the Oder with their tributaries and canals are at present extremely low, so that even the moderate number of barges available can be used to only a small extent.

In general, the condition of the beet fields is very satisfactory at present, thanks to favorable weather, and in many districts a bigger crop than last year's and at least the same yield of sugar is reckoned on. But in some it is feared that owing to the fodder shortage, sugar-beet will often be used as fodder or damaged by cutting the tops. The estimates of experts so far indicate that the raw sugar will amount to about 30,000,000 centner [1,653,450 short tons].

The *Berliner Tageblatt*³ learns from a competent source that, as the final revised regulations for the trade in sugar during the harvest

¹ *Schlesische Zeitung*. Breslau, Sept. 28, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Sept. 28, 1917. Second morning edition.

³ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Sept. 30, 1917. Morning edition.

year 1917-18 can not be completed before October 1, the secretary of state for the War Food Bureau has ordered that the existing sugar law continue in effect until the issuance of further orders. Household sugar delivered after September 30 will be paid for at the new prices to be published about the middle of October.

Communal unions which have not been supplied with their October quota will be charged at the old rate.

According to the *Berliner Tageblatt*¹ the producer's price for sugar beets has been fixed at 2.50 marks per centner (32.7 cents per bushel of 60 pounds).

The Union of German Sugar Manufacturers recommends that the beet saved by the 15 per cent reduction of raw-sugar production should be released up to 45 per cent for fodder. In this connection the *Vorwärts*² states that the alleged reason for the reduction of sugar production is the want of coal, and raises a strong protest against any such reduction. "In the present scarcity of foodstuffs it would be criminal not to use sugar beets to the fullest extent for sugar. The necessary coal must be forthcoming. The beet prices were raised to 2.50 marks per centner [32.7 cents per bushel of 60 pounds] in order to stimulate production for sugar purposes, and now it is proposed to waste part of the good harvest in fodder."

The *Lokal-Anzeiger*³ announced that saccharine was again to be issued during September. Another substitute for refined white sugar is dealt with in an article by the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*,⁴ which states that negotiations are at present going on between the War Food Bureau and the Imperial Sugar Office, on the issue of which depends whether the so-called "mehlis," a coarse-grained loaf sugar is to be reintroduced. There is also much talk of the amalgamation of sugar factories for the purpose of economizing coal.

HONEY.

An order of the Federal Council (*Bundesrath*) relating to the maximum price of natural honey was published June 30, 1917, providing that from that date the consumer should pay for strained honey 3 marks per 500 grams (65 cents per pound) to the beekeeper, and 3.5 marks (75.7 cents per pound) to the dealer, while the dealer should pay 2.75 marks per 500 grams (59.5 cents per pound) to the producer. Since that date, however, no honey has been for sale in large towns, according to the *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*⁵—one more instance of the fixing of maximum prices being promptly followed by

¹ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Aug. 8, 1917. Evening edition.

² *Vorwärts*. Berlin, Oct. 6, 1917.

³ *Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Aug. 31, 1917. Morning edition.

⁴ *Deutsche Tageszeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

⁵ *Hamburger Fremdenblatt*. Hamburg, Aug. 1, 1917. Evening edition.

the disappearance of the goods from the market. The special reasons in this case, apart from the maximum prices themselves, are the inadequacy and faulty grading of the maximums in question, and the illicit trading which arises therefrom.

The *Berliner Tageblatt*¹ states that the beekeepers consider the maximum prices insufficient. The beekeeper is to receive 2.75 marks per 500 grams (59.5 cents per pound) from the dealer, whereas last year he obtained from 6 to 7 marks (\$1.30 to \$1.52 per pound). The result is a beekeepers' strike. Beekeepers, who in previous years supplied Berlin with honey by the hundredweight, declare themselves unable this year to deliver honey at the maximum price; others demand as much as 6 marks (\$1.30 per pound) from the dealers. The goods are being delivered direct to private consumers, who pay the prices demanded by producers. According to the *Vorwärts*² this was the situation as late as September 10.

The Minister of the Interior founded in Berlin, at the beginning of July, a Royal State bureau for the distribution of natural honey, but as the bureau had no honey in its possession none could be distributed. This spring beekeepers could obtain sugar for feeding bees from the Imperial Sugar Office only on condition that they pledge themselves to place the yield of honey at the disposal of that office.

COFFEE AND TEA.

The *Vossische Zeitung*³ states that, according to a communication by the war committee, coffee substitutes at excessive prices have appeared upon the market, for the manufacture of which raw materials have been used, some of which were not suitable, some in bad condition, and some unskillfully prepared. The communication says:

An unregulated industry is trying to profit by the public necessity. The Price Testing Offices have therefore been instructed by the economic department of the War Food Bureau to see whether noxious coffee substitutes are thus being supplied to the consumers. Measures are under consideration for assuring reasonable prices as well as safeguarding the public health. The standard prices for coffee substitutes apply to those for which raw materials are supplied by the war committee. And, of course, other substitutes, especially those manufactured from inferior materials, must not be priced higher. This also applies to foreign goods of this kind, unless the dealer can prove that they were purchased at a higher price.

The latest coffee substitute recommended is composed of pressed and roasted grape skins, the smell and taste of which are claimed by a Dresden chemist to have much resemblance to those of real coffee.⁴

¹ *Berliner Tageblatt*. Berlin, Aug. 7, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Vorwärts*. Berlin, Sept. 10, 1917.

³ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, July 25, 1917. Morning edition.

⁴ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Aug. 3, 1917.

A further coffee substitute has been discovered in asparagus seed, which is said to contain 10 per cent protein, 15 per cent fat, besides resin and a bitter element.¹

It would be a great pity, says Das Hotel, to throw away the parings of apples and pears. These should be dried, and will, on delivery, be paid for at the rate of 1 mark per kilogram (10.8 cents per pound). After being cleaned by a special process, they are being manufactured into an important ingredient of a tea substitute, which makes a cheap but very good beverage.

BEER.

The *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*² announces that beer is to be uniform all over Bavaria on the right of the Rhine.

A recently issued order of the acting commanding generals provides that, beginning with August 15, 1917, beer, unless for the army, may be manufactured only with an original gravity of 3.5 to 4 per cent. Supplies in stock of a stronger brewing must be weakened to the required original gravity. Where the working conditions do not admit of this adulteration, the Beer Distribution Office may grant exceptions to this regulation.

The *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* learns from a reliable source that a time limit will be given to the breweries in which to carry out the adulteration of stocks of higher percentage beer. The effect of the order will be that the retail trade can be supplied from August 15 with 60 per cent of the average peace requirements. This quantity will be sufficient to cover the needs of the civilian population, as the army's beer supply has been secured independently of this. The uniform beer will presumably be somewhat better than the previous small beer, since the brewers will probably go to the higher limit (4 per cent). Bavaria will have the best beer. In northern Germany, beer is brewed with an original gravity of 2 per cent.

Under the same date the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* reports that an order has been issued which will check the buying up of the small by the large breweries. Previously, if a brewery in the country was bought up, the large brewery had the right to make use of the brewing malt quota attached to the purchased brewery. In future a license from the Malt Distribution Office will be required before this malt can be used. This license will be granted only in exceptional cases. By the closing of the country breweries many of the local tradesmen and farmers are injured. But the purchase of these breweries has greatly increased. In 1916, of 3,000 breweries, both private and cooperative, in Bavaria, about 500 were closed. Among them were certainly many cooperative breweries which had to close in consequence of the reduction of the malt quota, but will reopen after the War. A large number were, however, bought up and permanently closed by being absorbed into the large breweries.

¹ *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 12, 1917. (Quoted from the *Deutsche Landwirtschaftliche Presse*.)

² *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, July 19, 1917. Evening edition.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*¹ has received the following report on the distribution of barley to breweries in the fiscal year 1917-18:

A Barley Distribution Office for Breweries has been founded, as the Imperial Grain Office, contrary to former custom, will not supply individual establishments but will assign the aggregate amount for the separate industries to their combines, which will have charge of the redistribution to the individual breweries. The Imperial Grain Office has already allowed the newly created Barley Distribution Office to designate the districts and distributing agencies principally concerned in the matter of brewing barley. The new office has also urged the Imperial Grain Office to assign more barley to the brewing industry, both in order to extend the beer production and to provide the valuable brewing refuse, viz., brewers' grain for dairy farming and malt germs for yeast factories. The barley distribution is to follow the lines adopted by the Imperial Grain Company, the distribution to be equal and simultaneous. About 20,000 to 30,000 metric tons (918,583 to 1,377,875 bushels of 48 pounds) of barley are to be assigned monthly, so that the distribution of the quota allotted to breweries will extend over about four to six months. As the peace-time consumption of barley by German breweries, with the exception of the Bavarian breweries, amounted to about 1,200,000 metric tons (55,115,000 bushels), a monthly quota of 20,000 tons would amount for each brewery to 1.67 per cent, and of 30,000 tons to 2.5 per cent of its peace-time consumption.

Based on a report by a Nuremberg firm of hop dealers, the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*² estimates this year's hop crop in Germany at 133,200 centner (7,340 short tons) from an area of about 11,100 hectares (27,428.1 acres). The corresponding figures for 1916 were 173,872 centner (9,583 short tons) and 17,789 hectares (43,956.62 acres). The present conditions justify the hopes of a good medium harvest.

WINE.

The wine export permit of last March terminated on July 31. Leave to export without special permit is henceforth given for native white wines, where (1) the dealer has been in business since 1913, and (2) the price is at least 8 marks (\$1.90) and 4.25 marks (\$1) per bottle and half bottle, respectively, exclusive of packing charges and without either subsequent discount or middleman profits.³

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*⁴ states that, according to statements in wine dealers' circles, this year's Roumanian vintage has been expropriated by the German military authorities for military requirements. The produce is to be brought to Germany and several Palatinate wine dealers with large cellarage have offered to treat and finish the wine.

As regards the production and sale of fruit wine, according to an order of the imperial chancellor, a distinction must be made between

¹ *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Aug. 16, 1917. First morning edition.

² *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Aug. 20, 1917. Morning edition.

³ *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Aug. 14, 1917.

⁴ *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Sept. 1, 1917. Morning edition.

that produced for trading and that produced for nontrading purposes. Private production is allowed up to an amount of raw material not exceeding 3,000 kilograms (6,613.8 pounds) during the year. This amount may, with the consent of the State central authorities, be increased to 15,000 kilograms (33,069 pounds). Only the production of bilberry and apple wines is allowed for commercial purposes, not, however, without the consent of the authorities concerned. The quantity of fruit wine to be produced for commercial purposes by each wine-pressing establishment will shortly be fixed, probably at 20 per cent of the average wine pressing in 1914-15, by the Imperial Fruit and Vegetable Office. All trade in fruit wine is prohibited until after the publication of maximum prices.¹

DISTRIBUTION OF BARLEY TO DISTILLERS.

The Imperial Grain Office issued a proclamation on September 26, 1917,² stating that by the grain order of June 21, 1917, the supplying of the distilleries with barley is in the hands of the Imperial Grain Office and that it will make use of the Spirits Central Office to carry out this task.

The amount of barley considered necessary for the manufacture of 1 hectoliter (26.42 gallons) of pure alcohol in distilleries which in 1916-17 produced an average amount of not more than 30 hectoliters (792.6 gallons) is 30 kilograms (66.14 pounds), in distilleries that produced not more than 300 hectoliters (7,926 gallons), 20 kilograms (44 pounds), and in distilleries which produced over 300 hectoliters, 16 kilograms (35.27 pounds).

All spirit distilleries except those supplied by the Union of German Compressed Yeast Manufacturers, or those which are associated with the spirit industry of southern Germany, must apply for barley to the Barley Distribution Office of the Spirits Central Office. This applies both to distilleries which propose to make use of their own harvest and to those which are dependent for their supply on the Imperial Grain Office.

Distilleries which have grown on their own farms enough barley for their average production, as well as association and cooperative distilleries which can obtain their requisite quantity from the harvest of their associates or cooperators, may on application have the necessary quantity of barley released to them from their own harvest. Distilleries which use their own barley must pay to the Imperial Grain Office the difference between the fixed price of barley, plus 3 marks allowed for the expenses of the Spirits Central Office, and the maximum price, plus the threshing premium for barley. The barley

¹ Frankfurter Zeitung. Frankfort on the Main, Sept. 4, 1917. Morning edition.

² Schlesische Zeitung. Breslau, Oct. 4, 1917. Morning edition.

must not be used before it has expressly been allotted to the distilleries by the Barley Distribution Office.

Oats and mixtures of oats can not be released for distilling purposes in the coming year. Distilleries which have not reaped sufficient barley for their average production of spirits must therefore depend for their supply on the Imperial Grain Office.

“FOOD EXCURSIONS.”

During the past spring and summer the food authorities received numerous complaints about the increasing practice among the urban population of going out to the rural districts to secure food illicitly. These “food excursions” were much discussed in the daily press, some papers expressing sympathy for the poorer class of excursionists, who should be distinguished from the richer and merely selfish hoarders.

In Berlin and the Province of Brandenburg this injurious practice led to a proclamation by the commanding general, which, according to the *Lokal-Anzeiger*,¹ contained the following statement:

Individuals can not be permitted to seek to obtain in this way an advantage over their fellow citizens. Moreover, people now go out, not merely to buy but to steal food or take it forcibly; they have the effrontery to help themselves to standing field and garden crops, often long before these are ripe. The injury to the farmers and to our future supply is obvious. Robbing the fields and damaging the crops is a crime in war time, and the strongest measures must be taken against it.

He therefore lays the authorities under an obligation to enforce the following order, and states that where it is necessary military assistance will be available. The text of the order is as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Foodstuffs the sale of which is under Government control, especially grain, flour, bread, barley, groats, pulse, potatoes, meat (including hams and sausage), bacon, milk, butter, and eggs may only be sold by the producer to persons from other districts, if they can show a written license, running in their own name and granted by the Landrat (highest rural district official) or the communal administration of the producing district.

ART. 2. Only those possessing such license may buy or solicit the above foodstuffs outside their own locality.

ART. 3. Small quantities may be given without remuneration if permission in writing has been granted by the competent head of the commune or manorial estate.

ART. 4. The competent administrative authorities may grant exceptions to the above articles 1 to 3.

ART. 5. Foodstuffs obtained contrary to these regulations, with their wrappings, etc., are liable to confiscation by the police. The obligation to prove legal possession will lie with the person upon whom the food is found.

¹ Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger. Berlin, Aug. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

ART. 6. Police officials, gendarmes, and special constables will be entitled to enter railway platforms, baggage offices, waiting rooms, and railway carriages, and there make search for food.

ART. 7. All orders previously issued by the administrative authorities with regard to the sale of these foodstuffs remain unaffected by articles 1 to 3.

ART. 8. Breaches of the above regulations will be punishable under martial law.

ART. 9. This order comes into force on August 4, 1917.

In Bavaria the predatory activities of field thieves had reached such an extent that the acting commander in chief of the First Bavarian Army Corps assigned mounted military detachments to protect the fields near the large towns.¹

MASS FEEDING IN MUNICIPAL WAR KITCHENS.

The *Vossische Zeitung*² contains a report by Government Councillor Dr. Tenius on the development of mass feeding in Germany during the war. Of the 563 communes, each with 10,000 or more inhabitants, and with a total population of 26,700,000, there were only 56, with 857,000 inhabitants, without mass-feeding arrangements; 472 communes, with 24,354,090 inhabitants, reported the existence of 2,207 such establishments, of which 1,076 are general war kitchens, 116 middle-class kitchens, 528 factory kitchens, and 487 kitchens of various kinds. Although most towns provided only midday dinners, most kitchens are arranged for at least two shifts of cooks. The average output of the 2,207 establishments amounted in February, 1917, to a daily production of 2,528,401 liters³ of food, which allowed 10.4 liters daily per 100 inhabitants of the 24,354,090 total inhabitants in question, as against 8.8 liters in January. The highest possible daily output would promise a total of 4,208,741 liters, or 17.8 liters per 100 inhabitants.

According to the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*⁴ the *Wirtschaftliches Wochenblatt* has been instituting inquiries among the German towns as to the extent to which the food cards must be surrendered to the mass-feeding kitchens. Replies from some hundred towns showed a great diversity in practice. For meat and potatoes food vouchers are required in nearly all towns, but fat, pulse, farinaceous foods, and flour are more often supplied irrespective of vouchers. In a few towns no food cards of any kind are required by the mass-feeding kitchens. Brunswick, Celle, and Gotha reckon vouchers only for potatoes, Potsdam only for potatoes and pulse, and Pirmasens only for soup ingredients.

¹ *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Aug. 3, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, July 28, 1917. Morning edition.

³ A liter equals 0.908 qt. dry measure and 1.0507 qts. liquid measure.

⁴ *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Sept. 5, 1917. Morning edition.

The extent to which the meat card is required varies greatly, depending upon the frequency of the supply of meat dishes in the various war kitchens. The regulations usually provide for half the meat vouchers to be surrendered. Since, in many towns, meals are supplied in so-called liter portions, the meat vouchers are also reckoned on the basis of this unit. But here, too, the number of vouchers supplied varies.

In addition to the towns (a large majority) which have introduced daily vouchers, there are some which issue weekly and monthly cards. Some towns even demand from patrons of their food kitchens the meat and other vouchers for three months at a time.

The same differences are to be found as regards potato vouchers. But here, too, it is the rule that only half the vouchers need be given up. Also the number to be given up is often measured by the local potato ration existing at the time. In this arrangement the difficulties of the potato supply are clearly reflected. Many towns stated that it was impossible to reckon potato vouchers, because the supply did not admit of a ration being given.

Only 14 towns require the fat vouchers. A few more demand the food card voucher for pulse, flour, and farinaceous foods; very few reckon that for milling products. Munich requires no vouchers for fat, pulse, and eggs. Only two towns make deductions from the sugar card. In three towns books of tickets are supplied to the patrons of the war kitchens containing a list of the foodstuffs reckoned. Corresponding deductions are made from the food cards.

The comparative popularity of mass feeding is a good index to the actual condition of the food supply. It is interesting, therefore, to find the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*¹ stating that in spite of the better harvest there will, according to official intimation, probably be an increase in the number of people using the mass-feeding kitchens this year, especially if the fat shortage should increase.

The president of the War Food Bureau has asked the imperial coal commissioner to see that mass-feeding institutions of all kinds be supplied with coal to their full requirements, as important war industries, and to direct the local authorities to see that the people's kitchens are not curtailed in their coal supply.

The same official states that naturally provision must also be made for a sufficient supply of foodstuffs. Most important in this respect is the potato supply of the war kitchens. Enough must be stored to supply the kitchens during the long period of cold weather. In addition there must be a regular assignment to them of food preparations from the general supply for distribution. To avoid detriment to individual households, there must be a proper deduction from the meat, bread (flour), and, according to local conditions, other food

¹ *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Sept. 19, 1917. Evening edition.

cards also of those who use the kitchens. This deduction should equal the average amount of provisions used in the kitchens; in the case of special food preparations only half the quantity need as a rule be counted. Further, the mass-feeding arrangements must be so extended as to be adequate to supply the largest number of applicants.

The official quoted intimates that so far as there is need for evening meals, which seems to be the case only in a few localities, everything necessary will be done. Allowances are made from a fund given by the King of Bavaria for this purpose. Up to the present, 31 communes, etc., have received a total of 131,000 marks (\$31,178) from this fund.

The large increase of patrons of war kitchens from the middle classes is shown in an article in the *Lokal-Anzeiger*¹ on middle-class kitchens. This article states that the number of middle-class and officials' kitchens and of soup kitchens in Berlin has now almost reached a hundred; 35,000 portions of food and 14,000 portions of soup are served daily, and 8,000 portions of bone soup are distributed to heavy workers and children. The portions are generous and a second helping can be obtained at low prices. As all kitchens receive equal supplies, it is due to mismanagement on the part of the individual kitchens if complaints arise. The amount of food obtained in these kitchens is not deducted from ordinary food cards except from those for potatoes and meat.

The *Leipziger Volkszeitung*² stated that by the end of July the majority of war kitchens of the Leipzig administrative district were closed, but these were to be reopened at the end of October or the middle of November. The previous portion of three-fourths to 1 liter will be retained, but in view of existing conditions the price will be raised to 40 pfennigs (9.5 cents). Owing to the scarcity of provisions, vouchers will be demanded from the patrons for meat, dried vegetables, and farinaceous foods used in the kitchens.

REDUCED PRICES FOR FOOD FOR THE POORER CLASSES.

The *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* and various of its correspondents have recently been discussing the question of grading food prices according to income, and the paper gives³ the following result of inquiries on the matter instituted by the Central Office of the German Towns Congress:

Twenty-one of the larger towns, including Berlin, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Aix-la-Chapelle, etc., have, after investigation, given up the idea of such grading, owing to the technical difficulties of drawing

¹ *Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger*. Berlin, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Leipziger Volkszeitung*. Leipzig, Oct. 3, 1917.

³ *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten*. Munich, Sept. 5, 1917. Evening edition.

a just limit in the larger towns. The fluctuations of income within the year, the taxation according to the previous year's income, the number and age of children, social obligations, and children's earnings, all add to the difficulties. In many towns the practical ineffectiveness of the plan has led to the abandonment of the measure. Thus, in Altona 84 per cent of the population would belong to the poorer classes who would have to be privileged. In Berlin the number with a taxable income of over 6,000 marks (\$1,428) forms only 1 per cent. In Elberfeld 85 per cent have a taxable income of under 2,400 marks (\$571.20). In Saarbrücken 87 per cent earn under 3,000 marks (\$714).

Some towns have graded the purchasing public according to income only in isolated cases, and for certain classes of foodstuffs, like cheap meat and potatoes, and (temporarily) lard, peas, bread, farinaceous food, etc. In Dresden persons with less than 3,100 marks (\$737.80) income receive an extra kilogram (2.2 pounds) of bread per week, unless they are already entitled, as heavy workers, to a supplementary card. They are also somewhat better supplied with farinaceous food, cheese, tea, coffee substitutes, etc., but only to the amount of an extra 25 grams (0.88 ounces) of farinaceous food in four weeks. There are in Dresden 192,000 persons who receive the extra bread and 402,000 who have the larger food card.

Munich, by means of voluntary contributions chiefly, provides 35,000 families with food at lower prices. A collection for this purpose was started on March 1, 1916. Up to July 31, 1917, about 4,000,000 marks (\$952,000) was paid on the cards entitling to cheap food, and goods to the value of 6,000,000 marks (\$1,428,000) were purchased. The cheapened foods included household flour, bread, milk, malt coffee, sugar, and potatoes. Flour was sold at 21 pfennigs instead of 27 pfennigs per 375 grams ($6\frac{1}{4}$ instead of 8 cents per pound); 500 grams of bread at 13 pfennigs instead of 24 pfennigs (2.8 instead of 5.2 cents per pound); one liter of milk at 15 pfennigs instead of 30 pfennigs (3.4 instead of 6.7 cents per quart); 500 grams of malt coffee at 40 pfennigs instead of 52 pfennigs (8.6 instead of 11.1 cents per pound); and 500 grams of sugar at 25 pfennigs instead of 33 pfennigs (5.4 instead of 7.1 cents per pound).

This example has been followed by Augsburg, where also for the past year the commune has supplied the 8,000 poor families, having a total of 30,000 persons, with tickets entitling to special foods, among them butter or artificial fat, as well as meat and sausage. This scheme costs 25,000 marks (\$5,950) a month, covered by voluntary contributions.

In Bochum the incomes are graded. The poorer classes include all soldiers' families receiving assistance, all civilians noted as ex-

empt from taxes and having a household of their own, and all families whose assessed income does not exceed 5,500 marks (\$1,309). A reduction is granted to them in the prices paid for potatoes, rutabagas, white cabbage, condensed milk, and for meals taken in war kitchens, 30 pfennigs (7.1 cents) being charged for the latter instead of 40 pfennigs (9.5 cents). About two-thirds of the inhabitants of Bochum enjoy these privileged prices, from which it is true the most important foods—bread, fresh milk, and meat—are excluded.

The cheap additional meat granted since April 16, 1917, caused some of the German towns to fix income limits for the purchase of this meat. These limits fluctuated between 3,000 and 6,300 marks (\$714 and \$1,499.40); other towns took the number of children into consideration where the income did not exceed 8,000 marks (\$1,904), as in Frankfort on the Main, and 8,500 marks (\$2,023), as in Halle.

On the occasion of a debate in the Reichstag Main Committee on the question of a State subsidy to secure food for the poorer classes, Herr von Waldow, secretary of state for the War Food Bureau, made an important statement.¹ After explaining the causes of the increased cost of living, and mentioning that, in order to cheapen the price of flour, bread, and potatoes, the imperial treasury had assumed the cost of the early-threshing and quick-delivery premiums on grain and potatoes, he said:

There are objections, both in principle and fact, to granting imperial funds for reducing the prices of the most important foodstuffs for the poorer classes, as suggested in a socialist motion. It would make the price formation artificial and in the long run cause an intolerable want of proportion between producers' expenses and consumers' prices; also the line of demarcation between privileged and unprivileged classes can not be settled on general but must be settled on local principles. This must therefore be left to the communes, and proves that the solution of the question must be sought by way of war welfare administration. How far the funds of the war welfare societies should be assisted by imperial contributions is at present under consideration by the competent imperial offices.

THE FOOD-CARD SYSTEM.²

The following is reprinted from the *National Food Journal* (London) of November 28, 1917:

Food tickets are issued in general by three methods. In Berlin and some other towns, the porters of the large blocks of flats in which almost everybody lives obtain the tickets from the authorities and distribute them to the individual families. In Munich and a decreasing number of towns, school children and other voluntary helpers take the tickets round. The method becoming most general is, however, to compel each family to fetch its tickets for itself from a local office on one or more fixed dates, arranged so as to prevent an un-

¹ *Frankfurter Zeitung*. Frankfort on the Main, Oct. 2, 1917. Second morning edition.

² Reprinted from *National Food Journal*, London, Nov. 28, 1917, p. 110.

due rush of applicants. The advantage of this method over the others is that complaints are investigated and settled on the spot. The last occasion on which Leipzig distributed tickets by volunteer messengers to its 155,000 families produced nearly 100,000 complaints. The person who fetches the tickets for a family has to produce their individual police registration cards and sometimes special food ticket registration documents, and is often requested to bring their birth certificates. The issuing office keeps a card register showing changes in the membership of each family, all such changes having to be reported immediately. Under the first two methods of issuing tickets a receipt has to be given by the recipient. Tickets are taken out at intervals ranging from every three months down to every month or less. The more frequent the issue, the less is the danger of forgery, as the appearance of each successive series of tickets can be varied. Hoarding and anticipation of supplies are prevented by making each ticket valid only for a single week, or fortnight.

As supplies are rationed by districts, the tickets, with the exception of the meat ticket, are valid only in the district of issue. If, therefore, a ticket holder goes on a journey or removes to another district, he must report to the issuing authority, which, on surrender of all the tickets held by him, provides him with a removal certificate entitling him to claim tickets in the place to which he goes. The procedure for removals has taken a very long time to settle, owing to the difficulty of adjusting supplies between different districts, and its details are too complicated to be described here. Tickets are now generally necessary in order to obtain food in hotels and restaurants. You give up coupons corresponding to the amount of raw food in the dish, which is stated on the menu. Loss of tickets has presented a very difficult problem. At first they were replaced without much question, but the possibility of fraud and the danger that lost tickets would be used by the finder have proved so serious that German local authorities now commonly refuse to replace losses, or levy a substantial fine for replacement, or give only a ticket for a curtailed ration.

The original and simplest form of German food ticket is a card with detachable coupons, printed so as to be difficult of imitation. It now must generally be signed by the holder; it is never transferable. Other varieties used locally for general or special purposes are books containing a page with separable coupons for every article. Such a book occasionally represents the rations for a whole family. On the whole, the use of one card for every article and for every person is found most satisfactory, while general tickets or books are issued with blank coupons to be used in buying any exceptional supplies which the local authority may be able from time to time to provide; e. g., dried vegetables and farinaceous foods are not regularly on sale, but can be bought at irregular intervals on specified coupons of the general food ticket. Every coupon is for the ration and date marked on it or announced by the local authority. On making each purchase the whole ticket must be handed to the tradesman, who detaches the appropriate coupons in order to exchange them at the local control office for permits to restock his shop in proportion to the number of coupons which he has collected. Similarly, hotels and restaurants exchange their collections of coupons for purchasing permits. The imperial German authorities attach the greatest importance to the enforcement of this check upon the retailer, as it has been found by hard experience to be the only method of securing that the food supplied to the tradesman is really sold to legitimate ticket holders, and not consumed by his family or sold surreptitiously at preposterous prices to favored customers. Unless the retailer buys upon official vouchers, it is impossible in practice to ascertain what his stocks

have been and whether a failure to supply the ticket holders is due to fraud or to genuine shortage.

The comparatively simple ticket system described above worked well in Germany for bread and flour down to the end of 1915; but it requires for its successful operation the existence of a considerable margin of stocks in the retail shops, so that the ticket holder may be certain of being served in some shop near his home. The extreme scarcity of all foods which began to prevail in 1916 and still continues has necessitated the introduction of important complications; and, speaking generally, bread, flour (usually), and sugar are now the only foods to which the simple system still applies. For meat, milk, fats, potatoes, and other foods, especially those which are only distributed occasionally, the purchaser must become the registered customer of a particular shop, and very frequently he must place his order a week or more in advance. The shop is supplied in exact proportion to the number of its registered customers or of the advance orders received. To prevent the formation of food queues [waiting lines], a number is assigned to every customer and the tradesman announces in his window what numbers will be served at particular hours. One hour in the day is reserved for persons who prove by a certificate from their employers or otherwise that they could not attend when their numbers were up. These refinements prevent the necessity for a margin; but they involve the issue of special registration tickets, complicate enormously the problem of removals, and subject the public to very great inconvenience.

In conclusion one observation may be made by way of caution. The ticket system is the effect, not the cause, of the German food crisis. If it has to some extent lessened the supply of food by discouraging production and dislocating trade, it has undoubtedly saved the nation from early defeat in the war by reducing consumption to a minimum far below any that voluntary effort could have secured.

EFFECT OF THE FOOD SHORTAGE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the summer months of 1917 numerous reports appeared in the daily press as to the prevalence of dysentery in Germany. It is the same disease that is referred to in an account of intestinal catarrh, quoted by the *Vossische Zeitung*¹ from the *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift*, compiled by Prof. Schwalbe from replies to a questionnaire. This account says:

The simple intestinal catarrh, in most cases unaccompanied by fever, predominates in northern Germany; but several cases are also reported from Tübingen, whereas hospitals in Munich and Würzburg report no more than the normal number. North German towns (Berlin, Halle, Leipzig, Bonn, Cologne) report a heavy epidemic-like increase; but whether dysentery is here in question can not be ascertained, for lack of bacteriological data. Most of the cases must be considered as a result of war conditions: Indigestible or deleterious foodstuffs, or fruit obtained in a less fresh condition than formerly. However, the general opinion is that the bread, badly milled and badly baked, is the cause.

¹ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Aug. 16, 1917. Evening edition.

At a later date the *Vossische Zeitung*,¹ with reference to the epidemic of dysentery, writes as follows:

According to current reports last month, one had the impression that every third person was suffering from dysentery. But in reality such was not the case. The infectious cases were limited to a small number, and only a small percentage resulted fatally. The official report for the week August 5 to 11 states that in the police district of Berlin there were 203 cases, of which 44 proved fatal. A more violent epidemic broke out in the Government district of Allenstein; 350 persons were taken ill, of whom 16 died. Düsseldorf had the largest number of cases, 554, of which 32 proved fatal. In the Government district of Cologne the number amounted to 480, with 19 deaths. In the Government district of Oppeln 348 cases were reported, of which 56 proved fatal. The total number of cases of dysentery for Prussia during the period August 5 to 11 was 3,806, with 339 deaths.

The *Vorwärts*² states that—

The spring months in 1917, following the bad winter months, show a great increase in the number of deaths from phthisis in Berlin. The monthly tables published by the Berlin Statistical Bureau for the time up to May record for the spring months March, April, and May 500, 542, and 564 (in all 1,606) deaths from phthisis (including laryngeal phthisis), against 375, 331, and 326 (in all 1,032) deaths in the same months of last year. The deaths from pneumonia also greatly increased. In the three months 366, 362, and 281 deaths (in all 1,009) were reported, as against 260, 192, and 170 (in all 622) last year. Of other diseases of the lungs (including pleurisy) there died 106, 128, and 103 (in all 337) persons, as against 86, 57, and 47 (in all 190) last year. The death roll from the three above-named diseases amounts in the spring of 1917 to 2,952 against 1,844 in the spring of 1916. This increase can only partly be explained by the inclemency of the weather.

German doctors in public lectures assure their audiences that the public health is suffering but little from the difficult food conditions, and, in particular, that "all is well with the children." They base their assertions on apparently confirmatory statistics. Statistics, however, are notoriously easy to juggle with. Certain figures for Berlin given by the *Vorwärts*³ on authority which can not be impeached throw a very different light on the matter.

The *Vorwärts* states that—

Infant mortality is unusually high this year in Berlin. It is true that the actual number of deaths is below that of recent years. But this is explained by the extraordinary decline in the birth rate. The proportion of the number of infant deaths to the number of births is considerably more unfavorable this

¹ *Vossische Zeitung*. Berlin, Sept. 2, 1917.

² *Vorwärts*. Berlin, Sept. 5, 1917.

³ *Idem*. Oct. 3, 1917.

year than last. The following figures are taken from the records of the Berlin Statistical Office:

Number of infant deaths per 100 births.

1915—September	9.62	1916—September	11.62
October	9.25	October	10.25
November	9.85	November	11.63
December	14.14	December	13.05
1916—January	10.89	1917—January	14.64
February	11.92	February	14.93
March	13.04	March	14.01
April	11.10	April	12.70
May	11.39	May	12.65
June	11.72	June	13.52

The figures for July and August are not yet published but the proportion between this year and last year must have been still more unfavorable. Especially have July and August brought a striking increase this year in infant mortality.

The Vorwärts says that there may be several causes for this lamentable increase in infant mortality, but it should be investigated how far the deterioration of milk is responsible.

An interesting article by Dr. Drenemann, health officer of Dresden, dealing with the effect of the food shortage on the health of the public in general and on that of juveniles in particular, appears in the *Soziale Praxis* for September 27:

We observe that in the distribution of foodstuffs in Germany two tendencies are at work. One is the aim of securing to each individual an equal share of the general food supply. The other is the reaction against this tendency of individuals who feel that the share of each person should correspond to his personal needs, which are qualified by the most varied circumstances.

The Government has found itself bound to conform to this latter tendency, but only to that degree which seemed to it compatible with the fundamental idea of equality of distribution. The difficulty now is to decide where the line should be drawn and where the danger arises of disturbing the equilibrium of the whole scheme, since it is not a matter of those groups whose rations ought to be reduced in size, but of those which need additions to their rations.

We have ascertained, by countless experiments and inquiries, how much nourishment is required by the various ages, and by a man doing hard physical labor or leading a sedentary life.

In the following table will be shown, on the one hand, the number of calories required by the younger classes, and briefly also that required by adults, and, on the other hand, the volume of foodstuffs actually allowed in each particular case (in calories). These latter calculations are based chiefly on the conditions prevailing in Dresden under the present system of food cards.

Children at the end of their first year of life require daily about 900 calories.

The volume of foodstuffs assured to this age represents:

1. About 1,050 calories in the case of essential foodstuffs (milk, flour, oatmeal, sugar, semolina).
2. About 450 calories in the case of nonessential foodstuffs (meat, edible fats, potatoes, curds, pastry).

In the second year, require about 1,100 calories.	Receive about 1,600 calories.
In the third and fourth years, require about 1,700 calories.	Receive about 1,400 calories.
In the fifth and sixth years, require about 1,400 calories.	Receive about 1,250 calories.
In the seventh and eighth years, require about 1,700 calories.	Receive 1,300 calories. An additional $\frac{1}{4}$ liter of milk is granted.

In this age the balance between the foodstuffs required and actually assured begins to show a considerable deficit. Since, however, at this age children sit at all meals with their elders and may be given things available without cards, the deficit may be covered without prejudice to the quantities of food allowed to other members of the family.

In the case of the years between 9 and 14, the circumstances are more serious. Then the requirements are, according to the detailed inquiries of Prof. Franz Muller, about 1,800 to 2,400 calories daily.	They receive, however, only about 1,200 calories.
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No different is the case of the years between 15 and 18, when requirements rise to the requirements of adults with 2,450 calories.	These also receive only 1,200 calories.
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This difference, under present conditions, can only be covered by very wealthy people.

As far as adults are concerned, the figures are, in brief, as follows:

A man engaged in light work requires 2,450 calories daily.	He receives 1,200 calories.
A man engaged on heavy work requires 3,500 calories daily.	He receives 1,600 calories.
A man engaged on the heaviest work requires 4,200 to 6,000 calories daily.	He receives 1,950 calories.

That is, he ought to receive these quantities, but the cessation of the potato supply makes the figures of the foodstuffs given as rations fall at times to about 1,050 calories daily, in spite of the additional allowances of bread and flour for the community.

The authorities have tried and continue to try to ameliorate the situation by special allowances. The measure of their success is shown by the fact that for the period April 17 to May 14, 1917, the daily quantity of calories increased from 1,200 to 1,450.

Since, due to her smaller size and weight, a woman's requirements can not be put on the same footing as a man's, she will have to be content with from 2,000 to 2,400 calories. If we assume that women with child and mothers nursing their own children require somewhat more, 2,500 calories may be considered sufficient for these latter.

How do the supplies of assured foodstuffs work out? In addition to the 1,200 calories just mentioned, during the last three months a woman with child in Dresden received 400 grams [14 ounces] of bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of semolina, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ liters [about 20 pints] of milk per week, that is, about 680 calories daily. With these 1,200 calories, plus 680, and with what is obtainable without cards, it seems demonstrable that there is no cause for the anxiety concerning these persons and the newly born infants expressed hitherto in medical reports. Women with child in any case receive an additional allowance of 400 grams of

bread per week—i. e., 55 calories a day. To this is added the infants' food card to the value of about 1,500 calories daily, giving a total (1,200+1,500+55) of over 2,700 calories. These figures give us assurance that sufficient care is being taken of these women if, as happens in Dresden, they receive, when nursing infants at the breast and with the bottle, an additional allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ liter [$\frac{3}{4}$ pint] of milk daily.

One more group of persons must be mentioned, i. e., men and women of advanced age whose strength does not any longer permit of profitable activity, and in whom the physiological loss of weight inherent in their age is found. Their requirements probably do not exceed 2,000 calories a day, in the case of females considerably less.

But in Saxony they receive under the order of the ministry $\frac{1}{2}$ liter [$\frac{3}{4}$ pint] of milk a day and in Dresden $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of semolina per week as an additional allowance. This gives for these persons the assured amount of nearly 1,400 calories a day.

We see from these figures that ample and, in some cases, more than ample care is taken of those about to become mothers, of women with young children, and of infants up to 4 years of age, that children up to 8 years of age are still protected from any serious disadvantage, but that on the contrary those between 8 and 18 years are without any doubt in a serious position. In their case an alteration must be made even if it be by means of reducing the rations of the younger children who could bear it, or, above all, by not giving children in this age group renewed supplementary allowances without reducing foodstuffs which are not yet suitable for them and handing over the same to children of over 8 years. Already ill supplied with nourishment for the maintenance of their physical condition, they are expected to go on growing and become strong so as to serve their country. Indeed, even now they are obliged to take over the work of grown men as harvest workers and in auxiliary service as apprentices and youthful workmen, and are expected to attend school and continuation classes, and take part in drills, etc., and all this without detriment to their health. Even before the war the number of cases of heart ailments in the young was increasing very much owing to the overexertion to which they were subjected. And these ailments will most certainly be increased by the immoderate desire on the part of these young people to use their strength. My point is that it must be continually brought home to the authorities that a very great wrong is being done to these young people, that, on the one hand, changes must be made in the calories allotted and, on the other hand, doctors must be given greater influence on the extension of physical exercises. And even should the general public receive less food, the future of our country must be considered. We grown-ups can help ourselves, the growing lad can not, for we can become still thinner, but he can not do so without detriment to his whole future existence.

FOOD PRICES.

In order to illustrate the enormous rise in food prices, the Leipziger Volkszeitung publishes two tables, giving prices of various foodstuffs in Leipzig at the outbreak of the War and in August, 1917.

The first of these tables, which are reproduced below, was compiled by the Cooperative Society of Leipzig-Plagwitz.

RETAIL PRICES OF VARIOUS ARTICLES IN LEIPZIG, AS CHARGED IN A COOPERATIVE STORE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST, 1914 AND 1917.

[Source: Leipziger Volkszeitung, Leipzig, Sept. 20, 1917.]

Article.	Unit.	First week of August, 1914.	First week of August, 1917.	Per cent of increase August, 1917, over August, 1914.
Jam, first quality.....	Pound.....	\$0.097	\$0.302	211
Artificial honey, in boxes.....	do.....	.076	.119	57
Artificial honey, loose.....	do.....	.076	.119	57
Sirup.....	do.....	.043	.076	75
Sauerkraut.....	do.....	.013	.035	167
50 per cent coffee.....	do.....		.475	
25 per cent coffee.....	do.....		.302	
10 per cent coffee.....	do.....		.199	
Onions.....	do.....	.013	.043	233
	do.....		.259	445
Herrings ¹	do.....	.048	.238	400
	do.....		.215	355
	do.....		.194	309
Bloaters ¹	Each.....	.012	.214	1,700
	do.....		.143	1,100
Smoked herrings.....	do.....	.036	.214	500
Beans.....	Pound.....	.045	.093	105
Condensed milk, sweetened.....	Can.....	.131	.405	209
Eggs.....	Each.....	.017	.076	357
Soap, first quality.....	Pound.....	.155	.864	456
Butter, first quality.....	do.....	.259	.626	142
Wheat flour.....	do.....	.043	.056	30
Margarine.....	do.....	.181	.432	138
Limburger cheese.....	do.....	.108	.194	80
Lard.....	do.....	.194	.915	371
Wheat grits.....	do.....	.043	.097	125
Farinaceous food.....	do.....	.076	.110	46
Bread.....	do.....	.032	.035	7
Hulled barley.....	do.....	.039	.065	67
Prepared oats, loose.....	do.....	.076	.095	26
Prepared oats, in packages.....	Package.....	.107	.133	24
Potato flakes.....	Pound.....	.019	.086	344
Potato-starch flour.....	do.....	.039	.058	50
Potatoes.....	do.....	.006	.022	233
Salad oil.....	do.....	.215	.756	250

¹ In 1917 these fish were graded according to size, while in 1914 the price was the same for all sizes.

The above table is supplemented by the following table which gives comparative prices for the same periods as the above table

for meats, fish, fruits, and vegetables, based on the weekly price reports issued by the administration of the Leipzig municipal markets:

RETAIL PRICES OF MEATS, FISH, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN THE MUNICIPAL MARKETS OF LEIPZIG FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST, 1914 AND 1917.

[Source: Leipziger Volkszeitung, Leipzig, Sept. 20, 1917.]

Article.	Unit.	First week of August, 1914.	First week of August, 1917.	Per cent of increase August, 1917, over August, 1914.
Beef, loin.....	Pound....	\$0.302	\$0.751	149
Veal, leg.....	do.....	.215	.475	120
Pork, leg.....	do.....	.173	.....	.....
Liver pudding (<i>Leberwurst</i>).....	do.....	.151	.432	186
Blood pudding (<i>Blutwurst</i>).....	do.....	.151	.432	186
Pickled pork.....	do.....	.151	.345	129
Goose.....	do.....	.194	.918	372
Flounder.....	do.....	.130	.324	150
Haddock.....	do.....	.108	.238	120
Apples.....	do.....	.043	.136	215
Pears.....	do.....	.043	.130	200
Bilberries.....	do.....	.069	.108	56
Tomatoes.....	do.....	.043	.259	500
Rhubarb.....	Bunch.....	.....	.060	.....
Cauliflower.....	Head.....	.060	.190	220
Green peas.....	Pound.....	.022	.215	900
Kohlrabi.....	Ten.....	.071	.476	567
Savoy.....	Head.....	.024	.119	400
Red cabbage.....	do.....	.060	.119	100
White cabbage.....	do.....	.048	.119	150
Carrots.....	Bunch.....	.024	.143	500
Radishes.....	Each.....	.012	.060	400
Cucumbers.....	do.....	.048	.071	50
Mushrooms.....	Pound.....	.215	.756	250

FOOD RATIONS.

Food rations are generally fixed by the Imperial War Food Bureau, on the basis of the estimated supply, for the entire empire. In practice, however, the food rations apportioned to the civilian population of the individual localities vary greatly from locality to locality and are dependent on the actual supply on hand.

An attempt has been made below to tabulate the weekly average food rations in 24 representative towns of Germany for the four weeks ending August 26, 1917. The table given here was compiled from reports of the local German press. In many cases the rations shown in the table are the maximum rations, the actual rations depending on the available supply. Hamburg professes to publish only the actual rations available for distribution. Brunswick, on the other hand, qualifies nearly every amount with the condition "if sufficient supplies are in the hands of the authorities." It will be noticed that for several towns the list is very incomplete. All rations which could be obtained from the press were noted, but only a few towns (Hamburg, Altona, Berlin, and Gladbach) publish complete lists. In the case of all other towns the rations had to be taken from announcements in the advertisement columns and elsewhere.

Naturally, these announcements refer mainly to special distributions of foodstuffs and not to staple foods. The table does not include special supplementary rations for children, nursing mothers, and sick people.

AVERAGE WEEKLY RATIONS OF PRINCIPAL FOODSTUFFS IN 24 REPRESENTATIVE GERMAN TOWNS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING AUG. 26, 1917.

[Compiled from the local German papers. Blanks in this table do not indicate that the article in question was not rationed but mean that no source was available to ascertain the ration fixed for the article.]

City.	Bread.	Flour.	Hulled barley.	Groats.	Grits.	Farina- ceous foods.	Fresh meat.	Sau- sage.	Fish.
	Lbs. oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Aix la Chapelle.....	3 13.7		0.9	3.1	1.8	2.6	6.2	2.6	
Altona.....	3 13.8	3.1	.9	1.8			10.1	1.8	0.9
Berlin.....	3 14.6	.9		1.8	.9	1.8	13.2		
Charlottenburg.....	3 14.6	.9	2.2	2.2		.9	13.2		
Schöneberg.....	3 14.6	.9	1.8	2.2		1.8	13.2		
Wilmsdorf.....	3 14.6			1.5	2.2		13.2		2.2
Bremen.....		2.2				5.3	13.2		
Breslau.....	4 2.1	(*)					13.2		
Brunswick.....	3 8.4	(*)	10.6	2.6		4.4	13.2		
Dresden.....	3 13.7			2.2			13.2		
Düren.....			2.2	1.8	2.2		10.6	2.6	
Düsseldorf.....				1.8		.9	9.7	3.5	
Frankfort on the Main.....	3 13.7	1.9		2.6		1.8	10.6	2.6	2.2
Gladbach.....	3 9.3			1.8	6.4		13.2		
Hamburg (urban).....	3 14.1	7.4		2.4	.9		6.2		.9
Hamburg (rural).....	3 14.0		.9	.9		1.8	13.2		
Hanover.....	3 15.5		2.2	4.4			12.3		
Kiel.....							13.2		
Krefeld.....				8.8	4.0		12.3		
Leipzig.....	3 13.7	2.6		1.1		1.1	10.6	.9	
Magdeburg.....	3 15.5			1.1		1.1	13.2		
Munich.....	3 13.7		3.6			2.6	13.2		
Strassburg.....	4 3.0						11.5	3.5	
Stuttgart.....					1.8				

City.	Eggs.	Butter.	Mar- garine.	Edible fats.	Cheese.	Potatoes.	Potato substi- tutes.	Dried vege- tables.	Legu- minous prod- ucts.
	Average number.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Lbs. oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Aix la Chapelle.....	1	2.2			2.0	3 4.9	9.7		0.4
Altona.....	1 1/2	2.8			2.2	6 1.0			
Berlin.....	1 1/2	1.8	1.1			5 8.2	8.8		
Charlottenburg.....	1 1/2	1.8	1.1			4 15.4			
Schöneberg.....	1 1/2	1.8	1.1			5 12.6		8.8	
Wilmsdorf.....	1 1/2	1.8	1.1			4 6.5			
Bremen.....	1	2.1	1.1			4 2.1			
Breslau.....	1 1/2	1.8				3 5	16.5		
Brunswick.....	1	2.6			4.4	5 8.2			4.4
Dresden.....	1	2.2	1.1		1.6	2 12.1	19.8	.9	
Düren.....	1	1.9			1.3	4 13.7			
Düsseldorf.....	1	2.2			.9	4 15.4	3.2		
Frankfort on the Main.....	1 1/2	1.3	.4		.9	2 12.1	15.9		
Gladbach.....	1 1/2	2.4	2.4		.6	5 3.8	5.3		
Hamburg (urban).....	1 1/2	2.0	1.1		5.5	5 8.2			2.0
Hamburg (rural).....	1 1/2					5 2.9			1.3
Hanover.....	1	2.5				2 12.1			
Kiel.....	1				1.1				
Krefeld.....	1 1/2	2.2			.5	4 15.4	12.3		
Leipzig.....	1 1/2	1.8	2.5		1.1				
Magdeburg.....	1 1/2	1.1	1.1		.4	6 1.0			
Munich.....	1		2.6			3 5	9.0		
Strassburg.....	1	1.8		0.5	8.8	5 8.2			
Stuttgart.....	1	2.2			.9	8 4.3			

* Or 2 lbs. 9.8 oz. of flour.

* See Bread.

* Or 2 lbs. 10.9 ozs. flour.

AVERAGE WEEKLY RATIONS OF PRINCIPAL FOODSTUFFS IN 24 REPRESENTATIVE GERMAN TOWNS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING AUG. 26, 1917—Concluded.

City.	Sugar.	Artificial honey.	Sirup.	Jam.	Coffee substitutes.	Soup.	Potato flakes, etc.	Heavy workers.	
								Potatoes.	Bread.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Lbs. oz.	Oz.
Aix la Chapelle.....	6.2	1.8		3.5		0.9			
Altona.....	5.7	2.2		4.2				3 4.9	
Berlin.....						1.8		1 1.6	7.9
Charlottenburg.....				4.4		1.9			
Schöneberg.....	5.9	4.4		4.4		1.8			
Wilmerdorf.....				8.8		4.0	22.0		4.0
Bremen.....			2.2	2.2	1.1				
Breslau.....								(1)	
Brunswick.....	6.6	2.2				4.4			
Dresden.....		1.8	1.3	.9	2.2	1.3			
Düren.....		1.1		5.5		1.9			
Düsseldorf.....				2.2		1.8			11.3
Frankfort on the Main.....	6.2			6.6					
Gladbach.....	6.3				.9	.9			
Hamburg (urban).....	5.7	2.2		4.0	2.2				
Hamburg (rural).....	7.0	2.2						2 11.3	32.6
Hanover.....									
Kiel.....				2.2					
Krefeld.....		3.3		1.3		1.8		4 6.5	
Leipzig.....				2.6					
Magdeburg.....		1.1			2.2				
Munich.....	6.6			2.2	4.4		.9	3 13.7	
Strassburg.....					1.1				
Stuttgart.....						1.8			

¹ 2 lbs. 11.3 oz. to 3 lbs. 13.7 oz.

AUSTRIA.

FOOD-SUPPLY ORGANIZATIONS.

At a meeting of the Joint Committee for War Economy of both houses of the Reichsrath held in Vienna on September 11, 1917, Ministerial Councilor Dr. Löwenfeld-Russ gave the following information as to the activities of the food-supply organizations connected with the Austrian Food Office (*Ernährungsamt*):

The rise in price of many articles, which has been quite unexpected, and in many cases unjustified, can be stopped only by withdrawing the articles in question from the market and handing them over to the central management. The reproach has often been leveled against the Government that it took its measures too late, and created organizations only when the dearth made itself felt or had already begun. Looking back, this reproach seems justified, but it must not be forgotten that not only the State administration, but also economic circles, were quite unprepared for the whole trend of conditions, and that, especially in regard to foodstuffs, difficulties were also introduced by Austria's relations to Hungary.

The War Grain Clearing House [*Kriegsgetreide-verkehrsanstalt*] and the Central Office for Fodder [*Futtermittelzentrale*] both occupy special positions in the organization of the Food Office, for they both possess the character of State offices, and are really executive Government agencies. In Austria control of existing supplies and drastic regulation of the grain traffic were necessary, since difficulties were encountered in the supply of agricultural commodities from Hungary, which was obtained only after negotiations between the two Governments. In February, 1915, the Ministry of Agriculture created central offices for maize to take over a consignment of maize. These have since been abolished. Soon after, it was found necessary to collect all the stocks,

hand over grain supplies to the State for management and distribution and draw up general grain regulations. The organization controlling grain is not a private commercial undertaking, but a public body with a very far-reaching State guaranty. State administrators and experts share in conducting it, and, thanks to the unlimited guaranties, it is enabled to command the necessary credit. In its price policy the institution is not given full powers but must receive grain at the maximum prices settled upon, and is bound by Government regulations with regard to its selling price. This selling price is to be arrived at on the basis of traders' calculations of the expenses to be met, and is to be fixed by the Government. It is true that at the present time, in view of the requirements of the population, the question of covering the cost does not take a very prominent place in our calculations.

Thus it is well known that the prices of flour and bread have not been raised, although this would have been justified by the level of grain prices; the State bears the expense.

The constitution of the Central Office for Fodder is similar to that of the grain organization, save for the one important difference that any eventual deficit in the balance sheet of the Central Office for Fodder is not covered by the State; the disbursements must be covered by the receipts, and for this reason the Central Office was compelled to eliminate any possibility of a deficit. It became necessary, therefore, to create a corresponding reserve fund, because of the fact that the stocks of the Central Office for Fodder would in the event of an early conclusion of peace be subject to a considerable depreciation, and this had to be considered in fixing the price of these stocks. In the same way consideration had to be given to the additional fact that by the inclusion of new fodder stuffs in its sphere of activity the Central Office would incur further large disbursements, and this, too, necessitated the formation of a reserve fund. None the less, the Central Office for Fodder is not a concern conducted for profit. In order to cover its expenses, it imposes, with Government sanction, a payment additional to the maximum prices, and, as circumstances demand, to the buying price of articles the purchase of which is open to the public. As regards the provision of substitutes for fodder this Central Office has given very effective service. As to complaints of the fixing of prices, the fact must not be overlooked that the fixing of prices is largely influenced by the policy of the Government that the price of bread and flour must remain stationary, and that the increasing burdens due to the rise in price of foreign supplies must not react on the consumption of bread.

The grain monopoly as administered by the State had the result of depriving a number of industries working up grain or potatoes of unrestricted purchase of the raw materials so important to them. For this reason offices were created to supply these industries with raw materials. The expenses of these offices were met by imposing special fees, their sole source of revenue. The cost of their administration is relatively insignificant, and by no means as great as has frequently been assumed by the public which has talked of an absolutely spendthrift administration. The central offices for the brewing, malting, yeast, potato-flour, and potato-drying industries serve to supply the industries in question, and are, in fact, offices for the supply of raw materials.

With the central offices for sugar and for spirit the case is different. Their activity, too, is not directed toward profit making; they assist in regulating production and distribution. These two offices were founded with the support of the organizations, resembling trusts, already existing in the industries. This form of organization has frequently been made a source of reproach

against the Government. In peace time the trusts in question were discharging functions now discharged by the State. So far as these functions—even though they now have to be discharged from a different point of view—coincided, there was no reason for the creation of new organizations with their inevitably very large expenses. The State preferred to make use of the existing trusts by placing them under its control—the measure which was demanded at the time of the trust inquiry, but at that time put aside as impracticable. Moreover, it would be an error to believe that these two central offices are identical with the trusts in question. They are entirely independent of them. Certain functions which were discharged by the trusts have merely been handed over to these central offices. For example, the sugar trust ceased to exist some weeks ago, while the central office continues its functions. There is this connection between the trusts and the central offices: the rationing of production, as already arranged by the trusts, was undertaken with a view to public interests. The prices are fixed by the Government. The regulations on the trust system, however, facilitated the carrying through of the fixed prices by making it possible, on the basis of the freight quotations on the trust principle, to equalize the price when delivered at stations of consumption throughout Austria. The sale of sugar and spirit takes place not through the central offices, but in the case of sugar through the individual sugar factories and in the case of spirit through the retail stores of the spirit syndicate on order of the central offices. The two central offices do not possess independent revenues, and their very considerable expenses have been met hitherto by the industries in question. Between these two central offices stands the Central Office for Molasses, which was founded in 1915, when, in consequence of the great shortage of butter, and the outrageous rise in price of fodder, molasses was placed under State control.

Exports of sugar can take place only with the sanction of the Government, which fixes the price of export sugar. Apart from the fact that these exports of sugar are very small, the prices in excess of the inland value do not benefit the sugar industry, since the larger part of the proceeds goes to a fund which, because of the high prices paid for sugar, amounts to a considerable sum, the right of disposal of which the Government has reserved to itself.

The Central Office for Coffee was formed as a limited liability company. The Government fixes the selling price and authorizes the company to make a fixed supplementary charge for royalties and administration. The company's efforts have been successful in so far that, with the assistance of the traders' organizations, it has effected equal distribution of coffee and maintained the price at the level of 8 crowns¹ per kilogram [73.7 cents per pound], so that in Austria coffee is considerably cheaper than in other countries. With a turnover in coffee to the value of 25,000,000 crowns [\$5,075,000] the Central Office for Coffee had expenses of administration amounting to 90,000 crowns [\$18,270], or of 1½ hellers² per kilogram [0.1 cent per pound] of coffee.

For the purpose of purchasing foodstuffs abroad the purchasing company called "Miles" was founded. The original agreement between the company and the Government contained no stipulation making obligatory the maintenance of fixed selling prices. But when the officials now responsible for the management of the company took office a new agreement was made whereby the company's opportunities for profit were defined and limited, so that in making sales the company can impose only certain definite charges in addition of the primary cost. Originally the company was not a monopoly, but

¹ A crown is equal to 20.3 cents in United States money.

² A heller is equal to 0.2 cent in United States money.

as monopolization of import business increased in Germany it obtained a monopoly of certain articles, and its character was altered in some respects owing to the transference of certain business transacted by way of compensation abroad [*Kompensationsgeschäfte*]. The extension of the company's sphere of activity led to an unforeseen increase of turnover which in turn led, as was to be expected, to an increase of profits. These circumstances have induced the advisory council and the Creditanstalt, the banking institution which finances the company, to propose to the Government that the undertaking be made a purely nonprofit-making concern, and also that its duties be given to a State authority modeled after the War Grain Clearing House.

When the "Miles" was transformed into the "Oezeg" the capital was increased, the payment of dividends limited, the selling price reserved for Government control and sanction, and a supplementary payment for royalty and administration amounting to 5 per cent only allowed. An agreement approved by the Government has been made between the company and its financial backer, whereby the latter pledges itself to allow a credit of 50,000,000 crowns [\$10,150,000] at a rate of interest 1 per cent lower than the bank rate of interest. This credit has been considerably exceeded consequent to the extension of the company's business. The State undertook a guaranty of 5,000,000 crowns [\$1,015,000] against loss, but this, in view of the risks of the company, is not a matter of much importance. Although the "Oezeg," in the case of a number of important foodstuffs, has not exacted the additional payment agreed upon and has even placed a large number of articles on the market without any supplementary payment, it has amassed a reserve fund which is to be applied to the cheapening of foodstuffs, and this has, for example, already taken place to a large extent in the case of the cheaper cuts of beef. During the nine months of its existence the "Miles" distributed for consumption foodstuffs to the value of 230,000,000 crowns [\$46,690,000], while the "Oezeg" during the first year of its existence distributed foodstuffs to a value of more than 600,000,000 crowns [\$121,800,000]. Reckoned on the total turnover, the expenses amounted to 0.23 per cent. The "Oezeg" is employed in acquisition and distribution; the former function it exercises by means of its numerous offices in foreign countries, while the distribution takes place under an agreement with the victualing organizations. In the case of the distribution of the most important foodstuffs it exercises an absolute authority, but in that of the other its authority is exercised only in cases where it appears necessary.

Yet another organization is the "Geos." Its first duty is to promote production, to which end it is intrusted with procuring seeds from abroad and concluding agreements as to cultivation and delivery as well as seed culture. It is a limited liability company with a capital of 100,000 crowns [\$20,300], and it also has a credit of 5,000,000 crowns [\$1,015,000] with the Austrian Purchasing Company, but it has only used a very small portion of this credit, and that in purchasing vegetable seeds. Different measures have been adopted in the case of vegetables and fruit. The trade in vegetables is not limited, maximum prices are not fixed, nor is there a controlling office for the transport of vegetables. The activity of the "Geos" is confined to announcing the prices at which it concludes the delivery agreements. These prices, however, have not the character of standard prices, and still less of maximum prices. The agreements concluded by the "Geos" are assigned to the municipal or consumers' organizations, and accordingly the "Geos" can not be held responsible for the small quantities of vegetables placed on the markets. Apart from the fact that Austria at present receives no vegetables from Italy or the southern Provinces, it has had to battle with a terrible drought. There is the added difficulty that producers of vegetables in the vicinity of towns have

neither labor nor carts at their disposal, and consequently do not bring their vegetables to market, while it is just now that the demand for vegetables is incomparably greater than it was before. On the other hand, the "Geos" has done all in its power to promote the sending of supplies to market. Some towns make the dispatch of vegetables to the produce markets compulsory, which exceeds the company's measures. The "Geos" has done good service by introducing Hungarian vegetables. It cooperates with syndicates of traders who have hitherto purchased Hungarian vegetables in large quantities. With regard to fruit the "Geos" has not eliminated unrestricted trade. Fruit is procured by a large number of trading syndicates created by the "Geos," but there is no question of the seizure of the fruit. Only in localities where maximum prices have been considerably exceeded is it made obligatory to sell to the trading syndicate.

The economic war organizations are to-day indispensable for the foodstuff service. It is not to be denied that there does exist a general discontent with Austria's economic war policies in general and its representatives, namely the central offices, in particular. The producer feels the compulsion, the consumer the scarcity, and neither can determine whether the central offices or the abnormal circumstances are to blame. Both are inclined to hold the system responsible. Perhaps, too, a certain secretiveness which has crept into the activities of the central offices is to blame for the prevailing discontent, a secretiveness due to the action of the censor, and perhaps also to the overburdening of all the functionaries of the central offices so that they are not in a position to keep the public sufficiently well informed. In this way errors have been made which have perhaps contributed to the general uneasiness. That the whole organization is continually in a state of flux, and that it is capable of improvement no one will deny, but criticism of the central offices ought not to lead to disregard for, and suspicion of, the work they have accomplished.

At the same meeting of the Joint Committee for War Economy, von Schonka, president of the War Grain Clearing House gave a résumé of its activities. The first provisional balancing of its accounts to August 31, 1915, gave a surplus of 3,300,000 crowns (\$669,900); after including this, the accounts for 1915-16 showed a surplus of 1,400,000 crowns (\$284,200). Dr. Gärtner, commissioner of the office, gave particulars of its organization, stating that all those connected with the grain trade in time of peace were, generally speaking, now employed in the same capacity under the State.

Confidential particulars were then given—chiefly with regard to Roumania—and various technical and financial details. The difficulties of payment to Roumania were also set out, for which more than 4,000,000 leu (\$772,000) were wanted. A special arrangement was made with the Roumanian National Bank, whereby one-sixth of the amount was paid to the bank in gold, one-sixth deposited in Berlin in gold, and four-sixths paid into the Reichsbank to the credit of Roumania. Thus Roumania had so far received in cash only one-sixth of the value of the grain.

Various deputies criticized the administration, notably in respect of the price of grain coffee.¹

¹ Arbeiter-Zeitung. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917.

Discontent with the operations of the central food offices does not seem to diminish. Now and again scandals in their working come to light. The semiofficial Reichspost, for instance, comments as follows upon a recent discovery of this nature:¹

It is certainly not the task nor the intention of the central offices, charged with securing and delivering food, to bring about a rise in prices. For this very reason it is ominous that many central food offices exhibit a partiality for setting the wolf to mind the sheep—that is, working with agents who are imbued with the spirit of price raising, and who by their peculiar methods of doing business must bring the central offices into discredit with the populace. So, as we learn, recently the army command was obliged, in the following letter, to draw the attention of the food office to certain occurrences in territory occupied by Austria in Poland:

“The Government in Poland reports that the representatives of the purchasing central office, intrusted with the purchase of edible beets, are in the habit of competing with each other in the high prices which they offer to the producers. Moreover, they do not limit their purchases to table beets, but, without authority, buy fodder beets also at 40 crowns per 100 kilograms [\$1.85 to \$2.22 per bushel, according to weight of bushel] and upward. Principally concerned in this raising of prices are two representatives of the “Geos,” who, moreover, are accused of a regular middleman traffic in fodder beets. One of them in particular must have made a large profit by such operations, and in one case, merely by passing on a contract, secured a sum of 120,000 crowns [\$24,360]. The Food Office is earnestly requested to procure the immediate dismissal of the representatives of the “Geos” in question [names given in letter], and to appoint in their places a trustworthy individual to take over the table beets arriving for the “Geos.”

As a result of these and similar disclosures, Dr. Roller and other deputies brought forward a proposal for an investigation into the conduct of the central food offices, the report to be laid before the Lower House.²

SPEECH OF PREMIER ON FOOD CONDITIONS.

On introducing his reconstructed cabinet to the Reichsrath, Dr. von Seidler, prime minister of Austria, delivered a long speech reviewing the general war situation. His remarks on the food situation were in part as follows:³

Important as are these matters, the most pressing question is still that of feeding the people, and supplying the public with the necessaries of life. For an honorable peace, the early consummation of which we desire, can only be assured if our arms, as hitherto, remain victorious, and our valiant troops to the end find their support in the steadfast endurance of the population of the country.

Recognizing this, the new Government, immediately on its constitution, placed the handling of food questions in the forefront of its program. In this connection it was recognized as fundamental that the existing war ad-

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Sept. 30, 1917.

² Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Sept. 28, 1917. Morning edition.

³ Idem. Sept. 26, 1917. Morning edition.

ministrative organizations could not be dissolved without grave injury to the whole system of supply, and that without illusion, without any respect for theories and doctrines, and without any protection of particular interests, we must fix our eyes on and fearlessly carry through what has shown itself to be expedient from the standpoint of the common weal. In any case the Government holds that a distribution, under war control, of the available supplies is absolutely necessary, but that the maintenance of the working spirit of our producing classes is equally important. A crippling or weakening of productive power must on no account take place, but it must be brought clearly and impressively before the eyes of producers in all parts of the country, that pulling through depends on the strictest observance of the ordinances that expert investigation has shown to be necessary for general supply.

To solve the problems of supply presents many new and therefore difficult tasks, particularly to our civil service, whose self-sacrificing devotion to duty has again shown itself strikingly in these stern times. The present Government is determined to eliminate as far as possible all red tape, and to join in steadfast union with parliament and the people, to ask for free discussion of food questions and to make its decisions in accordance with the true needs of the population. The whole populace, by its courageous endurance in grievous times, has won for itself the fullest right to be so associated with the Government. In no small measure is it due to the sense of duty of the working classes that we have been able to maintain the position at home. The Government will further work to promote, in increasing degree, the idea, so notably tested in this war, of the indissoluble comradeship with the Hungarian Crown Lands in defense and also in economic matters—that is, by an equal distribution of the necessaries of life to both peoples. The much-demanded transformation of the War Food Office into an independent food ministry is already in process of being carried out.

Dr. von Seidler also promised that Parliament would be allowed to play a part in the State control over the central food offices and that publicity would be given as far as possible to all the operations of these offices.

MEETINGS OF THE FOOD COUNCIL.

The Food Council (*Ernährungsrat*), which is an advisory body of 40 members, designed to keep the Food Office in touch with public opinion, has been meeting lately, after a long period of inactivity. Accounts of these meetings, extracted from the press, follow:

At a meeting of the Food Council on September 21, 1917, the chairman characterized the past few months as the most critical period of the administrative year. Gen. Höfer, minister of food, explained the delay in calling the meeting, which had been caused by the pressure of work and which he much regretted.¹

At the second meeting of the Food Council, the minister of food gave a long exposition of the situation of the monarchy during the preceding and for the coming months. He indicated the insurmountable difficulties of the past half year, when the home supplies

¹ Neues Wiener Tageblatt. Vienna, Sept. 23, 1917. Morning edition.

of grain were used up, potatoes were not available, and it had been necessary to seek some means of tiding over the period until the receipt of the supplies from Roumania. The most stringent requisitions had to be resorted to, as during the long hard winter the Danube was frozen over, and tug traffic held up. He declared that the marvelous bearing of the population formed the one ray of light, but the Government must not presume on this endurance, and must do its utmost to insure adequate provision being made for the people.

He had during the past months traveled through many districts of the monarchy in order to ascertain conditions at first hand, and he had thus met the representatives of the local authorities. He bore witness to what he called the magnificent work of the authorities under very trying circumstances. With regard to the future he indicated in particular that, in view of the reduction of the milling percentage, the quality of the bread would be better, and that in the first two weeks of October supplementary rations would be available for the nonproducing population. He appealed to the members of the Council to use their utmost influence to sustain the sense of duty of the population, and thus give the strongest support to the State food administration.

Various proposals were brought forward by members, and one dealing with the potato crop was accepted, as also was one for the convocation of the Council during the first half of October to discuss the Government's plan of supply.¹

At the closing meeting of the Food Council a demand was put forward for a general system of administration, to embrace all food products.

Councilor Soyka declared it to be absolutely essential that the raising of potatoes, the registration of supplies, and transport should be managed exclusively by the War Grain Clearing House, and that the raising of potatoes which had been already contracted for should be placed under the strictest control.

Another member approved of the potato order, if the 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) per person per year was guaranteed, and asked that the Food Council be made permanent and a transport plan be immediately brought forward. Secretary Löwenfeld-Russ replied that the details of a transport plan could be settled only when it was known from what districts supplies would come, but, generally speaking, the plan would have to be decided upon without previous consideration by the Council, or it would be too late.

In the course of a discussion on the raising of the prices of sugar for 1917-18, Löwenfeld-Russ announced that the order for raising the price of sugar and reducing the ration would come into force

¹ Neues Wiener Tageblatt. Vienna, Sept. 25, 1917.

October 1, 1917. Here again the Food Council was confronted with an accomplished fact.

Frequent complaint was made that the Food Council had not been called together since June, and it was finally decided that the question of the organization of the Food Council and its relations with the Ministry of Food should be the first item on the agenda for the next meeting.

The proceedings were finally brought to a close owing to the lack of a quorum.¹

DISCONTENT OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The food shortage is, of course, felt most by the poorer classes who are demanding more food and better methods of distribution. Conditions seem to be worst in the industrial districts on the northern border of Bohemia and the Sudetic lands (Moravia and Silesia). The common pressure of hunger seems for the time being to have united Czech and German workmen in protest against the present food situation.

A Bohemian paper² summarizes as follows the demands made by the socialist metal workers, in conference at Prague and other industrial centers of Bohemia:

1. The bread ration to be raised for heavy workers from 2,100 to 3,000 grams [4.6 to 6.6 pounds] weekly. For other workers from 1,400 to 2,100 grams [3.1 to 4.6 pounds].

2. The sugar ration to be raised for heavy workers from 1,500 to 2,000 grams [3.3 to 4.4 pounds] per month. For other workers from 1,000 to 1,500 grams [2.2 to 3.3 pounds].

3. The potato ration should be 4 kilograms [8.8 pounds] weekly per capita.

4. Profiteering to be suppressed.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung*³ states that the food conditions of the industrial workers in the Sudetic lands were discussed at a recent social-democratic conference at Brünn. It was pointed out that increases in wages had not alleviated the distress, not being in proportion to the rise in food prices. Thousands of workmen had not even had an increase. During recent food disturbances in Moravia it was proved that thousands were earning less than 20 crowns (\$4.06) weekly, and few as much as 30 crowns (\$6.09). In North Moravia hundreds of weavers were earning 7 crowns (\$1.42) per week and less. It was stated, however, that accusations should be directed not only against manufacturers and dealers, but also against the Government which alone had power to stop abuses in the distribution and sale of food

¹ *Reichspost*. Vienna, Sept. 24, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Bohemia*. Prague, Sept. 10, 1917.

³ *Arbeiter Zeitung*. Vienna, Sept. 20, 1917. Morning edition.

and which ought also to take precautions that orders issued were really enforced. The conference adopted the following resolution:

The industrial workers of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, without distinction of language and nationality, are at the present time suffering intolerably, though the harvest is barely over, in consequence of the transport difficulties and the high prices of food. These conditions can not be explained as due to scarcity of foodstuffs, but are founded on the following two causes: (1) The passive resistance of the agrarian population to the regulations of the food administration, and (2) the faulty and senseless organization of the food administration itself.

The complaints (partly well founded) leveled by farmers against these defects in organization can not justify the starvation of the industrial population. Industrial labor is always at the service of agriculture and its requirements, yet agrarians of both nationalities are only too ready to raise the prices of foodstuffs, and this passive resistance is made use of by Czech-agrarian politicians and abused for nationalistic purposes. We protest in the name of all proletarians of the Sudetic lands against these proceedings.

The organization controlling the food supply needs thorough overhauling. Neither the bureaucratic administration nor the private agencies executing its orders and not responsible to the public, assure the necessary consideration of consumers and producers. A democratic local administration is necessary. The rations assigned to industrial workers should be raised in proportion, following the example of Germany, and other products should be taken under State control.

AUSTRIAN COMPLAINTS AGAINST HUNGARY.

A recent important event much discussed in the press is the sudden flaming up of the long-smoldering jealousy felt by the Austrian public of Hungary's comparatively favorable situation in the matter of food. The suppressed resentment caused by Hungary keeping most of her food for herself, and charging enormous prices for food, found its first public and official expression in a highly important debate, held on October 16, 1917, in the Lower House of the Reichsrath, with regard to the relations between Austria and Hungary in the matter of food. It arose from an urgent interpellation addressed to Gen. Höfer, the food minister, by deputies Schürff, Kraft, and Wedra. This interpellation complained of the small quantities of fat, pork, and bacon permitted to be exported from Hungary to the Vienna markets and the enormous prices demanded for them, and inquired whether the Austrian Government would make representations to the Hungarian Government in order to bring this state of things to an end. The most important speeches in regard to the matter as reported in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*¹ are here summarized:

Dr. Schürff observed that the economic relations between Austria and Hungary had been completely revolutionized during the War, with the result of upsetting the Austrian food market. Hungary's

¹ *Arbeiter Zeitung*. Vienna, Oct. 18, 1917.

policy of restricting food exports to Austria was contrary to the compromise agreement (*Ausgleich*) of 1867, which forbade the erection of a customs barrier between the two States. The Austrian deputies, as true friends of Hungary and genuine adherents of dualism, exhorted her to give up this policy and place at the disposal of Austria the food which was necessary for holding out in the War. The speaker mentioned that in spite of maximum prices, 32 crowns per kilogram (\$2.95 per pound) was recently paid for lard, which in Hungary costs only 8.5 crowns (78 cents per pound), and said that the same conditions obtained with respect to fruit, vegetables, and other foodstuffs.

Gen. Höfer, minister of food, replied:

At present Hungary sends us 4,000 horned cattle per month. In the last two months we have had this quantity raised to 6,000 and we hope before long to get it up to 8,000. In addition, we have had 30,000 horned cattle from Hungary in a single consignment. These cattle are all of best quality, and their price when they are alive is from 5 to 6 crowns per kilogram [46.3 to 55.5 cents per pound].

Our supply of pigs from Hungary amounts to 12,000 per month and we are endeavoring to get this raised to 16,000. These pigs are purchased through the Cattle Trade Company. The maximum prices are settled according to the so-called Budapest-Kobányaer usage and amount to from 5 to 6 crowns per kilogram [46.3 to 55.5 cents per pound]. We also receive bacon, fat, and sausage meat. Our monthly supply of these amounts to 90½ truck loads. We are trying to get this raised to 120 truck loads. The maximum prices per kilogram for these articles are 7.5 to 8.5 crowns [69.1 to 78.7 cents per pound].

These wares are bought in Hungary mainly by municipalities and industries; sometimes their representatives have paid more than the legal maxima in order to get food at any cost. The result is that these provisions come into the Austrian market at exorbitant prices.

The Austrian Government has discussed the matter with the Hungarian Government, and found the latter most ready to meet the Austrian Government. It is obvious that free purchase, and its consequence, the offering of sums exceeding the maximum prices, can no longer be tolerated. The Hungarian Government proposes, therefore, to set up a central company for purchasing provisions for Austria, which will unify the whole system.

In order, however, to guarantee our independence as far as possible, we are setting up pig farms of our own in Hungary, by permission of the Hungarian Government. We hope to have shortly 10,000 pigs fattened at Nagy-Teteny, to which will be added another 10,000 which are receiving a preliminary fattening in Croatia. And there are hopes of a third 10,000 before long, so that we shall have 30,000 pigs at Nagy-Teteny. We are also proposing to set up pig farms in Serbia to be managed by the military authorities.

On the question of making the Empire into a single economic area, I will be brief. The authorities of each Province, and to some extent of each district, have hitherto been able to give or refuse transport permits. The tendency has been to refuse them, and so the Provinces have become, economically speaking, water-tight compartments. We have abolished this system in so far as it extended to the particular districts of a Province. But it is difficult to abolish it as between Provinces, so long as prices are not the same everywhere. If, for instance, absolutely free trade were allowed between Austria and Hun-

gary, the higher prices in Hungary would attract all our manufactured articles over to Hungary. Prices are the chief difficulty, and it is to them that the lever must be applied. The Hungarians find the prices which we ask for manufactured articles too high, just as we find the prices which they ask for food too high. We have agreed with the Hungarian Government that the question of leveling down prices, both of food and of manufactured articles, shall be considered by the Price Control Committees of both countries.

As for corn, vegetables, meat, etc., there will shortly be a conference of both Governments at which it will be decided how much of these foods Hungary can spare for Austria. At this conference we shall, of course, press our claims with all our power.

Dr. Kraft, of the German Labor Party, pointed out that of the fat imported into Austria-Hungary by way of Germany seven-twelfths went to Austria and five-twelfths to Hungary. What did Hungary want with this five-twelfths? She had already a surplus of fat. Her only object was to sell this imported fat to Austria at increased prices. He suggested that the Austrian Government should compel Hungary to observe a "minimum of decency" in these matters by laying an embargo on the export to Hungary of coal, paper, etc.—commodities which Hungary could obtain only from Austria.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung* comments as follows on the debate:

In the nature of the case a definite resolution could not be passed. It was clear, however, that the House was unanimously of the opinion that the food profiteering in which the Hungarians have been indulging could no longer be tolerated. They have made use of the fat shortage in Austria to set up a regular system of plunder, with the protection and assistance of the Hungarian Government.

*Die Zeit*¹ hints that Austria may be compelled, in order to bring Hungary to a better state of mind in the matter of food, to restrict her supply of Austrian coal, petroleum, and manufactured goods. It points out that since Hungary, by herself, has few or no friends, and owes her political position solely to her connection with Austria, it is hardly wise on her part to alienate permanently the only friend she has, in order to snatch a momentary financial advantage.

This expression of Austrian public opinion seems to have caused a good deal of excitement in Hungary. On the arrival of the news of the debate in the Reichsrath, Count Johann Hadik, Hungarian food minister, gave an interview to a representative of the *Pester Lloyd*,² in which he said, with some indignation, that Dr. Schürff's interpellation and speech were both most unfair, and calculated to create friction between Austria and Hungary; that the reason why Hungary had not sent more fat to Austria was that she did not have it to send, and that Hungary supplied fat to the whole army, and, after the needs of her own civilian population were supplied, there was practically no surplus left.

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 17, 1917.

² *Pester Lloyd*. Budapest, Oct. 18, 1917.

The Pester Lloyd adds some comments of its own marked by considerable asperity. It observes:

A single visit to Budapest would dispel Herr Kraft's illusions as to the existence of a fat surplus in Hungary; he would see long lines of people waiting patiently for hours, in order to secure only a gram [0.002 pound] of fat. Some Austrian deputies criticized Hungary for restricting exports to Austria and so setting up a barrier between the halves of the monarchy; but they should look nearer home; exactly the same barriers exist between the different Crownlands or Provinces of Austria itself. As for *Die Zeit's* threats [see above], Hungary has nothing to fear. She is the stronger part of the monarchy. It is Austria herself who may need a crutch.

The Hungarians, however, having relieved their feelings in this way, make some concession to the Austrian point of view. Therefore, while maintaining strenuously that they are almost as badly off as Austria and pointing out the fact that they are actually maintaining hundreds of thousands of male Austrians in the army, they propose to reorganize the system of fat exportation to Austria. In this respect *Die Zeit*¹ says:

A telegram from Budapest, under date of October 19, 1917, states: "The shortage in fat is assuming throughout Hungary the proportions of a regular calamity. This is due to the fact that Hungary has to supply other needs besides her own. The Hungarian Government has therefore determined to grapple seriously with the problem and to set up a Central Fat Office. All fat pigs in the country must be offered for sale to the Central Office, whose function will be to satisfy the country's needs of fat and to convey the surplus to Austria. This regulation involves the abolition of the old system of free export and 'blank certificates.' No one except the office will be allowed to sell pigs or pig fat. Hitherto, Austrian agents have had a free hand in Hungary. They have forced up the price of fat to 30 crowns per kilogram [\$2.77 per pound]. This state of things will be abolished by the new regulations."

FOOD CONDITIONS IN VIENNA AND PRAGUE.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* describes in a remarkable letter the war weariness of Vienna. He writes:

Although the Viennese put the chief blame for their sufferings upon the stubborn enemy who still does not let go, ignorance, indolence, and the parish-pump spirit bear their full share of responsibility for the bitterness of the present war times. Hungary no doubt gives her blood for the joint defense, but in all food matters her charity begins at home, and we have still not been able to establish a joint commander in chief for the feeding of the allied empires. When travelers tell of the milk and honey in Hungary, the Viennese is moved by the sight of the long waiting lines standing before every fat, coal, or soap shop; if he is himself standing in line, he gives expression to his feelings.

However, steps have been taken toward the mitigation of these hardships. The *Neues Pester Journal*² says that a conference consisting of delegates representing consumers, commerce, trade, and agri-

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 20, 1917.

² *Neues Pester Journal*. Budapest, Sept. 11, 1917.

culture, met at Vienna on September 10, 1917, to discuss the food question. Two opinions made themselves felt, one demanding the tightening of the State control of the food, the other demanding its relaxation. Those of the latter opinion demanded freedom of trade, especially in perishable articles. The prime minister, Dr. Seidler, thought the two points of view not irreconcilable. The wish was expressed that it might be possible to set up a common food administration in union with Hungary. This somewhat naive expression of the Austrian desire to have a share in Hungary's food does not appear to have been received with enthusiasm by the latter.

The "queue" (waiting-line) system comes in for a good deal of criticism in the Viennese press. *Die Zeit*¹ says that "during the summer people used to sleep in the streets of Vienna in order to get good places in the "queues" of food-distributing centers. This can hardly be done during the winter. The prospect is distinctly alarming. Underfeeding and insufficient clothes and shoes have already diminished the physical resisting power of the population, and all these unfortunate circumstances will have their power for harm increased by the winter cold." The writer of the article pleads strongly for the abolition of the waiting-line system and the institution of zone distribution, and says that it is useless for the authorities to say that zone distribution is possible only in the case of articles which are produced in large quantities and can be regularly supplied; it is their business to make it possible in all cases.

The food situation in Bohemia seems to be distinctly unsatisfactory. This is probably due in the main to the inefficient organization of the food supply.

A commission of the Prague city council has drawn up a memorandum on the subject,² bringing out the following points:

1. Potatoes are unobtainable.
2. The butter ration during last year was only 120 grams (4.2 ounces) per household per month.
3. The milk supply gets steadily worse, both in quality and quantity. On July 31, 1917, the allowance for each individual was only 0.06 liter (0.06 quart).
4. Sugar supply is unsatisfactory owing to the inefficiency of the Sugar Central Office in Vienna and transport difficulties.
5. *Meat*.—The allowance of 900 head of cattle which had been promised has been reduced to 565.
6. *Coal*.—Greater Prague before the War used 320 wagonloads of coal daily; only 100 per day are now available.
7. The results of this are that a great part of the population suffers from hunger, and that the children suffer both physically and morally. The number of child beggars has gone up to several thousands. The death rate among the general population increases daily. Diarrhea is spreading at an alarming rate in Greater Prague.

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Sept. 14, 1917.

² *Prager Tagblatt*. Prague, Sept. 11, 1917.

ADDITIONAL RATIONS.

An order of the Imperial War Food Office of August 15, 1917, foreshadowed the introduction of additional food rations beginning with October. The Reichspost¹ gives the following information about these supplementary rations:

From October 1, 1917, the supplementary rations (semolina, macaroni, pearl barley, and the like) proposed in the order of the War Food Office should be available for the people. The providing of these additional rations to the persons registered with the municipal flour supply offices will be effected through these supply offices. The food office intends to distribute the supplementary rations, according to the supplies available, either to the whole population or only to individual groups of the poorer classes—that is, to those performing the hardest kind of work. In what quantities, for what groups, and at what prices supplementary rations will be distributed will be duly announced from time to time. Appropriate purchasing tickets must be produced. The heads of municipal flour supply offices must during the current week make out a list of the poor registered with them, and of those engaged in the hardest work. In this connection official purchasing tickets, and in the case of the heavy workers notice of the increased bread ration, must be left with the flour supply office.

The Fremdenblatt² stated that additional rations would be supplied for two weeks ending October 13, 1917, at the highest rate of one-half kilogram (1.1 pounds) per week for heavy workers and one-eighth kilogram (0.28 pound) for all other nonproducers, and that for the week ending October 6 the food supplement for Vienna would consist of pearl barley, at a price per kilogram of 80 hellers; that is, 10 hellers for the ration of one-eighth kilogram (7.3 cents per pound).

The Deutsches Volksblatt³ gives the following details as to supplementary rations for expectant and nursing mothers:

Pregnant women or nursing mothers can obtain a supplementary ration card by means of a certificate from the physician handling the case or the sworn midwife on producing the flour ration card at the proper bread and flour commission. This will enable them to obtain a weekly supplementary ration for the duration of the pregnancy, or until the child is weaned, but not longer than the fortieth week of the child's life.

FLOUR.

A Vienna daily paper⁴ reported on September 24 that in the current week wheat-flour substitute would be distributed from the municipal flour offices at the price of 60 hellers per kilogram (5.5 cents per pound), that is, the distribution would be to the full quota. For families boarding children, invalids, or aged persons half flour and half semolina would be supplied.

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Sept. 30, 1917. Morning edition.

² Fremdenblatt. Vienna, Sept. 30, 1917. Morning edition.

³ Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Oct. 12, 1917. Morning edition.

⁴ Reichspost. Vienna, Sept. 24, 1917. Morning edition.

The Deutsches Volksblatt¹ reports that the food minister wrote to the mayor of Vienna of arrangements being made to increase the quantities of flour and meal as contemplated in the order of August 15, 1917, and that the supplements should be forthcoming in the autumn. He stated that naturally the decision as to whether and when the ration should be raised must be reserved to the Food Office, as it alone had the requisite information, and said that these decisions had not yet been taken, as full consideration had not been given to the crop yield and the different claims upon it, particularly those of the military administration.

BREAD.

In a recent bulletin of the War Grain Clearing House an expert considers it has been demonstrated that the bread produced prior to the War did not properly correspond to human requirements, as in the milling practiced in peace time the bran, the valuable residue rich in husks and tissue cells, and also to some extent the albuminiferous germs, were withdrawn from human consumption. Liebig has already recognized that white bread has shown itself less favorable than black bread to the maintenance of digestion in the human body. For a sound natural digestion all elements of the wheat grain are necessary, and every element taken from the flour diminishes its value and digestibility. From the standpoint of sensible feeding the use of whole meal should be strongly advocated. According to this treatise, the first step in the right direction has been taken in the case of war bread. But even a thoroughly ground flour does not involve the complete using up of all nutritive elements, because the transformation of the bran particles contained in this flour into a digestible form has been hitherto neglected. Making use of the bran for human consumption would constitute, according to the Grain Clearing House, a noteworthy triumph for the feeding of the people, but this can be done only if flour is made to include that portion of the bran which hitherto has not been used for the nourishment of the human body. At present there are undoubtedly difficulties in the way of accomplishing this, but they could be overcome so far as the supply of the larger towns is concerned.²

REQUISITION PRICES FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF GRAIN AND VEGETABLES.

The Deutsches Volksblatt³ announces that the following prices per 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) will be paid by the War Grain Clearing House for requisitioned stocks:

¹ Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Sept. 28, 1917. Morning edition.

² Die Zeit. Vienna, Oct. 12, 1917. Evening edition.

³ Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Oct. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

	Crowns per 100 kilos.	Per bushel.
Maize, shelled.....	38	\$1.96
Oats.....	40	1.18
Buckwheat.....	40	1.55
Peas.....	80	4.44
Beans.....	80	¹ \$4.07 to 4.57
Lentils.....	120	² 1.11
Horse beans.....	60	² 3.03 to 3.41
Cultivated winter vetch.....	100	² .092
Cultivated summer vetch.....	51	² .047
Wild vetch, unmilled.....	35	² .032
Maize in the ear.....	15	.773

These prices also apply to those quantities of the above articles from the harvest of 1917 that were already delivered before the present order came into force.

LIVE STOCK.

At the meeting of the War Economy Committee held on October 10, 1917, Dr. von Ertl stated that, thanks to the stimulus given to cattle breeding by the law of 1909 and the assistance of the Cattle Fund, Austria entered the War with much bigger cattle reserves than anyone would have thought, and that despite the great demands on the cattle supply, it is holding out well. The necessity for the stringent control of the cattle trade by the State in the various Provinces of the Empire has nevertheless become increasingly obvious. The Cattle Trade Companies are all under the control of the Central Cattle Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture as well as of the Central Office for Cattle which advises the Ministry.

The speaker then gave information as to the financial situation of the twelve provincial cattle trade companies and the General Austrian Cattle Trade Company. The value of the cattle sold up to the end of 1916 amounted to 1,200,000,000 crowns (\$243,600,000). The total profits of the provincial cattle companies were a little over 8,000,000 crowns (\$1,624,000). Of this sum 5,300,000 crowns (\$1,075,900) is to be paid to the Ministry of Agriculture, and represents no additional burden placed on the consumer. The value of the stock disposed of by the General Austrian Cattle Trade Company was, up to the end of 1916, 326,576,000 crowns (\$66,294,928); in the year 1914 the net profit was 153,000 crowns (\$31,059), in 1915, 2,377,000 crowns (\$482,531), and in 1916, \$8,009,344 crowns (\$1,625,896.83).

The whole system has been organized in such a way as to supply the population with meat and fat directly from the cattle trade, and to eliminate the middleman.³

¹ According to weight of bushel.

² Per pound.

³ Fremdenblatt. Vienna, Oct. 11, 1917. Morning edition.

On account of the extensive slaughtering of cattle necessitated by the drought and consequent failure of the fodder harvest the supply of live stock to the Vienna cattle market appears to have been fairly good during September. For September 24, 1917, the Reichspost¹ reports the following prices per 100 kilograms (220.4 pounds) live weight for various kinds and qualities of cattle:

	Crowns per 100 kilograms.	Per hundredweight.
Oxen, first quality-----	381 to 420	\$35.09 to \$38.68
Oxen, second quality-----	341 to 380	31.41 to 35.00
Oxen, third quality-----	310 to 350	28.55 to 32.24
Cows, first quality-----	351 to 390	32.33 to 35.92
Cows, second quality-----	311 to 350	28.64 to 32.24
Cows, third quality-----	285 to 300	26.25 to 27.63
Calves, first quality-----	361 to 400	33.25 to 36.84
Calves, second quality-----	321 to 360	29.56 to 33.16
Calves, third quality-----	295 to 310	27.17 to 28.55
Bullocks, first quality-----	441 to 480	40.62 to 44.21
Bullocks, second quality-----	401 to 440	36.95 to 40.53
Bullocks, third quality-----	375 to 390	34.54 to 35.92
Draft oxen-----	200 to 330	18.42 to 30.39
Draft cows-----	200 to 300	18.42 to 27.63
Draft bullocks and calves-----	200 to 310	18.42 to 28.55

Since December, 1915, the municipality of Vienna, as part of its food policy, has maintained a dairy with about 500 cows at the farm of Sachsengang. The milk is supplied partly to the municipal juvenile department, and partly to municipal depots. Seeing, however, that a purely dairy establishment was not justified, and that some of the stock appeared suitable for breeding, the municipality decided to combine breeding with the keeping of cows. To this end the municipality has acquired a suitable property where 170 head of young cattle can be bred and maintained with the requisite breeding stock. This capacity can be considerably extended.²

MEAT.

With respect to the Vienna meat market the Arbeiter Zeitung³ reports that—

In September the meat supply had somewhat improved. There was less of the better kinds of meat for sale but more meat was available for the poorer class [so-called "welfare" meat], as purchases on their account have been greater than ever before. There was no alteration in the high meat prices, and it is thought there will be none, though the market for the more expensive kinds is paralyzed. In Hungary meat prices had to be lowered by 1 crown per kilogram [9.2 cents per pound] because of the small demand. Possibly this may lead to a modification in Austria also. For a long time there has been no market for hogs. A certain number, however, has been brought in and allotted

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Sept. 25, 1917. Morning edition.

² Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Oct. 12, 1917. Morning edition.

³ Arbeiter Zeitung. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

to the pork butchers and others. Pork will therefore be available for those to whom no price is too high, but there is an utter lack of fat.

For September 22, 1917, the retail prices of meat are reported by the Neues Wiener Tagblatt¹ as follows:

	Crowns per kilogram.	Per pound.
Beef, forequarter	6. 70 to 11. 00	\$0. 62 to \$1. 01
Beef, hindquarter.....	7. 25 to 12. 00	. 67 to 1. 11
Veal	4. 60 to 4. 80	. 42 to . 44
Mutton	7. 50 to 8. 00	. 69 to . 74
Pork	7. 80	. 72
Lamb	7. 00 to 7. 70	. 64 to . 71

For September 24, the Reichspost's² report on the Vienna meat market reads as follows:

Business on the meat market was, as usual on Mondays, only moderate. Supplies of beef of all kinds were sufficient; veal was limited in quantity; lamb and mutton were in excess of the demand, but there was a lack of pork. The First Vienna Wholesale Butchers' Association supplied in place of "welfare" meat 2,000 kilograms [4,409.24 pounds] of "Government" potatoes at 10 hellers the kilogram [0.9 cents per pound]; 4,000 kilograms [8,818.5 pounds] of the inward parts of bullocks (lungs, liver, etc.), were brought in from Hungary and supplied to the consumers at 1 kilogram [2.204 pounds] per person. The wholesale and retail prices for these parts were as follows:

Kind of meat.	Wholesale price.		Retail price.	
	Per kilogram.	Per pound.	Per kilogram.	Per pound.
	<i>Crowns.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Crowns.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Bullocks' lungs.....	2. 20	20. 3	2. 32 to 2. 50	21. 4 to 23. 0
Bullocks' lungs, cooked.....			2. 52 to 2. 70	23. 2 to 24. 9
Bullocks' liver.....	3. 30	30. 4	3. 72 to 4. 00	34. 3 to 36. 8
Bullocks' brains.....	3. 60	33. 2	3. 72 to 4. 00	34. 3 to 36. 8
Bullocks' kidneys.....	3. 40	31. 3	3. 54 to 3. 80	32. 6 to 35. 0
Cows' udders.....	1. 50	13. 8	1. 68 to 1. 80	15. 4 to 16. 6
Cows' udders, cooked.....			2. 32 to 2. 50	21. 4 to 23. 0
Tripe.....	4. 50	41. 5	. 92 to 1. 00	8. 5 to 9. 2
Tripe, cleaned and cooked.....			1. 58 to 1. 70	14. 6 to 15. 7

For September 29, Die Zeit³ prints the following report on the Vienna meat market:

Business at the market to-day was very brisk. Meat "queues" began to line up before the large market hall soon after 3 o'clock in the morning. The demand for all kinds of meat was very insistent, but beef and veal were preferred. The supplies of meat were sufficient for all requirements; there was even enough veal, and 6,000 kilograms [6.6 short tons] of pork available, while the supply of lamb and mutton was in excess of the demand. About 1,000 kilograms [1.1 short tons] of bullocks' parts were sold at $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram [1.10 pounds] per person. In place of "welfare" meat the Wholesale Butchers' Association sold potatoes at its stalls, where there was a great throng of the poor. The markets were also supplied with war sausage. For to-morrow's

¹ Neues Wiener Tagblatt. Vienna, Sept. 23, 1917.

² Reichspost. Vienna, Sept. 25, 1917. Evening edition.

³ Die Zeit. Vienna, Sept. 29, 1917. Evening edition.

requirements 400 quarters of "people's" beef at 8 crowns per kilogram [73.5 cents per pound] were supplied to the butchers.

As the lack of fodder causes greater slaughtering, there may be a substantial increase in the amount of meat brought in in the near future, and the imminent migration from the hill pastures will cause fairly large reserves to be accumulated. Unfortunately, very many milch cows are being sacrificed to this measure of necessity, a circumstance that will entail a further reduction in the deliveries of milk. In October, so we hear, in order to assure milk for invalids and children, the serving of milk and coffee with milk will be forbidden in restaurants.

The Deutsches Volksblatt¹ states that the governor (*Statthalter*) of Lower Austria has issued an ordinance fixing maximum prices for the retail sale of horseflesh, horse sausages, and horse fat. For Vienna and neighboring districts the prices fixed are the following:

	Crowns per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
Forequarter, without make-weight	4. 50	41. 3
Hind quarter, with make-weight (not in excess of 15 per cent)	5. 60	51. 7
Roast pieces (loin, sirloin, or haunch), not cut out but without make-weight	6. 50	59. 9
All other cuts, net weight	4. 50	41. 3
Horse tongue	3. 50	32. 2
Horse lung, raw	1. 00	9. 1
Horse lung, cooked	1. 20	10. 9
Horse liver, milt, heart, brains, or kidneys	1. 65	15. 0
Preserved horse sausage	4. 60	42. 2
Horse-meat sausage	4. 10	37. 7
Horse fat	6. 50	59. 9

In the sale of horse meat wholesale in the above-mentioned districts the price of 5.10 crowns per kilogram (47.2 cents per pound) must not be exceeded, nor in other districts the price of 4.80 crowns (44.2 cents per pound).

The same Vienna daily paper announced on September 23, that from that date to October 6, 1917, the Wholesale Butchers' Association would supply to the very poor 50 grams (1.8 ounces) of bacon at the price of 48 hellers (9.6 cents) for every member of a household.

FISH.

Die Zeit² publishes the following retail prices for fresh-water fish, as recently fixed by order of the governor of Lower Austria:

	Crowns per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
In quantities up to 10 kilograms:		
Carp and tench	7. 20	66. 2
Pike	7. 50	69. 0
In quantities of 10 to 50 kilograms:		
Carp and tench	6. 40	59. 0
Pike	6. 70	61. 7

¹Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Sept. 29, 1917. Morning edition.

²Die Zeit. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

Within the city limits of Vienna, in addition to the maximum price for pike, the consumption tax, together with the communal addition of 15.6 hellers per kilogram (1.4 cents per pound), may be charged. The established prices apply only to fresh-water fish of Austrian origin, while for Hungarian fish sale prices will be fixed from time to time by the district authorities, with consideration for the market prices. Care will, however, be taken to prevent Austrian fish being sold as Hungarian at higher prices.

The same source¹ stated on September 29 that on the fish market a want of fresh-water fish was noticeable, because, owing to the grading of maximum prices, the owners of lakes would not fish. They did not approve of the prices, and the outlook for the winter and Christmas requirements of fresh-water fish was consequently very gloomy. Of salt-water fish there were on sale small shellfish, soles, and cod.

The Reichspost² reported under date of September 28 that on the preceding day limited quantities of several kinds of fresh and salt water fish were on sale at the Vienna fish market at the following prices per kilogram (2.2 pounds): Small shellfish, 3 crowns (27.6 cents per pound); bream, 4 to 4.50 crowns (36.8 to 41.5 cents per pound); trout, 18.50 to 20 crowns (\$1.71 to \$1.84 per pound); pike, 7 to 7.20 crowns (64.4 to 66.2 cents per pound); carp, 6.70 to 7.20 crowns (61.7 to 66.2 cents per pound); salmon, 22 crowns (\$2.03 per pound); zander, 14 to 17.50 crowns (\$1.29 to \$1.61 per pound); sturgeon, 14 to 17 crowns (\$1.29 to \$1.57 per pound); dried cod, 3.70 crowns (34 cents per pound).

POULTRY AND GAME.

Under date of September 29, 1917, *Die Zeit*¹ in its Vienna meat market report makes the following remarks as to the poultry and game supply:

The poultry market was to-day also very active. The fat shortage increases the demand for fattened poultry, supplies of which are used up every day. On the game market there were to-day larger offerings of venison, which was sold per kilogram as follows: Haunch, 11 to 12 crowns [\$1.01 to \$1.11 per pound]; shoulder, 9.20 crowns [84.8 cents per pound]; breast, 6 crowns [55.3 cents per pound]; fillet, 17 crowns [\$1.57 per pound]. No hares were offered for sale.

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Sept. 29, 1917. Evening edition.

² *Reichspost*. Vienna, Sept. 28, 1917. Morning edition.

EGGS.

According to the *Fremdenblatt*¹ the Vienna Market Office has fixed the following maximum prices for eggs from September 30, 1917, until further notice:

Russian-Polish eggs..... 26½ hellers (5.3 cents) each.

Galician eggs.

Wholesale price—

In quantities of 1 case (1,440 eggs) or more.. 442 crowns (\$89.73) per case.

In quantities of less than 1 case:

To restaurants, boarding houses, and

confectioners..... 34 hellers (6.8 cents) each.

To firms and dealers obtaining their

supplies from the "Ovum"..... 35 hellers (7 cents) each.

Retail price..... 36 hellers (7.2 cents) each.

Hungarian eggs.

Wholesale price—

In quantities of 1 case (1,440 eggs) or more

(direct from "Oezeg")..... 605 crowns (\$122.82) per case.

In quantities of less than 1 case:

To dealers..... 47 hellers (9.4 cents) each.

To dairies and organizations purchas-

ing from "Oezeg," restaurants,

boarding houses, and confectioners.. 48 hellers (9.6 cents) each.

Retail price..... 49 hellers (9.8 cents) each.

All eggs sold wholesale must be invoiced and quantity and origin clearly shown.

MILK.

The *Fremdenblatt*² states that the milk supplies for Vienna decline from month to month. As against the daily peace supply of 900,000 liters (951,030 quarts) the average daily supply now amounts to only 200,000 liters (211,340 quarts), and it seems that further diminution may take place. For private households the milk ration has been almost suspended, and even for children, in spite of their recognized claim, milk is difficult to procure. Recently the dairies have maintained their deliveries to depots only with the greatest difficulty. Coffee houses are still fairly well supplied, but should the milk scarcity become still greater, as is expected, the restriction of the sale of coffee with milk in coffee houses and restaurants will be an unavoidable measure.

The principal cause of these unpleasant conditions lies in the insufficient supply of the dairies with fodder stuffs. The consequence is that the slaughtering of milch cows assumes threatening proportions.

¹ *Fremdenblatt*. Vienna, Sept. 30, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Idem*. Oct. 10, 1917. Morning edition.

On this gloomy situation *Die Zeit*¹ comments as follows:

Consumers supplied with purchasing tickets complain more and more that, in spite of their tickets, they can obtain no milk from their retailers. We now learn from a well-informed quarter that this disagreeable condition of affairs will, unfortunately, become still more accentuated in the next few weeks. For the time being, however, it is still possible to meet the requirements of children and invalids by means of so-called "preferential" cards.

But as to what will happen should the milk supplies from Hungary fail neither the dairies nor the authorities have any clear idea. Trade circles have absolutely no illusions as to the continuance of the supplies of fresh milk from Hungary to Vienna. It is assumed that they will completely fail within a measurable period. This fear is all the more justified when one considers that the Hungarian Government assures to the home milk producers the delivery of a certain quantity of bran if they keep their milk in that country. Owing to the present scarcity of fodder, Austria is not in a position to provide the Hungarian milk producers with bran; consequently they are obliged, in order to maintain their stock, to sell their milk only on Hungarian markets. Another circumstance hitherto not known will likewise induce the Hungarian dealers to withhold their milk from the Vienna market. When Hungarian milk was selling for 60 hellers per liter [11.3 cents per quart]—that is, 64 hellers [12.1 cents per quart] at Vienna (East Station), including cost and freight—the Hungarian Government arranged privately that deliverers of milk for export to Vienna should ask only 50 hellers per liter [9.9 cents per quart].

In this obvious advance on the part of the Hungarian Government to meet the requirements of the Vienna market lay, nevertheless, serious damage for this market. For obviously any inducement for the Hungarian producers to deliver was thereby removed.

To relieve the present milk scarcity by the sale of condensed milk is clearly not feasible. To be sure, there is in Vienna a considerable quantity of foreign canned condensed milk, but this is not nearly sufficient to meet requirements, considering the daily increasing want. This inelastic reserve, which is still provisionally retained by the authorities, should be reserved for the months of January and February, which even in peace time were the worst months for the supply of milk. The present imports of condensed milk from neutral countries, are, moreover, very small, for even abroad the scarcity of fodder caused by the War makes itself distinctly felt. In Holland, the principal exporting center of milk products, the Government itself is planning to store up considerable reserves in national depots in order to be prepared for all contingencies.

FATS.

For months past the Food Office has been making arrangements for supplying fat, through a system of zone distribution, to the poor of Vienna in order to put a stop to the waiting lines. These arrangements were completed in September and an order was issued, effective September 23, 1917, providing that all persons hitherto entitled to purchase meat at reduced prices and registered in one of the shops of the Wholesale Butchers' Association, may also purchase their allotted fat ration there. Every shop of the association will be assigned a quantity sufficient for 350 persons daily, whose needs can surely be

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 20, 1917. Morning edition.

supplied in a few hours. But, in order to prevent any possibility of consumers being turned away owing to inadequacy of supplies, a certain quota per person, according to supplies available, will be fixed and guaranteed. Thus each purchaser of fat will know beforehand that his ration, however small, is secured, and there will no longer be any inducement to form a "queue." The order does not affect the sale of butter.

Die Zeit,¹ commenting on the official order, says that it remains to be seen whether the above method will be practicable, and adds that the main question is whether sufficient fat can be procured for supplying the 770,000 persons who, in Vienna, come under the category of "poor," with a ration of any significance. The paper notes that the municipal authorities of Vienna were careful to mention in advance that the ration per person would be fixed every fortnight, according to the supplies available.

BUTTER.

The Arbeiter Zeitung² reports under date of October 7 that the maximum prices for butter were amended as follows: Butter in bulk, 14.16 crowns per kilogram (\$1.30 per pound), in prints, 14.36 crowns (\$1.32 per pound). The corresponding prices per 120 grams (4.23 ounces) have been fixed at 1.70 and 1.72 crowns (34.5 and 34.9 cents).

Under date of October 18 the Neue Freie Presse³ states that "as the consignment of foreign butter expected for to-day in Vienna did not arrive, butter can not be supplied this week at most of the municipal butter supply depots. The managers of the 'Oezeg' give assurances that next week there will be a double supply of butter and margarine for every one entitled thereto."

POTATOES.

The Food Office has issued a set of regulations supplementary to the potato order of July 26, 1917. These regulations are bitterly criticized by the urban populations, especially by the socialists. Below is summarized a typical attack made upon the new regulations by the Arbeiter Zeitung:⁴

The Food Office has given way to the agrarians, and altered the potato regulations unanimously adopted by the Food Council. It is to be regretted that the idea of stringent State management of potatoes has been thrown overboard; but we must always expect this kind of weakness whenever the authorities try to tackle the farmers.

In the early summer the farmers acquiesced in the proposed requisitioning of the whole potato crop, as decreed by the order of July 26, 1917. But the failure

¹ Die Zeit. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

² Arbeiter Zeitung. Vienna, Oct. 7, 1917. Morning edition.

³ Neue Freie Presse. Vienna, Oct. 18, 1917. Morning edition.

⁴ Arbeiter Zeitung. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

of the fodder crop, and consequent anxiety for their livestock later on determined them to resist. At this time a few bourgeois journals were carrying on a shortsighted campaign for what they called "free trade." The agrarians cunningly used this agitation to stir up a discussion on the whole food question, so as to divert attention from the fact that they had begun to use potatoes as fodder.

The potato crop of the country (not including the countries occupied and under military administration) promises a yield of over 70,000,000 metric centners [7,716,100 short tons]. From this the Food Ministry proposes to assign to nonproducers the quantity of 20,000,000 metric centners [2,204,600 short tons]. Part of this latter quantity is set apart for potato-using industries and the army. About 17,000,000 metric centners [1,873,910 short tons] remain, and as there are about 17,000,000 of nonproducers, it means about 100 kilograms [220.46 pounds] per person for the nine months. This represents, roughly, an allowance of 380 grams [13.4 ounces] per day; but a considerable deduction must be made for loss and for restaurants and hotels. Even should the 380 grams be obtained it is far below the quantity allotted in Germany, where 500 grams [1.1 pounds] or more is assured. If there is going to be a shortage of other vegetables this winter, why should the allowance of potatoes be kept down to such a scanty figure if more are available? And why should potatoes be used for cattle fodder while human beings have to go without them?

The Food Office pleads necessity, and hopes that the human population will exercise voluntary abstinence. It has, for practical purposes, changed the "requisitioning" [*Beschlagnahme*] of potatoes into a mere "prohibition of sale" [*Sperre*]. It has prescribed a fixed quantity to be delivered by the producers to the State, and has provided that the prohibition of sale is not to be relaxed in any Province until this quantity has been delivered by all the producers in the Province. The potatoes which remain after the State consignment has been delivered may be used by the farmer as fodder, or put on the market. As these potatoes can only be sold subject to the maximum prices fixed by the State, the farmer will probably prefer to use them as fodder.

This plan sounds more reasonable than it is in reality. The objection to it is as follows: In the first place there is nothing to compel the farmer to ration either man or beast on his own farm. He is at liberty to waste as many potatoes as he likes. Consequently, the State has no security that the fixed quantity actually will be forthcoming. The idea of the new regulations is that two-thirds of the State quantum is to be delivered to the local authorities in the autumn before the frosts set in; and that one-third is to be stored and delivered in the spring. But between these two periods of delivery lies the winter, with unrestricted opportunities of wasting potatoes as fodder. The State relies upon the bona fide cooperation of the farmers in carrying out this scheme. Whether this reliance is justified remains to be seen; probably it is not.

All this is very interesting for the urban population; it shows them how the fulfillment of an elementary duty of citizenship can be made the subject of a sordid bargain. This applies especially to prices. The farmers stipulated for an "early-delivery" premium of 5 crowns for every metric centner [27.8 cents per bushel] of potatoes delivered on or before November 30, 1917. The cost of this extra premium is, of course, borne by the consumer. Moreover, if the farmer has his potatoes in readiness by November 30, but is compelled to store them owing to delay on the part of the authorities in taking them away, he can claim a "storage premium" of 2 crowns [11 cents per bushel] as well, when the potatoes are finally removed. The result of these premiums will be

that the farmers will not separate the potatoes to be delivered next spring from those to be delivered in the autumn, they will keep them in one indistinguishable mass, so as to make it difficult for the War Grain Clearing House to lay hand on the spring potatoes.

All these undesirable circumstances arise from the fact that our stock and meat prices have been allowed to rise far too high. All attempts to limit the use of potatoes for fodder by raising the potato price and by giving premiums are bound to fail, because the price of meat has gone so high that it will always be more profitable for the farmer to turn his potatoes into meat (by using them as fodder) than to sell them as potatoes. The only possible method now of preventing the use of potatoes for fodder is legal compulsion.

At present, however, the Government has neither the will nor the power to take this simple step of making foddering with potatoes illegal. So, contrary to the principle hitherto observed, that the harvest should be distributed equally all round, the expedient is adopted of rationing the nonproducer with a moderate quantity and openly handing over the larger remainder to the growers for free disposal. The idea of equality of sacrifice is thereby abandoned. While the nonproducer has to put up with 380 grams [13.4 ounces], the grower may enjoy three or four times that amount, and use as much again for fodder. The consequence may well be that the farmers will keep through the winter more stock than proper war management would permit, and that in the summer we shall be compelled to kill off numbers of lean stock without profit, thus recovering only a fraction of the potatoes used as fodder. The new potato regulations are therefore a mistake, and we may have, instead of the mild compulsion of the law to put up with, the reckless violence of military requisition, as happened in the case of the gathering of the harvest last year.

A few weeks later the *Neues Wiener Tagblatt*¹ reports that a still further step was taken away from State confiscation of potatoes by a recent order of the Food Office extending the right of "self-supply" as regards potatoes to the parents, children, brothers, and sisters of producers, even when these do not live under the same roof as the producers—also to the domestic dependents of these relatives of producers. This will probably cause in Lower Austria an enormous increase in the number of applications for "transport permits."

Persons applying for transport permits in order to be able to supply themselves with potatoes from their relatives' fields, were warned that they will have to sign a renunciation of their potato cards at the time their application is filed, and before the transport permit is issued to them; it is, therefore, possible that during the time between the presentation of their application and the granting of the transport permit they may have to go without potatoes altogether. Persons whose potatoes spoil during the journey will not be entitled to an additional supply during the period for which these potatoes should have lasted.

Shortly after this potato cards were introduced in Vienna. The system came into force on October 21, 1917, and it was announced that the zone system for the supply of potatoes would be organized

¹*Neues Wiener Tagblatt*. Vienna, Oct. 9, 1917.

at the same time. In this connection *Die Zeit*¹ records the following information from official municipal sources:

According to the ordinance of October 2, 1917, of the governor of Lower Austria dealing with the regulation of the consumption of potatoes, consumers must be allocated to certain supply depots. Every possessor of a potato card is, in the purchase of potatoes, confined to his residential district, within which, however, he has a free choice of depot, the addresses of which are published. For those classes of the population that belong to no consumers' organization sufficient municipal depots were established to permit not more than 3,000 persons being assigned to one depot. It is the same with the organizations. Members of those organizations to which the supply of potatoes has been intrusted by the Vienna municipal administration can register with their organization without being confined to their residential district. But they have the option, by canceling this registration, of assuring themselves a supply at one of the notified depots. Organizations, however, are not permitted to register persons who are not members.

The procedure of registration is as follows: Every possessor of a card has to fill in on the card his name and address, and produce it at the selected depot (or organization), which must fill in the name and address of the depot, cut off the exterior section, and return the card to its owner. The sections cut off remain in the keeping of the depot, which has to make up from them a list of customers. No depot (excluding organizations) may register more than 3,000 cards. In case the possessor of a card for some reason can not find a depot, he must apply to the local authority of his district, which will assign him to one. Registration starts on October 21 and closes on October 27. The date as from which the possessor of a card will be restricted to a depot once he has chosen it will be announced, until which time the depots already existing are obliged to supply potatoes to anyone on surrender of the voucher for the week, even when the owner has already registered elsewhere. This regulation presumes larger supplies which can be collected only if imports reach the estimated quantity.

According to the *Arbeiter Zeitung*,² the potato ration for the week beginning October 7, 1917, has been fixed at 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) per person.

With respect to the importation of potatoes from Germany, the *Reichspost*³ gives the following information:

We learn from a well-informed quarter that the eagerly expected supply of potatoes for our markets is due to an arrangement that the "Oezeg" has made with the proper German authorities, whereby a larger quantity of this important article of food was assured to Austria. In the early summer the "Oezeg" endeavored to secure for Austria early potatoes from the northern countries, in order to remedy the potato shortage which seriously threatened by reason of the failure of the home crop. Unfortunately, it appeared that the abnormal weather conditions, which were the same in the whole of mid-Europe, had damaged the potato crops there also. The quality of the potatoes was poor and unsuitable for long transport, so that the "Oezeg" was obliged to withdraw from the negotiations. Luckily, it appears from the arrangement with Germany referred to that the needs of Vienna and the industrial districts are once more covered.

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 20, 1917. Morning edition.

² Date not given.

³ *Reichspost*. Vienna, Sept. 20, 1917. Morning edition.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Under date of September 26, 1917, *Die Zeit*¹ reports that it was informed by the Food Office that, owing to the poor cabbage crop, it was necessary to requisition the commodity. The result was that cabbage could not be consumed, supplied direct to the consumer (except in the case of small quantities), sold, or bought. Cabbage grown in private or allotment gardens, or applied by the producer to his own requirements, or made into sauerkraut in his own household, was not included, nor was that included which was covered by agreement with the Food Office or the "Geos." The requisitioned cabbage was to be handed over to certain designated sauerkraut manufacturers. The maximum price fixed for all Austria was 45 crowns per 100 kilograms (4.1 cents per pound), local authorities being given power to fix a lower price. These authorities were to fix the retail prices. Consignments of cabbage had to have a transport permit.

Die Zeit says that the Food Office will have to regulate prices of sauerkraut also, otherwise it will be even harder to obtain this winter than last. The price recently was 1.30 crowns per kilogram (12 cents per pound), but that was foreign cabbage. Since then Bohemian sauerkraut dealers have offered it free on rail Bohemia at 130 crowns per 100 kilograms (12 cents per pound) in wagonload lots.

In its evening edition of the same date *Die Zeit*² doubts whether the maximum price for cabbage of 45 crowns per 100 kilograms (4.1 cents per pound) covers the cost of production, but at the same time states that the reduction in price of the commandeered cabbage was necessary to prevent a rise in the retail price for sauerkraut.

According to the *Reichspost*³ onions which formerly could be obtained in the Vienna markets, without recourse to "queues," at 1.20 to 1.70 crowns per kilogram (11 to 15.7 cents per pound) suddenly disappeared, and after the lapse of a month appeared here and there again on the market, but at prices which had risen to 2.64 crowns (24.3 cents per pound). The general opinion was that onions would soon disappear altogether from the markets, and a strong demand set in. Only after long waiting in "queues" could a few kilograms be obtained at high prices. The manipulators were wholesale merchants who held back their goods in order to cause a rise in price, and in this way quickly secure a large profit. It is now apparent from the proceedings at a summons before the Marburg (Styria) district court that the authorities have been successful in inflicting punishment on two such dealers. One was a merchant of Gorizia,

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Sept. 26, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Idem*. Evening edition.

³ *Reichspost*. Vienna, Sept. 29, 1917. Evening edition.

the other of Graz. The two carried on the wholesale purchase of onions in lower Styria, and manipulated prices so that the price of onions was raised more than 100 per cent. One of the two partners managed the lower Styrian "business"; he bought onions in the country at 70 hellers per kilogram (6.4 cents per pound), at which price the sellers delivered free on rail, and he then consigned them by rail at the price of 1.40 and 1.50 crowns per kilogram (12.9 to 13.8 cents per pound). The other partner received dealers' orders from Vienna, Lower Austria, Carinthia, the Tyrol, etc. What profits the two made appears from the fact that in two days they made 1,512.80 crowns (\$307.10) on 1,891 kilograms (2.08 short tons) of onions, which they bought at 1,323.70 crowns (\$268.71) and sold at 2,836.50 crowns (\$575.81). They kept the onions back in order to obtain the prices they desired. The sentence of the court involved for each defendant 4 weeks' imprisonment and a fine of 1,500 crowns (\$304.50).

On September 29 *Die Zeit*,¹ in reporting on the Vienna vegetable market, states that the market was entirely sold out as usual the Saturday before, and gives the following quotations:

	Crowns per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
French and butter beans.....	1.76 to 2.24	16.2 to 20.7
Pumpkins .....	.56 to 1.10	5.2 to 10.1
Hungarian cucumbers .....	.50 to .64	4.6 to 5.9
Viennese onions.....	1.56 to 1.84	14.4 to 17.0
Native onions.....	2.16 to 2.44	19.9 to 22.5
Garlic.....	2.16 to 2.80	19.9 to 25.8
Red cabbage.....	1.60 to 1.64	14.7 to 15.1
Leaf spinach.....	.88 to .92	8.1 to 8.5
Stalk spinach.....	.68 to .72	6.3 to 6.6
Brussels sprouts	1.76 to 2.30	16.2 to 21.2
Green cabbage.....	1.40 to 1.54	12.9 to 14.2
	Each.	Each.
Hungarian peppers.....	.08 to .15	1.6 to 3.0
Cooking lettuce .....	.12 to .22	2.4 to 4.5
Cabbage lettuce.....	.12 to .20	2.4 to 4.1
Fine crinkled lettuce.....	.16 to .24	3.2 to 4.9
Kohlrabi.....	.16 to .32	3.2 to 6.5
Hungarian maize in the ear.....	.18 to .26	3.7 to 5.3
Native maize in the ear.....	.24 to .28	4.9 to 5.7
Cauliflower .....	.38 to .54	7.7 to 11.0
Large radishes.....	.14 to .20	2.8 to 4.1
Small white and red radishes, per bunch .....	.24	4.9

Pumpkins have become popular in Vienna as a vegetable for human consumption only within the last few months. Hitherto there has been abundance of other vegetables, and there has been a

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Sept. 29, 1917. Evening edition.

certain prejudice against pumpkins because of the fact that they form very good fodder for swine. However, this has been a very bad year for other vegetables, though a very good one for pumpkins, especially in Hungary, which is exporting quantities of pumpkins. Upper Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, and Styria have also had a good yield of pumpkins. The export from these Provinces has gone principally to Vienna, as country districts and small towns prefer the usual seasonal vegetables. Fine pumpkins were at first sold in Vienna at 240 crowns per 100 kilograms (22.1 cents per pound); however, by October the price had gone down to 24 to 30 crowns (2.2 to 2.8 cents per pound).¹

In September the Vienna markets were well supplied with fruit, many wagonloads of which were still coming in. The Hungarians were supplying the Austrian markets with grapes and even with peaches, but the urgently wanted plums they kept for themselves. If therefore a few Bosnian plums appeared on the markets, numerous buyers lined up at once. The expected Serbian plums had not arrived.² The markets in Vienna were full of apples and amply supplied with pears. There was a great demand for the cheap "municipal" apples at 56 to 60 hellers per kilogram (5.1 to 5.4 cents per pound). The offering of apples for less than the maximum price caused the wholesale trade to fall off, because the fruit companies insisted on the impossible legal maximum prices. Still the Government made no change in the maximum price, even though in practice it was disregarded. *Die Zeit* remarked³ that if the Government did not decide to make an alteration in the price, it would find in a few weeks that the market was deserted while the people were clamoring for more cheap fruit. The supply of grapes was fairly good, but the prices did not decrease. The Government appeared unwilling to do anything to lower the price, as it had been decided to export wine and as a modification of the price of grapes would affect the price of wine.

The *Deutsches Volksblatt*⁴ stated that according to a communication from the railroad authorities to the Vienna municipal administration, the removal of fruit from the railway stations was taking place very slowly, thus hindering traffic, and that the railroad authorities would be obliged, if these conditions continued, to prohibit consignments of fruit to the stations. This would have a bad effect on the fruit supply of Vienna. Orders were therefore issued that everyone should remove consignments of fruit as speedily as possible. This information confirms the impression gathered from the press that the fruit crop in Austria has been remarkably good.

¹ *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 10, 1917. Evening edition.

² *Idem*. Sept. 26, 1917. Evening edition.

³ *Idem*. Sept. 29, 1917. Evening edition.

⁴ *Deutsches Volksblatt*. Vienna, Sept. 23, 1917. Morning edition.

SUGAR.

The Commission for War Economy held a meeting on October 10, 1917, at which Dr. Löwenfeld-Russ, ministerial counselor, gave the following details¹ regarding the Central Office for Sugar, in addition to those which he gave on September 11 (see p. 64) :

The whole sugar supply had been requisitioned by the State, and administered exclusively by the Central Office for Sugar. This office is subordinate to and acts under the direction of the Food Office. The main task of the "Central" is to regulate the production and supply of sugar. Sugar prices are fixed by the Government. As the "Central" does not itself sell any sugar, it has no income; consequently all its working expenses have to be borne by the sugar trade. These expenses amounted to 600,000 crowns [\$121,800] during the last fiscal year, and may be more this year.

The export trade in sugar is carried on by the individual factories within the limits of the quantities determined by the Government, under the direction of the "Central." Export prices are fixed by the Government. At present sugar exports are restricted to a minimum. The money which the factories receive for the sugar they export, in excess of what they would have received had it been sold at home, must be turned over to a fund under State control. This fund receives, further, any excess profits of those who supply the army administration with sugar, not at the Austrian but at the distinctly higher Hungarian prices. Finally, this fund receives the surplus profits made by the factories on the sugar which they supply to the confectionery factories. This fund on September 30, 1917, stood at 60,000,000 crowns [\$12,180,000]. The Food Office has decided that the fund is to be devoted to the purposes of the Poorer Classes Supply Department.

Herr Janota, president of the Central Office for Sugar, explained that "the setback in sugar production which had occurred since the foundation of the Central was due to the deficient supply of beets; and this again is due to the shortage of manure, carts, and labor. Unfortunately the shortage in the supply of sugar coincided with an enormously increased demand for it, both from ordinary consumers and from the military authorities. However, measures have been taken to increase the area under beet cultivation."

After some discussion the deputy Jerzebek observed that "he was still unable to understand why the price of sugar should have risen simultaneously with an increase of the number of consumers. He was not satisfied with the explanation that the increase in sugar prices was due to the increase in beet prices. In Germany beets were much dearer and sugar distinctly cheaper than in Austria. The profits of the sugar industry were no less than they had been, as the dividends showed. The sugar industry would not have been injured if prices had not been raised; it would only have made a little less profit. In war time, when everybody has to be content with less than he had, why should the sugar industry be spared?"

¹ Fremdenblatt. Vienna, Oct. 11, 1917. Morning edition.

Dr. Mikusch, business manager of the Central Office for Sugar, stated that—

It was not the purpose of speculating, but the fear of speculation, which had induced the refineries in 1914 to store more raw sugar than was required by the average consumption in peace time. The institution of the Central Office for Sugar and the State control of prices had prevented speculation, had established a fixed relation between the prices of raw and of refined sugar, and had enabled the refineries to meet the needs both of home consumers and of the diminished export trade. The increase in home consumption during the War is due to the changes in the character of the food generally consumed. The Central Office had nothing to do with the use made by the military authorities of the sugar assigned to them. Unlike the Hungarian Sugar Office the Austrian Sugar Office has no control over saccharine. Probably this year's beets will yield a slightly better sugar supply, but it is unsafe to prophesy, as the weather may upset calculations. It must be remembered that not all the beets grown will be delivered to the sugar factories, because, despite the legal prohibition, a good deal is sure to be used for food and fodder, and also a great many of the tops will probably be cut off for fodder purposes. Moreover, the refineries will have great difficulties to contend with in the matter of transport, coal supply, shortage of important materials, etc. It must be expected, therefore, that the sugar supply for 1917-18 will not permit of the present quota per person being maintained, if it is to last out the whole year. As for the question of prices, in view of the rise in the price of beets from 2.3 crowns per 100 kilograms in prewar days to 6.2 crowns [0.2 to 0.6 cent per pound], the sugar industry would not really be expected to keep its prices at the same level. People must, therefore, be prepared for still higher prices next year. The farmers are rather loath to devote acreage to beets, owing to lack of manure, carts, and labor; they can be induced to produce more beets only by getting higher prices for them. The sugar industry is not interested in forcing prices up; it much prefers an abundant yield and low prices. The profits which it has made lately have been quite modest and reasonable.

Dr. Löwenfeld-Russ gave a detailed explanation, with numerous figures, of the distribution of sugar among the army, civilians, and the sugar-treating industries. "As for the per capita quota, it is reasonable to make a distinction between town and country, because country people consume less sugar in peace time. Generally speaking, the Austrian sugar ration is higher than the German ration. It should be remembered that the export trade in sugar has been reduced to very small dimensions, and is carried on rather by way of barter, to induce foreign countries to supply Austria with necessary commodities, than for the sake of profit."

At a meeting of a committee of the Food Council, held on October 16, 1917,¹ Dr. Löwenfeld-Russ referred to sugar management. He gave a few figures with regard to the coming year, and declared that, on the basis of present estimates, the Government would be compelled to reduce the sugar ration for the population of the whole of Austria as from November 1. "Last year we disposed of a total crop of 7,000,000 metric centners [771,610 short tons] of raw sugar, while the

¹ Die Zeit. Vienna, October 17, 1917. Morning edition.

season 1917-18 will yield only about 5,500,000 metric centners [606,265 short tons], and owing to the shortage of about 1,500,000 metric centners [165,345 short tons], considerable restrictions must be expected. In the necessary reductions great difficulties were encountered in the case of deliveries for army requirements. It was apparent that a reduction of the sugar ration for the fighting troops could not be carried out. Consequently there remained only the reduction of the sugar ration for direct consumers in regard to sweetmeats and for industrial manufacture. The ration must therefore be reduced from 1 to $\frac{3}{4}$ kilogram [2.2 to 1.7 pounds] for the town population, and from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram [1.7 to 1.1 pounds] per month for rural districts. The ration will not be reduced for heavy workers, who will retain their sugar supplementary card, so as to obtain $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilograms [2.8 pounds] per month."

Strong opposition to the reduction manifested itself in the debate, certain members of the committee advocating a complete stoppage of luxury production and the manufacture only of "popular" sugar to be sold at maximum prices. Another member insisted on the necessity of sugar for children, who should be placed on the same level as heavy workers and given supplementary cards.

As it was hoped that after the conclusion of the discussions with Hungary, Austria might receive better treatment, several members proposed that the reduction of rations as from November 1 should be provisional, and that the matter should be finally regulated only after the close of the pending negotiations.

According to the *Neue Freie Presse*¹ the governor of Lower Austria has published an ordinance fixing maximum prices, wholesale and retail, for refined sugar. It gives the selling price for refined loaf sugar, which will be put on the market at the increased price of 130 crowns per 100 kilograms (12 cents per pound), prime quality, and will be furnished with official red labels. There will be a maximum addition over existing station prices for delivery free on rail of 1.75 crowns per 100 kilograms (0.2 cents per pound), and a further addition of 3 crowns per 100 kilograms (0.3 cents per pound) for cost of conveyance to the seller. For sugar sold at retail there is an addition of 5 or $8\frac{1}{2}$ hellers (1 or 1.7 cents) according as the sugar is sold as packed originally or in boxes. Retail prices can be ascertained from the district authorities. With reference to those quantities of refined sugar which were put on sale with green labels at the old factory prices, the former retail prices naturally still hold good. The district authorities are instructed to take proper steps to insure that such sugar be not sold at the higher prices. The prices are fixed for a whole year; that is, until October 1, 1918.

¹ *Neue Freie Presse*. Vienna, Oct. 18, 1917. Morning edition.

COFFEE.

The Reichspost¹ states that it is officially informed that, owing to the lack of bean coffee, the manufacture of coffee substitutes has become of increasing importance. The war coffee put on the market, a mixture of bean coffee and raw sugar, has not satisfied the requirements of the population for coffee and coffee substitutes. The Food Office, therefore, turned its attention to the supply of raw material for the coffee-substitute industry. As figs are no longer imported, only barley, chicory, and sugar beets are available. Four thousand cars of barley were reserved for the production of coffee substitutes, the greater part being used for malt coffee, and only a small quantity for barley coffee. Prices are regulated by a special ordinance. The whole chicory crop was requisitioned, and its distribution is effected through the Chicory Distribution Office in Prague. Unfortunately the yield of this year's crop is poor, so that the production of substitutes is not thriving. For beets also there is a special distribution committee, composed of representatives of the sugar and coffee-substitute industries, which provides for the distribution of available supplies on agreed principles. The retail prices of all manufactured coffee substitutes are fixed by order—usually at 2 crowns per kilogram (18.4 cents per pound) for goods in packages—or are, when the mixed article is in question, prescribed for every brand and must be printed on the package. With the exception of pure fig coffee, which, however, will soon be no longer available, the retail price in no case exceeds 4 crowns per kilogram (36.8 cents per pound), or, as the sale is usually in packages of $\frac{1}{4}$ kilogram, 1 crown (20.3 cents) per package.

VINEGAR.

A shortage of table vinegar, due partly to the pickling season and partly to extensive military requirements, is reported in *Die Zeit*.² Attempts are being made by the vinegar industry to remedy this state of affairs as far as possible. At the request of the Food Office the Ministry of War has released for distribution chemically pure acetic acid. This will allow of a few hundred thousand liters of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent table vinegar being distributed very shortly to the public. What still remains of the acetic acid will, through the medium of the "Geos," be used in fruit and vegetable preserving factories and for supplying pressing demands in the Provinces. Since Vienna comprises about 600,000 households, and the table vinegar produced from the released acetic acid can be purchased by cards in quantities

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Oct. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

² Die Zeit. Vienna, Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

of only one-half liter per household at a maximum price of 26 hellers per liter (4.9 cents per quart), the vinegar shortage in Vienna should be remedied for the immediate future at least.

WINE AND BEER.

The Reichspost¹ learns from Trieste that by a governor's ordinance a Wine Office is established which will have the exclusive right of purchase for the Province of Istria. The purchase will be at fixed prices. The shipment of wine from Trieste will also be controlled.

The Bohemia² reports that the brewing of beer at home has been officially forbidden.

RESTAURANT CARDS.

According to the Fremdenblatt³ restaurant cards were to be introduced in November. Each person desiring a meal in a restaurant would present an official meal check to the proprietor. According to tentative regulations under consideration at the Food Office, cafés and restaurants will be allowed to supply food only at the two chief mealtimes, viz, at noon and in the evening. The viands which may be supplied will be restricted to the following, for each person: At noon, one portion of soup, one of meat (not more than 100 grams) (3.5 ounces) with vegetables, and one of farinaceous food of any kind; in the evening, one portion of meat (maximum 100 grams), with vegetables, and 100 grams of cheese. Hors d'oeuvres and savories will be allowed, provided meat, flour, milk, and eggs do not enter into their composition. Persons desiring meal checks must make a written declaration that they regularly take their meals away from home. This is designed to prevent people from lunching or dining both at home and at a restaurant.

This proposed innovation has provoked much opposition from restaurant and hotel proprietors and from the public. According to the Deutsches Volksblatt⁴ the committee of the Food Council appointed to consider the matter is also definitely opposed to the issuance of restaurant and hotel cards, a fact which makes it probable that the Food Council will also refuse to sanction the scheme.

SUPPRESSION OF "FOOD EXCURSIONS" AND "KIT-BAG TRADE."

As in Germany, the practice in Austria among the urban population of going to the country districts to secure food illicitly has been

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Oct. 1, 1917. Morning edition.

² Bohemia. Prague, Sept. 11, 1917.

³ Fremdenblatt. Vienna, Sept. 23, 1917.

⁴ Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Oct. 11, 1917. Morning edition.

the source of many complaints. The Food Office decided to stop this practice and issued regulations quoted by the *Arbeiter Zeitung*¹ as follows:

We are officially informed that numerous persons, to the detriment of the community, unlawfully obtain food controlled by the State (particularly flour, pulse, potatoes, eggs, butter, milk, fat, sugar, and coffee), in addition to the rations fixed by the Food Office, and that in a markedly increasing degree, the authorities are obliged to order the examination of baggage (boxes, baskets, bags, and kit bags) of travelers and pedestrians. This examination will be carried out by the police at the stations in the neighborhood of Vienna, by the revenue guard at the boundary customs offices, and by the gendarmery in the country. Food carried contrary to prohibition will be taken away in every case and handed over to hospitals, cooperative kitchens, and similar public-welfare institutions. People are therefore warned not to render themselves liable to accusations of smuggling of this kind, as in addition to a considerable fine or imprisonment they may expect the confiscation of the food in question.

Some measures of this kind had already been taken at Vienna, apparently under the authority of the governor of Lower Austria (not of the Food Office), in the latter part of September, with the effect of calling forth protests from the city council. The result of the present order, therefore, was to irritate the city council and the mayor of Vienna still more. *Die Zeit*² reports an utterance of the mayor of Vienna in this respect as follows:

Our Government, which has certainly not been lacking in ordinances, has just brought out another, the "kit-bag" ordinance, which has aroused the greatest bitterness, and indeed despair, in the whole population of Vienna. With unparalleled lack of consideration, large and small bags belonging to incoming travelers are examined, not only in Vienna, but also during the journey, and small quantities of food, as, for instance 10 eggs or a bottle of milk, are confiscated. In Bohemia large quantities of flour are sold by small millers without regard to State control, and without ration tickets or cards, in excess of the maximum price; there are no officials to interfere. Here in Vienna articles are taken away from poor women, who, through former connections in the country, manage to pick up here and there small quantities for their children, and these women leave the stations weeping and in despair. I appeal to the Government, as I did recently in the municipal council, not to proceed with such petty, irritating methods, which only calculate to disturb and embitter the population.

WAR KITCHENS.

Public kitchens (*Volksküchen*) were much used in Vienna during August, 1917. With the return of the cold weather, the coal shortage, and the inconvenience of waiting in line, the number of persons patronizing these kitchens has probably still further increased. In

¹ *Arbeiter Zeitung*. Vienna, Oct. 7, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Die Zeit*. Vienna, Oct. 17, 1917. Morning edition.

an interview with a representative of *Die Zeit*,¹ Dr. Eisler, president of the Union of Public Kitchens, expressed himself as follows:

Ninety-nine public kitchens now belong to the union, in which 49,000 persons are fed daily. The largest of these kitchens is that attached to Krupp's Metal Works at Berndorf, feeding 7,000 persons per day. In other kitchens the number of patrons ranges from 30 to 2,300.

The provisioning of these kitchens is a gigantic task.

The most difficult problem is the meat supply, which is arranged as follows: The union receives monthly from the provincial Government [*Statthaltereien*] 20 bullocks—10 from Austria and 10 from Hungary. In addition the wholesale slaughterers are under a contract to supply, monthly, 6,000 kilograms [13,228 pounds] of Austrian and 44,000 kilograms [97,002 pounds] of Hungarian meat. The average price of this meat, carriage paid, is 12 crowns per kilogram [\$1.10 per pound].

Vegetables are also difficult to procure. To insure a regular supply, the "Geos" has been instructed by the provincial Government to deliver weekly half a wagonload to the union. As this is naturally insufficient to cover the needs of the kitchens, the managers of the kitchens resort to independent purchasing of vegetables. Occasionally they are supplied by the "Oezeg" with fresh foreign vegetables. No complaints have yet been made of a potato shortage. These are supplied in sufficient quantities of excellent quality by the War Grain Clearing House.

No fresh milk is used in the kitchens. In certain dishes, for which milk is an essential ingredient, only powdered milk is used, and in very limited quantities, which often run short.

Much economy has to be observed in the use of flour. The managers of the individual kitchens have no easy task in apportioning their flour quota when preparing farinaceous dishes. A weekly ration of only $\frac{1}{4}$ kilogram [0.55 pound] per capita is allowed on the food cards. According to the supplies on hand, a further very limited quantity of potato flour is sometimes allowed, without cards, to eke out the scanty supply of grain flour.

Nothing definite can at present be stated with respect to pulse. For the period from July 22 to October 1, the kitchens were assigned 3 wagonloads by the provincial Government. Naturally, considering present conditions, these had to be used very sparingly. A considerable portion, too, had to be stored up.

Fat, so necessary in cooking, has hitherto been supplied in sufficient quantities by the Food Office. A monthly ration of 175 grams [6.2 ounces] of butter and margarine per person has been allowed.

Sugar has been assigned at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ kilogram per person monthly.

A midday meal costs the guests from 2 to 2.30 crowns [40.6 to 46.7 cents]. In some kitchens it is as low as 1.50 to 1.80 crowns [30.5 to 36.5 cents]. It is doubtful whether these extraordinarily cheap prices can be maintained. For purely technical reasons it has hitherto proved impossible to provide a cheap evening meal. People must regard the hot midday meal as their principal meal, and content themselves with a cold supper.

The *Reichspost*,² in an article on organization for supplying war kitchens, states that with the increasing difficulty of food supply for the individual the war-kitchen movement has developed to an

¹ *Die Zeit*. Sept. 19, 1917. Morning edition.

² *Reichspost*. Vienna, Sept. 30, 1917. Morning edition.

extraordinary extent. But in order to assure and regulate supplies to war kitchens by the direction of the Government authorities and the Food Office, a new organization, the Central Union of Communal and War Kitchens, has been created, which includes all communal and war kitchens in Vienna and Lower Austria.

As a source of supply for this Central Union, on July 22, 1917, the Purchasing Department was founded as a limited-liability corporation with a paid-up capital of 100,000 crowns (\$20,300) advanced by the Central Union of Industrial Purchasing and Economic Associations, after this union had entered into relations with the Central Union of Communal and War Kitchens. There is no inducement to make a profit, and any surplus goes to benefit the consumers.

In Vienna the new Purchasing Department buys for the communal kitchens; for the banking and industrial undertakings, so far as they do not belong to the Food Union; for the State employees' kitchens; for such convents and educational establishments as have day boarders, and for the officers' messes, including the war kitchen in the Vienna arsenal. In Lower Austria it provides for all war kitchens of rural and town communes; for all convents; for the kitchen organizations of the Duchess of Parma, with 8,000 persons; and for those kitchens for war workers which do not belong to the "Vita."¹ No less than 120,000 to 150,000 have to be provided for daily, and this figure will probably be largely increased, as new kitchens are being set up everywhere in consequence of the good work done by the Purchasing Department.

The Purchasing Department is also the connecting link between the individual central offices and the kitchens. While at first every little kitchen had to send to Schwechat for flour, to the "Oezeg" for fat and oil, to the "Geos" for fruit and vegetables, etc., it now gets everything from the Purchasing Department. The latter provides the kitchens with fat, cheese, grain products, pulse, potatoes, vegetables, groceries, and eggs, which it has stocked in a vast store. This store, purchased with the funds of the Central Union of Industrial Purchasing and Economic Associations, will after the War again be useful for commerce as a warehouse for raw material. The goods stocked here are obtained by the Purchasing Department from the various central food offices, in quantities strictly limited to the quota corresponding to the persons catered to by the individual kitchens. But it also buys freely articles not rationed and carries

¹ The "Vita" is an association for supplying persons in Lower Austria who are engaged in war industries with those foodstuffs which are administered by the State. It is stringently controlled by the governor of Lower Austria and his officials. Factories belonging to the "Vita" are supplied with food solely through it. The "Vita" food cards are nontransferable, and any falsification of them is severely punished. (Neues Wiener Tagblatt. Vienna, Oct. 9, 1917.)

on a lively trade with the "Gekawe," the wholesale purchasing association of Viennese merchants. The Purchasing Department, which during its short existence has reached a turnover of from two to three million crowns, is in a position, by its wholesale purchases of goods, to supply the public kitchens, if not always very cheaply, at least at reasonable prices. It is claimed that the system effectually prevents a double supply of rationed articles like flour being obtained by patrons of the war kitchens. In the first place, fat or flour coupons corresponding to the quantity served in his meal is taken from each patron, and, secondly, an identification card is supplied by the Purchasing Department to patrons of public kitchens, in which also is specified the place where they would otherwise (i. e., if they were not patronizing a public kitchen) obtain their rationed food articles. Every fortnight these identification cards are transmitted to the Grain Clearing House, which in turn provides a correspondingly smaller quantity of flour to the cooperative societies, municipal flour supply stalls, and so on, with whom the patrons of the kitchens are registered, so that the cooperative societies, etc., can have no flour left over.

The commercial management of the Purchasing Department is carried on by a representative of the Central Union of Industrial Purchasing and Economic Associations, and the management includes also representatives of the trading community, the municipality, and the consumers. The board of control includes representatives of the governor of Lower Austria, of provincial administrations, and of the Municipal and War Kitchens Commissary Department. The Purchasing Department enjoys the active support of country and town.

The Reichspost¹ reports that in an autograph letter to the Archduchess Isabella the Emperor expressed the wish that the War Aid Bureau should devote its attention to the establishment of war kitchens on a charitable basis, and in a second letter to the prime minister, Dr. von Seidler, gave directions that this work be supported in every possible way by the proper authorities. The War Aid Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior will publish an appeal for the requisite funds.

The director of this bureau, Prince von Lichtenstein, gave out the following information with regard to the work alluded to by the Emperor:

The War Aid Bureau had in the first place the task of caring for the families of men called to the colors. When, owing to the increase of the separation allowance and the extension of rationing, the activities of the bureau embraced the wider circle of those suffering from other causes, it was necessary that attention should be turned to provisioning, and thanks to the initiative of the

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Oct. 12, 1917. Morning edition.

Archduchess Isabella, it succeeded in establishing war kitchens on a charitable basis, in which the poor could obtain their principal meals at less than cost price. The Archduchess collected 560,000 crowns [\$113,680], of which 320,000 crowns [\$64,960] are still available. So far six war kitchens and two kitchens for invalids have been established. Now, the Emperor in a letter to the Archduchess has requested her to turn her special attention to this branch of war relief work, and has directed the Austro-Hungarian Government to support to the utmost all efforts in furtherance of this undertaking, and to notify to this effect all officials concerned.

Two meetings have recently taken place, which were concerned with the carrying through of the work referred to by the Emperor. At the first meeting I explained the main lines of action, and stated that a beginning could be made at once if from the money at the disposal of the district aid bureaus, the sixth donation of the War Aid Bureau, a sum of about 1,800,000 crowns [\$365,400] could be provided, as the War Aid Bureau could at once supply from its reserve a further 500,000 crowns [\$101,500]. It was decided to establish war kitchens where required, and to supply meals in these and existing Government kitchens to the very poor at a price according to their means, below the cost price. The difference must be paid to the kitchen administration out of the moneys collected by means of a card or check system, as the Government war kitchens must be run on business as distinct from philanthropic lines. Preparations have been made in cooperation with the Food Office.

A further discussion took place at which representatives of every district stated the local requirements as to war kitchens. It appeared that there was no desire for a gratuitous supply of meals, which was to be recommended only in exceptional cases; further, that in most districts it was less a question of establishing new war kitchens than of favoring a greater number of the poor. The War Aid Bureau will now inaugurate a collection for this work, which will be announced very shortly.

PROFITEERING.

With respect to the general complaints of profiteering the Reichspost¹ states that from the beginning of October a stricter surveillance of the markets has been observable. Officials appointed for the purpose mingle with the buying public, control the observance of maximum prices, and insist that the price of articles offered for sale shall be plainly marked. The people welcome these measures with lively satisfaction, and strongly support the officials. Dealers who fail to comply are prosecuted.

INFLUENCE OF THE FOOD SHORTAGE UPON THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

Of the scarce data available on this subject some are contained in a memorandum on the food situation in Prague, drawn up by a special committee of the Prague city council.² In this memorandum the

¹ Reichspost. Vienna, Oct. 10, 1917. Evening edition.

² Prager Tagblatt. Prague, Sept. 11, 1917.

death rate of the general population of Prague is shown for the last three years (1914 to 1916) to have been 13.1, 15.1, and 15.3 per 1,000 inhabitants. This shows an increase from year to year, that for 1916 as compared with 1914 being equivalent to 16.8 per cent. Deaths from tuberculosis also show a considerable increase. In 1913 of the total number of deaths, 18.2 per cent were due to tuberculosis; in 1914, 21.2 per cent; in 1915, 23.3 per cent; and in 1916, 24.5 per cent.

According to these figures the death rate from tuberculosis increased 34.4 per cent in 1916 as compared with 1913. The memorandum also states that diarrhea is spreading at an alarming rate in Greater Prague.

Die Gewerkschaft,¹ the organ of the Federation of Austrian Trade-unions, states that while in the years immediately preceding the War the number of deaths from tuberculosis decreased gradually in Austria, during the second year of the War there was an enormous increase in the number of deaths from this cause. In Vienna the number of deaths from this disease was much greater in 1916 than 10 years ago. In support of this statement the Gewerkschaft quotes the following figures furnished by the chief of the Vienna Municipal Health Department:

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN VIENNA, 1906, AND 1913 TO 1916.

Year.	Number of deaths from—							
	Tuberculosis of all kinds.				Tuberculosis of the lungs.			
	Civilians.		Military persons.	Total.	Civilians.		Military persons.	Total.
	Residents of Vienna.	Nonresidents.			Residents of Vienna.	Nonresidents.		
1906.....	7,217	210	53	7,480	5,426	152	30	5,608
1913.....	6,123	253	54	6,430	4,793	188	34	5,015
1914.....	5,921	237	65	6,223	4,713	178	49	4,940
1915.....	6,735	279	796	7,810	5,372	223	665	6,260
1916.....	7,386	424	1,841	9,651	6,000	312	1,530	7,842

In commenting on these figures the Gewerkschaft says that not only are they ample proof of the renewed spreading of this dreadful disease, which selects its victims particularly among the working people, but they also show that all measures for combating this national disease are useless as long as provision is not made for rational and sufficient nutrition of the population. In view of the small rations at present allotted to the working population, the Gewerkschaft predicts a still further spreading of tuberculosis.

¹ Die Gewerkschaft. Vienna, Oct. 9, 1917.

HUNGARY.

GENERAL FOOD SITUATION.

The general impression produced by reading the Hungarian papers is that while Hungary as a whole is rather well off in regard to food, and, indeed, much better off than Austria, the problem of apportioning between the cities and the country the food available after military needs have been satisfied has not yet been solved.

The harvest of wheat and corn was a good average harvest. The potato crop, however, is far inferior to that of last year. During the current year the free purchase of grain has been prohibited in Hungary; in Germany and Austria this prohibition has been in force for nearly three years. The potato crop has been taken over by the State. Bread and flour rations have been increased lately. Owing to the extreme shortage of fodder it is proposed to abolish meatless days. The increasing scarcity of fat will, however, make it necessary to introduce two fatless days in place of one. The prices of all foodstuffs continue to rise rapidly.

Because of the difficulty of obtaining Hungarian newspapers only a few items can be given here as to the situation with respect to individual foodstuffs.

MAIZE.

The total maize crop of Hungary has been taken over by the State by an order published on September 18, 1917, in the Official Gazette. The main points of this order are summarized in the Pester Lloyd¹ as follows:

1. The total maize crop of 1917 is taken over by the State, including quantities usually given by way of wages in kind, etc., to laborers. The minister of agriculture and the Hungarian State Food Office jointly decide how much maize an individual producer may retain for his own needs.
2. For purposes of pig fattening a producer may retain, at most, 50 per cent of his surplus of maize, provided he obtains official permission.
3. It is forbidden to sell maize for industrial purposes. The amount to be used for this purpose will be decided on by the minister of food in conjunction with the ministers concerned.
4. The producer may sell his surplus of maize (up to 50 per cent) only to the War Products Company (Ltd.), or to persons holding a purchase license. The right to sell expires, however, when official requisitioning begins, and in any case on October 31, 1917.
5. For the transport of maize or maize products outside the borders of the commune the usual transport certificate is necessary, unless the maize is removed to a mill under power of a milling license or from one farm to another. In the latter case a special transport certificate is required. This applies also to the removal of maize received as wages.

¹ Pester Lloyd. Budapest, Sept. 19, 1917. Evening edition.

6. At the end of the maize harvest a requisitioning order will be published. The producer must report his supply and deliver the surplus to the War Products Company, in return for cash payment. Any damaged stocks must be reported to the War Products Company, which will receive instructions from the minister of agriculture. If the maize is not yet harvested, the producer must gather it in as soon as he is requested to do so by the authorities. He must also deliver with every metric centner (220.46 pounds) of maize at least 15 kilograms (33.1 pounds) of corn cobs.

7. Any one who is not a producer himself or whose own crop is insufficient for his own house and farm use, may, if granted a purchasing license by the chief presiding judge, or, in towns, by the mayor, buy maize directly from producers until requisitioning begins or until October 31, 1917.

8. Maize can be received for milling only when accompanied by the usual official milling certificates.

9. For maize sold according to these regulations, the official maximum prices must not be exceeded. The maximum prices per 100 kilograms throughout the country are as follows:

Ordinary and mixed maize.

Time of delivery.	In the ear.		Shelled.	
	Price per 100 kilograms.	Price per bushel (70 pounds).	Price per 100 kilograms.	Price per bushel (56 pounds).
	<i>Crowns.</i>		<i>Crowns.</i>	
September-October, 1917.....	34.00	\$2.19	42.50	\$2.19
November, 1917.....	34.90	2.25	43.00	2.22
December, 1917.....	35.80	2.31	43.50	2.24
January, 1918.....	36.70	2.37	44.00	2.27
February, 1918.....	37.60	2.42	44.50	2.29
March, 1918.....	38.50	2.48	45.00	2.32
April, 1918.....	39.40	2.54	45.50	2.35
May, and after, 1918.....	40.30	2.60	46.00	2.37

Special maize (Sinquantin, Florentine, Putyi, and white round maize).

	<i>Crowns.</i>		<i>Crowns.</i>	
September-October, 1917.....	36.10	\$2.33	45.50	\$2.45
November, 1917.....	37.05	2.39	46.00	2.37
December, 1917.....	38.00	2.45	46.50	2.40
January, 1918.....	38.95	2.51	47.00	2.42
February, 1918.....	39.80	2.57	47.50	2.45
March, 1918.....	40.80	2.63	48.00	2.47
April, 1918.....	41.80	2.70	48.50	2.50
May, and after, 1918.....	42.80	2.76	49.00	2.53

For the requisitioned corn cobs the following prices per 100 kilograms [220.46 pounds] will be paid: January, 1918, 8 crowns [\$1.62]; February, 8.5 crowns [\$1.73]; March, 9 crowns [\$1.83]; April, 9.5 crowns [\$1.93]; May and after, 10 crowns [\$2.03.]

The above order applies to the whole country, and comes into force immediately.

USE OF GRAIN IN BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES AND FOR OTHER INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

The Neue Freie Presse¹ reports the publication by the Official Gazette of an order regulating the amounts of grain and flour to be

¹ Neue Freie Presse. Vienna, Sept. 25, 1917. Morning edition.

assigned from this year's crop to breweries, malt factories, distilleries, and other industrial concerns which treat grain and flour, in the fiscal year 1917-18. Breweries in Hungary may keep, or acquire, a total amount of 240,000 metric centners (26,455 short tons) of barley for brewing purposes. The quantity of malt to be used in breweries is settled by agreement between the minister of commerce and finance and the food minister. Independent malt factories (i. e., not forming part of a brewery) may keep or acquire a total amount of 160,000 metric centners (17,637 short tons) of barley. The distribution of the barley to the individual breweries and malt factories will be superintended by the Ministry of Public Works or by the Minister of Commerce on the basis of the malt extract contained in the beer of 1913-14 or of the malt produced during that year. An allowance of 10,000 metric centners (1,102 short tons) of rye and 200,000 metric centners (22,046 short tons) of barley will be made to the distilleries. Rye and barley will, however, be given only to those distilleries which produce corn-pressed yeast. Nonyeast-producing distilleries are allowed half the quantity of barley used by them in the year 1913-14. Distilleries founded later than 1913-14 may reserve or acquire 30 kilograms (66.14 pounds) of barley for each hectoliter (26.42 gallons) of alcohol, if they work with materials rich in starch; if with materials rich in sugar, a maximum of 15 kilograms (33.07 pounds) of barley per hectoliter of alcohol.

The quantity of spirit to be produced and the conditions of its production are settled by the food minister in agreement with the minister of finance. The internal revenue offices (*Finanzdirektionen*) are intrusted with the task of distributing the barley among the distilleries. The food minister will from time to time issue permits stating what quantities of barley may be used by the War Products Company for producing malt coffee, barley coffee, and surrogate coffee, and what may be used for pearl barley. Starch factories may procure 20,000 metric centners (2,204.6 short tons) of corn through the War Products Company, to be treated in accordance with the food minister's regulations. Biscuit and rusk factories may obtain permission from the food minister to procure flour through the War Products Company from time to time. The same applies to "Tarhonya" and flour-food factories. Bread factories, confectioners, hotels, and restaurants, and other concerns which use grain and flour will be supplied by the municipalities.

FLOUR AND BREAD RATIONS.

According to the *Neues Pester Journal*¹ the flour ration per person per diem for Budapest will be increased beginning with October 7,

¹ *Neues Pester Journal*. Budapest, Sept. 16, 1917.

1917, to 280 grams (9.9 ounces), an increase of about 80 grams (2.8 ounces). Heavy workers will receive special cards allowing them 500 grams (1.1 pounds) of flour or 700 grams (1.5 pounds) of bread. Special cards are also provided for regular night workers (in addition to their ordinary cards), entitling them to an additional allowance of 840 grams (1.9 pounds) of flour or 1,170 grams (2.6 pounds) of bread per week; and there are also special cards for pregnant and confined women and nursing mothers. The cards issued to prospective mothers authorize them to receive 20 per cent more than the normal ration of all foodstuffs, beginning with the sixth month of pregnancy and extending for two months after delivery, or six months if the mother nurses her child herself. Hotel day cards entitle to 350 grams (12.3 ounces) of bread.

It is now possible for those who hold the present flour cards (valid for 4 weeks) to draw the whole of their allowance for 4 weeks in one quantity, which eases the situation considerably. Flour cards will be distributed a week before they come into force, so that flour can be ordered in advance. Some restaurants have been using flour cards to get flour for cakes, etc. This practice will be stopped by the municipal food administration.

POTATOES.

An order providing for the taking over by the State of the whole potato crop is summarized by the *Neues Pester Journal*¹ as follows:

1. The whole potato crop of 1917 is taken over by the State. The producer must dig his potatoes at the right time, neither too soon nor too late.
2. The amount of potatoes which the producer may keep for home or farm use is determined by the food minister or, with the food minister's permission, by the first officer of the municipality. All potato fields are to be registered. Every owner of a *Katastraljoch* (one and two-fifths acres) of potato-sown ground must register the amount of potatoes grown and his home and farm needs, by September 1, 1917.
3. A nonproducer of potatoes may buy potatoes for domestic use (in accordance with the per capita quota prescribed by the food minister) in any commune upon license from the mayor.
4. The food minister may commandeer potatoes in excess of the domestic requirements of the producer. These potatoes are to be delivered to the State Potato Office. If the producer is not willing to give them gratis, a price 20 per cent below the maximum price will be paid.
5. The use of potatoes in factories, distilleries, etc., is allowed only on special permission of the food minister, who fixes maximum prices for products made from potatoes, with the exception of spirit and starch.
6. Certain classes of the population—widows, orphans, poor invalids, families in receipt of military pensions, charitable institutions, etc.—may obtain potatoes at reduced prices from the State Potato Office through the local authorities.

¹ *Neues Pester Journal*. Budapest, Sept. 11, 1917.

The State control of potatoes is being carried out vigorously in Hungary. A Budapest telegram to the *Neue Freie Presse*¹ says:

The food minister has addressed a circular to all municipalities requiring the chief officials to keep the interests of the country in mind when fixing the amount of potatoes which may be kept by producers for home and business needs. Producers are warned that they must voluntarily inform the authorities of their surplus and place it at the disposal of the State; otherwise it will be requisitioned. The information given by growers as to their surpluses must be strictly checked up.

The potato supply of Budapest seems to cause considerable discussion. In Hungary, as in Austria, a large section of the public desires the restoration of unrestricted trade in potatoes, a suggestion which is strenuously resisted by the State food authorities. The following official information, published by the *Neues Pester Journal*,² is of interest:

The Hungarian State Food Office has taken all possible measures to insure a supply of potatoes for the capital. Budapest will receive the portion of the potato crop allotted to it. In spite of this, however, the capital has several times expressed a wish for the right of direct purchase of potatoes. The capital refers, in support of this claim, to the system of last year, which was based upon direct purchase from the producers, who stored the potatoes during the winter and withdrew them from storage as needed. This system has been preserved in the last potato order, by the fixing of premiums for the storing of potatoes. No anxiety need be felt as to whether the Potato Company will have sufficient supplies at its disposal early next year. The State Food Office is quite resolved to insure the necessary quantities of potatoes for the capital as one of its primary duties. Consequently, it would not be of any use to arouse hopes (by means of communications to the press) in the breasts of producers that the capital, or any other place, will introduce a policy of private purchase of potatoes. Policies of this kind produce a competition which is not favorable to a continuous and systematic supply of the necessary potatoes. Whether the capital will get 15,000 wagonloads of potatoes, or, indeed, what quantity will be assigned to it, can not be settled yet. It is the business of the municipal authorities of Budapest to see that persons who have obtained permission for private purchase do not obtain supplies from official sources as well; and also that officials and workmen of the munitions industry, whose needs are being provided separately, do not get a double official supply—for otherwise 15,000 wagonloads would not suffice for Budapest. The State Food Office assumes complete responsibility for seeing that everyone who participates in the official supply receive a quota corresponding to this year's reduced crop.

It will be more easy to carry this through, inasmuch as the potato contracts, which the capital had concluded before the publication of the potato order, are to be respected, in the sense prescribed by this order.

To this may be added the following statement in the *Pester Lloyd*:³

Some newspapers have recently printed a report that the capital is now selling its last stores of potatoes. This is contradicted by the Hungarian State Food Office, which states that 121 truck loads of potatoes are on the way, most

¹ *Neue Freie Presse*. Vienna, Sept. 21, 1917. Evening edition.

² *Neues Pester Journal*. Budapest, Sept. 16, 1917.

³ *Pester Lloyd*. Budapest, Sept. 18, 1917. Morning edition.

of which will arrive during the course of this week. Further supplies can be considered as assured. The rumor alluded to is probably traceable to the fact that the unloading of potatoes from the trucks at the central market had to be suspended recently for a few days owing to the congestion caused thereby.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The supply of vegetables is not very good this year, according to the *Neues Pester Journal*.¹ Particularly are green vegetables and onions scarce, and measures must be taken to insure a better supply. It is impossible to say at present how much of the total available supply will be assigned to Budapest. Supplies in the Budapest fruit market are reported as abundant.

Maximum prices have been fixed for the Budapest markets not only for vegetables but also for fruit, except peaches, apricots, and grapes. The prices of vegetables in the first week of August were:

	Crowns per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
Potatoes	0. 60	5. 5
Cabbage.....	. 86	7. 9
Onions.....	1. 30	12. 0
Fresh beans.....	1. 20	11. 1
Tomatoes	1. 20	11. 1
Vegetable marrows.....	. 64	5. 9
Cucumbers .....	. 50	4. 6

SUGAR.

The supply will be less than last year. This is due partly to the scarcity of coal for the refineries, and partly to the inferiority of the beet crop.

MEAT, BUTTER, AND FATS.

*Az Est*² reports that owing to the extreme shortage of fodder it is proposed to put an end to meatless days in Hungary. It is stated that the natural consequence of this will be more meat on the market and a reduction in the price of that commodity. The paper adds that this agreeable news is somewhat counteracted by the report that owing to the great scarcity of fat two fatless days instead of one will have to be observed in future.

The municipality of Budapest had to close down its pig farm, owing to the shortage of fodder. The pigs are to be slaughtered in batches until October 15. From October 15 until the end of December the municipality will have only the fats assigned to it by the Food Office. During this period margarine will largely be brought

¹ *Neues Pester Journal*. Budapest, Sept. 16, 1917.

² *Az Est*. Budapest, Sept. 4, 1917.

into use instead of dripping. Henceforth butter will be sold only on the production of cards.¹

EGGS.

The supply of eggs is to be reorganized. An Egg Sale Office is to be instituted in order to keep a record of the egg situation. Controlled by the office, there will be an Egg Sale Company to distribute the eggs. The company henceforward will be the only legal wholesale buyer of eggs.²

MILK.

The milk supply of Budapest is small, amounting to only 120,000 liters (126,840 quarts) per day, which is nowhere near enough. In September last year the daily supply was 169,000 liters (178,633 quarts). To stimulate production, cards will be issued to dairymen for fodder for milch cows. The milk allowance for infants will be kept at the present level under all circumstances.³

REGULATION OF HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The Neues Pester Journal⁴ reports that in order to prevent proprietors of hotels, restaurants, cafés, etc., from fleecing the public by excessive charges, the prices of the obligatory menus will be officially fixed by the price-control commissions, on which the general public will be represented. The quantities of food to be supplied will be fixed at the same time. Hotels, restaurants, etc., will be supplied with their uncooked material directly by the State Food Office, so that the use of food in such eating places may be strictly controlled. The maximum prices of food and drink will be officially fixed on the basis of the maximum prices of the raw material.

MISCELLANEOUS RECENT FOOD ORDERS.

The Deutsches Volksblatt,⁵ under date of October 1, 1917, is informed by its Budapest correspondent that at the last council of ministers note was taken of the information supplied by the food minister, Count Hadik, with regard to the trade in live and dead game, and that prices were fixed. Consequently the export of game will be regulated by the Food Office on a uniform basis. The council also ratified the proposed reduction in meatless days and the increase in fatless days. Friday will be the only meatless day henceforward,

¹ Neues Pester Journal. Budapest, Sept. 16, 1917.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Deutsches Volksblatt. Vienna, Oct. 2, 1917. Morning edition.

and Friday, as well as Monday, will be a fatless day. For the sale of foreign cheese, as well as for shipment of milk products, transport certificates were made obligatory. The council also accepted a proposal of the food minister to prohibit the feeding of stock with milk. Changes were made in the ordinances relating to the transport of fruit and vegetables. Because of the gross abuses that have been prevalent recently in the transport of bacon, fat, and slaughtered pigs, transport certificates were declared obligatory for these articles also. Further, an order regulating the sale and fixing the price of malt coffee was agreed upon. After careful preparation and consideration an order relating to middlemen's activities was completed.

FOOD PRICES.

The Hungarian socialist paper *Nepszáva* states that according to the Labor Gazette of July, 1917, since July, 1914, food prices in England have risen as follows compared to the prices in Hungary:

PER CENT OF INCREASE IN PRICES OF SPECIFIED ARTICLES, JUNE, 1917, OVER JULY, 1914, IN ENGLAND AND IN HUNGARY.

Article.	Per cent of increase, June, 1917, over July, 1914.	
	In England.	In Hungary.
Beef, ribs.....	96	700
Bacon.....	76	350
Flour.....	109	64
Sugar.....	188	65
Milk.....	60	180
Butter.....	65	200
Eggs.....	95	200
Potatoes.....	144	115

According to the above figures the price of flour, sugar, and potatoes has risen more in England than in Hungary, whereas the increase in beef, bacon, milk, butter, and eggs has been incomparably greater in Hungary.

BULGARIA.

GENERAL FOOD SITUATION.

During the early summer of 1917 the Bulgarian public were regaled with official, semiofficial, and private reports of the excellent prospects for this year's harvest. Authoritative reports of a later date, however, put a very different complexion on the matter. On the whole, it appears that the cereal crops will not appreciably exceed those of last year (a poor harvest year) and that some of the less

important crops are poor, though others, like fruit, are good, or even excellent. There is a meat shortage, said, however, to be due to lack of transportation facilities rather than to a shortage of live stock (though the latter have decreased in number). Meat is now rationed in Bulgaria and the slaughtering of pigs has been forbidden up to December 10, 1917. Arrangements, which seem to be working very satisfactorily, have been made to increase the supply of fish. Special efforts are being made to increase the output of oils by extraction from seeds, fruit kernels, etc. The shortage in the salt supply has lately been remedied through heavy imports. A practicable scheme for requisitioning cereals and flour was introduced at the end of September and prices were fixed for the requisitioned goods. These prices are considerably higher than those fixed in the early part of the summer, probably owing to the inferior yield. The price of bread has been raised at Sofia, the capital, where milk and butter prices have also been fixed.

Bulgaria being a predominantly agricultural country, the food situation in the country at large is by no means acute. In the capital, however, where of late the population has increased considerably, the problem of equitable food distribution has been rendered more difficult, and persons who have no definite object there are called on to leave the city.

CONDITION OF THE HARVEST.

The *Echo de Bulgarie*¹ publishes the following report of the Central Meteorological Station at Sofia on the agricultural conditions prevailing during July, 1917:

The temperature was temperate, while the rainfall was 40 per cent under normal. There were a few violent storms which have caused some damage in a number of districts.

The harvesting has been completed successfully in the plains and is continuing in the mountain districts. The weather has been very favorable to the transport of the harvested grain and to the threshing operations, which are in full swing in most parts. Owing to the difficulties arising from the present situation it has been impossible to obtain precise information permitting an estimate of the harvest. If one may judge by the occasional reports, the autumn-sown crops are generally better than the spring sowings, both in quality and in quantity, and that, as a whole, the supply of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and lucerne actually in sheaves, is from a certain point of view less abundant than last year, but the grain is everywhere purer, heavier, and with more substance.

Maize is developing in very good condition generally, and along the lowlands and along streams it is in a very good, almost excellent state. Toward the end of the month the need of rain was everywhere felt, especially in the

¹ *Echo de Bulgarie*. Sofia, Aug. 24, 1917.

case of late-sown maize. This crop had even suffered from the drought in some places. Millet, especially late sown, is very sparse, and has not developed.

This year will not be noted by an abundance of beans, but it seems that they will be more abundant than last year. Potatoes are generally good. Early potatoes are small in size.

Rice fields have suffered hardly at all from drought and promise a very good crop. The conditions prevailing during the month were favorable to the sugar beets. The condition of vegetable gardens is everywhere satisfactory, and in some places excellent.

Vineyards have in some few cases suffered from hail and mildew. But generally the vines have not been affected, and promise a rich vintage. In the district of Negotin grapes began to ripen toward the middle of the month. Plum, apple, peach, and walnut trees have yielded fruit in plenty in most of the fruit-producing centers. Olive trees and fig trees also promise an equally rich yield.

The weather has favored haymaking. Hay is in general of a better quality, but less abundant than last year. Pasture for cattle, and especially for sheep, has been fairly abundant. Sheep have yielded milk in fairly large quantities. Among cattle diseases cowpox was the one most frequently met. Bees have not everywhere found sufficient food, and this has resulted in a diminution in the production of honey.

According to the Utro,¹ in addition to the rice fields a total area of 2,125 hectares (5,250.88 acres) has been irrigated this year in southern Bulgaria; 555 hectares (1,371.4 acres) were sown with vegetables, 1,050 hectares (2,594.6 acres) with tobacco and fodder, and 520 hectares (1,284.9 acres) with beans. The state of all these crops is described as excellent.

GRAIN AND FLOUR.

The Mir² reports that the transport of cereals, flour, and bran has been prohibited. Carts and horses employed for such transport will be requisitioned and their owners prosecuted.

The same paper reports under date of October 10, that the following instructions have been issued by the Food Bureau for the requisitioning of cereals, flour, etc.:

The surplus from every agricultural establishment is to be requisitioned. From this surplus the requisite amount of food for the village in which the farms are situated is to be provided. From the surplus then remaining the food supply of the municipality and then of the district is to be secured. What remains above the requirements of each district will be used in supplying the Department and the population of other Departments which have a shortage.

The following prices were fixed for requisitioned cereals and flour:

¹Utro. Sofia, Aug. 16, 1917.

²Mir. Sofia, Sept. 28, 1917.

	Francs per 100 kilograms.	Per bushel.
Wheat, containing not more than 2 per cent of impurities and weighing 78 kilograms per hectoliter (60.6 pounds per bushel)---	50	\$2. 63
Rye, containing not more than 2 per cent of impurities and weighing 70 kilograms per hectoliter (54.5 pounds per bushel)--	40	1. 96
Barley-----	40	1. 68
Oats-----	38	1. 06
Millet-----	35	1. 53
Maize (shelled)-----	35	1. 72
Bran -----	25	. 44
		Per 100 pounds.
Corn cockle-----	15	\$1. 32
		Per pound (cents).
Flour, wheat-----	60	5. 3
Flour, rye-----	51	4. 5
Flour, maize-----	41	3. 6
Flour, barley-----	55	4. 8
Flour, millet-----	47	4. 1

The above prices are for delivery at the villages. All cereals requisitioned since June 10, 1917, will be paid for at the above prices, which represent a marked increase over prices formerly fixed, amounting in some cases to 25 per cent.

The retail price of the best quality of flour has been fixed at 1.50 francs per kilogram (13.2 cents per pound).¹

FODDER RATIONS.

For the live stock of individual farmers, carriers, and industrial establishments the following rations have been fixed:²

For each horse, per day, 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of bran, or, in the last resource, grain fodder, and 4 kilograms (8.8 pounds) of hay or straw.

For horned cattle, per head per day, 2 kilograms of bran, or, in the last resource, grain fodder, and 6 kilograms (13.2 pounds) of hay or straw.

These rations of bran and grain fodder do not refer to cattle on dairy farms or in cattle-breeding establishments, to which 900 kilograms (1,984 pounds) of bran or grain fodder will be allotted per head per year.

BREAD.

Regarding the inferior quality of bread during the first half of 1917 the Narodni Prava³ published the following notification:

¹ Utro. Sofia, Aug. 24, 1917.

² Idem. July 28, 1917.

³ Narodni Prava. Sofia, July 20, 1917.

Complaints arising from the poor quality of bread have lately increased. The Food Bureau is thus obliged once more to declare that the causes can be removed only when the new crop becomes available. The quality of the bread will be improved as soon as the threshing begins. The Food Bureau is taking every possible measure to insure bread of good quality, both to the army and to the civil population, and in sufficient quantity for the whole of the coming year.

The *Echo de Bulgarie*¹ announces that from August 1, 1917, uniform bread will be prepared in Bulgaria. The flour used will contain 80 per cent of wheat and 20 per cent of maize. Bread will be made in loaves of 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) each. The daily bread ration will be 500 grams (1.1 pounds). Heavy workers will receive a ration of 800 grams (1.8 pounds). Families desiring to bake their own bread will receive flour from the regional committees. The amount of flour allotted may, however, not exceed a family's requirements for 3 months. For the present only wheat flour will be provided to families, the regional committees not having maize flour at their disposal.

According to the *Utro*,² experiments have been carried on by mixing wheat flour with millet for bread making. Very good results were obtained, the bread becoming sweeter and more palatable.

Under date of October 13, 1917, the *Mir*³ stated that from October 14 the price of bread was to be increased from 60 to 70 centimes per kilogram (5.3 to 6.1 cents per pound).

LIVE STOCK AND MEAT.

According to the *Balkanska Posta*⁴ the Bulgarian minister of agriculture declared that the number of domestic animals had decreased during the War but that a sufficient meat supply was nevertheless assured. There are 8,000,000 sheep in the country, giving 5,000,000 lambs a year. Reckoning the average weight of a lamb at 12 kilograms (26.5 pounds) this would yield 60,000,000 kilograms (66,138 short tons) of meat for consumption. He stated that the present lack of meat was due to the bad transport conditions brought about by shortage of labor.

The *Mir*⁵ announced the following retail prices for the sale of lamb meat in Sofia, to come into force beginning with August 2, 1917: Lamb or kid, 3.30 francs per kilogram (28.9 cents per pound); head of lamb or kid, 1 franc (19.3 cents) each; liver of lamb or kid, 2 francs (38.6 cents) each.

¹ *Echo de Bulgarie*. Sofia, Aug. 1, 1917.

⁴ *Balkanska Posta*. July 17, 1917.

² *Utro*. Sofia, July 21, 1917.

⁵ *Mir*. Sofia, July 21, 1917.

³ *Mir*. Sofia, Oct. 13, 1917.

On August 22, 1917, the *Echo de Bulgarie*¹ announced that no meat would be sold until August 28 (Assumption Day).

The *Narodni Prava*,² under date of September 6, announced prohibition of the slaughter of pigs up to December 10, 1917. According to the same paper the weekly meat ration per person in Sofia has been fixed at 200 grams (0.44 pound), distributed every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday after September 9. In case the available supply of meat is not sufficient for all, those who do not receive their ration will be the first to be supplied on the following meat day. Every person may receive his weekly ration of meat at a single time. The consumption of fowls and game is permitted on meatless days.

FISH.

With respect to the supply of fish the *Utro*³ writes that there is great abundance of fish this year in the Danube marshes, in the Lower Maritza, and the Aegean Sea. Instructions have been given to increase the catch as much as possible. The fish caught in the Danube and its marshes have been apportioned to the various towns in Bulgaria. Sofia is being supplied from the Sistova and Bela marshes. The fish from the Maritza are being distributed among the towns of southern Bulgaria. The Black Sea fish may be sent freely to any part of the country after 30 per cent of the catch has been kept for local consumption at Varna and Burgas.

Between the establishment of the Food Bureau and the end of August, 1917, 765,478 kilograms (843.8 short tons) of fish were caught. Of this quantity, 538,105 kilograms (593.2 short tons) were consumed by the populace throughout the country, and 227,373 kilograms (250.6 short tons) were distributed to the military in the rear, while the armies at the front were supplied from the Dobrudja marshes, the Aegean coast, and the Macedonian lakes.⁴

Owing to the measures lately decreed, writes the *Mir*,⁵ 12,000 kilograms (13.2 short tons) of fish are taken daily in the Maritza. According to the *Echo de Bulgarie*,⁶ the Food Bureau has decided that henceforth a truckload of fish shall be daily forwarded to Sofia.

MILK AND BUTTER.

The *Mir*⁷ announces under date of October 10, 1917, that the Sofia District Committee has fixed the following prices for milk and butter.

¹ *Echo de Bulgarie*. Sofia, Aug. 22, 1917.

⁵ *Idem*. Sept. 25, 1917.

² *Narodni Prava*. Sofia, Sept. 6, 1917.

⁶ *Echo de Bulgarie*. Sofia, Aug. 27, 1917.

³ *Utro*. Sofia, Sept. 9, 1917.

⁷ *Mir*. Sofia, Oct. 10, 1917.

⁴ *Mir*. Sofia, Sept. 21, 1917.

	Francs per liter.	Per quart.
Fresh milk, delivered within the town.....	1. 10	\$0. 20
Fresh milk, delivered outside the town.....	. 90	. 17
Fresh milk, delivered outside the town in quantities above 5 liters.....	. 80	. 15
Boiled milk, at the milk shops.....	1. 30	. 24
Curdled milk.....	1. 50	. 27
	Per kilo- gram.	Per pound.
Butter, within the town.....	12. 00	1. 05
Butter, outside the town.....	10. 00	. 88
Butter, melted.....	15. 00	1. 32
Butter, centrifugal.....	18. 00	1. 57

The above prices of butter are for butter made from sheep's, cow's, or buffalo's milk. The milk will be collected by the district committee and handed over, for distribution in special receptacles, to cooperative societies or to a contractor. It will be sold only to the sick and to children.

OILS.

In order to alleviate the great scarcity of oils in the country the Food Bureau has issued instructions for supplying farmers with the seeds of oleaginous plants. It has been decided to devote greater areas to the cultivation of these plants.¹

The Food Bureau has also instructed the district committees to buy kernels and seeds at the following prices:

	Francs per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
Stones of plums and peaches.....	0. 20	1. 8
Stones of apricots.....	. 25	2. 2
Kernels of plums, peaches, and apricots.....	1. 80	15. 7
Seeds of melons and watermelons.....	1. 00	8. 8
Seeds of vegetable marrows.....	1. 20	10. 5
Beechnuts.....	. 50	4. 4

They will be bought in quantities of not less than 100 kilograms (220.46 pounds) in the case of stones and kernels, 500 kilograms (1,102.3 pounds) in the case of seeds, and 1,000 kilograms (2,204.6 pounds) in the case of beechnuts. The export of the above is prohibited and nobody is allowed to utilize them for the extraction of oils without the permission of the Food Bureau.²

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

The Mir³ gives the following information as to the vegetable supply of Sofia during the summer of 1917:

¹ Mir. Sofia, Sept. 19, 1917. ² Idem. Sept. 13, 1917. ³ Idem. July 19, 1917.

During 1916, from June 15 to July 19, the total quantity of vegetables received amounted to 144,584 kilograms (159.4 short tons), while for the same period of 1917 the Union of Cooperative Societies imported 563,000 kilograms (620.6 short tons). If a greater scarcity of vegetables is at present felt, this is due to the greater number of meatless days and to the lack of other foodstuffs. It has been arranged that 10 to 12 truckloads of vegetables and fruit shall arrive daily at Sofia.

As many committees and municipalities have approached the Food Bureau with requests for leave to prohibit the export of vegetables and fruit from their districts, and as some have already taken this step on their own initiative, several large consuming centers have been without vegetables. The Food Bureau has therefore decreed that henceforth no such obstacles are to be placed in the way of export.¹

The Utro² announces that the military agricultural authorities report the condition of the potatoes throughout the country as excellent. In order that the satisfactory condition might be maintained, the owners were recommended to sprinkle the plants with a solution containing 1 per cent of copper sulphate.

Vegetable-preserving factories are to be opened in all of the most important centers. They will be placed under the management of experts.³

The drying of prunes for commercial purposes is permitted only when authorized and controlled by the Food Bureau. Persons having drying apparatus for this purpose were obliged to notify the Food Bureau by August 15. Whoever desires to carry out the drying of prunes for trading purposes must undertake to deliver the whole output of dried prunes to the Food Bureau. The price of plums has been fixed at 0.5 franc per kilogram (4.4 cents per pound) and of prunes at 2.5 francs (21.9 cents per pound). The prewar retail prices in Sofia were 0.15 to 0.2 (1.3 to 1.8 cents per pound) and 1 franc (8.8 cents per pound), respectively.⁴

The Mir⁵ on September 21, 1917, notes the following prices of vegetables ruling in Sofia:

	Francs per bunch.	Cents per bunch.
Garlic.....	1. 00	19. 3
Parsley.....	. 07	1. 4
	Per kilogram.	Per pound.
Tomatoes, red.....	0. 70	6. 2
Tomatoes, green.....	. 30	2. 6
Tomatoes, yellow.....	. 70	6. 2
French beans.....	1. 00	8. 8

¹ Utro. Sofia, July 10, 1917.

⁴ Mir. Sofia, July 27, 1917.

² Idem. July 14, 1917.

⁵ Idem. Sept. 21, 1917.

³ Idem. July 11, 1917.

	Per kilogram.	Per pound.
Potatoes, yellow -----	0. 70	6. 2
Papricash -----	. 80	7. 0
Eggplant -----	. 70	6. 2
Peas -----	1. 50	13. 2
Cauliflower -----	. 80	7. 0
Cabbage -----	. 25	2. 2

Beans, pulse, corn cockle, and peas have been placed under an embargo, and will be requisitioned wherever found.¹

The yield of the fruit orchards in the Kustendil district is very abundant. Such a plentiful harvest, especially of plums, is not remembered in 50 years. Transport of fruit by rail has been allowed.²

The prices of fruit in Sofia in September, writes the Mir,³ were as follows:

	Francs per kilogram.	Cents per pound.
Apples, first quality -----	1. 10	9. 6
Apples, second quality -----	. 80	7. 0
Large pears -----	1. 10	9. 6
Common pears -----	. 80	7. 0
Peaches -----	1. 00	8. 8
Grapes -----	2. 20	19. 3
Green walnuts -----	2. 40	21. 0

SUGAR.

The Utro reported under date of August 1, 1917, that the Sofia District Committee would distribute during the current week sugar at the rate of 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) per person in exchange for the July sugar ticket. According to the Narodni Prava⁴ a like ration was distributed in September against the August sugar card.

SALT.

In July, 1917, the Union of Cooperative Societies received a consignment of salt, amounting to 1,000,000 kilograms (1,102.3 short tons), in two barges. This salt has been distributed to the agricultural cooperative societies. Further large consignments were expected by the union.⁵

The following quantities of salt are now permitted to be given to draft cattle or cattle kept for breeding: 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) per head of horned cattle in 3 months; 200 grams (7.1 ounces) per head of sheep, etc., in 3 months.⁶

¹ Mir. Sofia, Sept. 24, 1917.

² Idem. Sept. 25, 1917.

³ Idem. Sept. 19, 1917.

⁴ Narodni Prava. Sofia, Sept. 11, 1917.

⁵ Mir. Sofia, July 21, 1917.

⁶ Utro. Sofia, July 10, 1917.

The Dnevnik¹ announces that all salt is to be requisitioned. Salt imported from abroad will be acquired by the State at the price of 40 to 50 francs per 100 kilograms (3.5 to 4.4 cents per pound), delivered on the banks of the Danube or on railway tracks at Sofia. Salt produced locally will be paid for at the rate of 15.50 francs (1.4 cents per pound) at the brine works, free of excise and other duties. The distribution of salt will be carried out by means of cards or by family lists.

The Bulgarian military authorities in Bucharest are exerting themselves to their utmost in supplying Bulgaria with salt. According to information received by the Utro,² 8,000,000 kilograms (8,818.4 short tons) of salt are being imported monthly into Bulgaria.

MISCELLANEOUS FOODSTUFFS.

In July the Food Bureau issued an order bidding all persons who have in their possession coffee in quantities exceeding 10 kilograms (22 pounds) to declare it within 10 days.³

Under date of August 9, 1917, the Dnevnik⁴ announced that the statutory price of curds was fixed at 1.50 francs per kilogram (13.2 cents per pound),⁴ and that of vinegar at 1.40 francs per kilogram (12.3 cents per pound)⁵ wholesale and 1.70 francs (31 cents per quart) retail.

USE OF WAR PRISONERS AND COMPULSORY LABOR ON THE LAND.

According to the Mir⁶ the following instructions have been issued to the military agricultural authorities by the Food Bureau:

Farmers must declare what amount of land they intend cultivating. If from these returns it becomes evident that some land will lie fallow, the village mayors should draw up a list of such parcels of land, and the military agricultural authorities should organize the sowing of these lands. Every effort should be made to cultivate an area not less than the average during normal years. To this purpose the military agricultural authorities should make use of all available labor, cattle, machinery, etc. In mountainous regions, also in villages where refugees have been settled, every inhabitant must sow at least 1/20 hectare (0.124 acre) of potatoes or other vegetables. School pupils must also be encouraged to cultivate land.

The Mir⁷ also announced that the provident Committee was taking steps to carry out autumn sowing with the help of war prisoners. The cultivation of larger areas is aimed at.

¹ Dnevnik. Sofia, July 30, 1917.

² Utro. Sofia, Sept. 13, 1917.

³ Mir. Sofia, July 19, 1917.

⁴ Dnevnik. Sofia, Aug. 9, 1917.

⁵ In Bulgaria these commodities are sold by weight.

⁶ Mir. Sofia, Sept. 14, 1917.

⁷ Idem. Sept. 10, 1917.

FOOD PRICES.

The rise of food prices during the War is illustrated by the following list, published by the *Mir*,¹ of prices ruling during March, 1913 and 1917. The retail prices per kilogram are as follows:

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES MARCH, 1913, AND LOWEST AND HIGHEST RETAIL PRICES MARCH, 1917, IN SOFIA, BULGARIA.

Article.	Average retail prices March, 1913—		Retail prices March, 1917			
			Lowest.		Highest.	
	Per kilogram.	Per pound.	Per kilogram.	Per pound.	Per kilogram.	Per pound.
	<i>Francs.</i>		<i>Francs.</i>		<i>Francs.</i>	
Beans.....	0.35	\$0.031	0.90	\$0.079	1.90	\$0.167
Rice.....	.63	.055	2.50	.219	2.50	.219
Bread (black).....	.24	.021	.45	.039	1.00	.088
Meat.....	1.05	.092	1.50	.132	4.50	.394
Fresh milk.....	.39	.034	.60	.053	2.00	.175
Butter.....	2.71	.237	8.00	.699	12.00	1.050
Cheese.....	1.37	.120	1.50	.132	6.00	.526
Sugar.....	1.26	.110	2.10	.184	15.00	1.320
Coffee.....	3.50	.307	25.00	2.190	38.00	3.333
Salt.....	.25	.022	.45	.039	4.80	.420
Olive oil.....	2.27	.199	24.00	2.100	28.00	2.450
Petroleum.....	.50	.044	1.25	.109	3.00	.263
Soap.....	1.13	.099	4.00	.350	8.00	.693

TURKEY.

GENERAL FOOD SITUATION.

As it is extremely difficult to obtain Turkish newspapers, only fragmentary news items can be given here with respect to food control and the food situation in Turkey. Most of the available news relates to the harvest, which on the whole seems to have been very good. A considerable increase of the area under cultivation is also reported. As a consequence of the good harvest it is expected that the bread ration will be increased. The organization of the food administration in Turkey appears to be very defective and to be working without any system based on statistical data. If reports to citizens of neutral countries who formerly resided in Constantinople and lately left that city are to be credited, the great masses of the population are actually starving. Unrestricted profiteering and the great scarcity of food have driven food prices to prohibitive heights. Lack of organization, of distribution, and of price fixing for available supplies seems to be the principal cause of the food situation in Turkey.

¹ *Mir*. Sofia, Sept. 19, 1917.

A NEUTRAL ACCOUNT OF CONDITIONS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The *Messenger d'Athènes*¹ publishes the following account of the situation in Constantinople, obtained from a member of a neutral family recently arrived in Switzerland:

We left Constantinople because it was absolutely impossible for us to live there any longer. You know how difficult it is to procure certain necessaries even in Vienna and Budapest; but we felt a sense of relief when we passed from Turkey into Austria. Austria lacks many things, but Turkey lacks everything. When it is reported that the Viennese are dying of hunger, it may be taken as a form of speech, but in Constantinople this is literally true.

The food-card system has produced the most pitiable results. How can the population be rationed when there is no census? How can a Turkish functionary be induced to keep his books in order and remain incorruptible? Besides, the Government depots are for the greater part of the time empty, though speculators are piling up foodstuffs which frequently find their way to Germany. The word 'baksheesh' (graft) has become more than ever the essential word in Turkish.

For many weeks bread in Constantinople smelled of petroleum. But to people dying from hunger nothing is uneatable. Meat, even horse meat and goat meat, is a luxury reserved for the rich. As for the Bosphorus fisheries, they were abandoned a long time ago, owing to the danger from mines and to the fact that all kinds of boats have been requisitioned. To a real Turk black coffee is as necessary as bread and meat. But a kilogram of sugar costs 14 francs [\$1.23 per pound] and coffee 15 francs [\$1.32 per pound]. Last July thousands of Turkish women pillaged the shops of Galata and Pera. In consequence of this the Turkish Government requisitioned from merchants rice, potatoes, and sugar, and offered these articles for sale at prewar prices, but only to Turkish women. This period of plenty lasted a fortnight, and the Turkish women were somewhat calmed; as for the non-Mussulmans, they continued tightening their belts.

CONDITIONS IN SMYRNA.

The *Patris*² reported that "the inhabitants of Smyrna are destitute. Both Greeks and Turks are suffering from hunger, and pray for foreign intervention. The present harvest was abundant, but has disappeared, the Germans having probably requisitioned it."

THE DISTRESS IN PALESTINE.

The following account of the conditions prevailing in Palestine before its occupation by the British forces, particularly as regards food, is taken from Palestine,³ and seems to be derived from first-hand sources:

From time to time general descriptions of the distress in Palestine have reached the West. We are enabled this week to give some more precise and

¹ *Messenger d'Athènes*. Athens, July 25, 1917.

² *Patris*. [Place of publication not known.] July 21, 1917.

³ *Palestine*. Sept. 8, 1917, p. 54.

authentic account of the terrible condition of affairs there. The Hebrew teachers in Palestine have addressed to the heads of the Zionist movement a letter in which they set out their own melancholy state. Paper money, they point out, has fallen in Palestine to one-fourth its nominal gold value, and the prices of commodities have risen out of all proportion even to the depreciation of paper money.

A price list given in connection with the article shows that bread costs eleven times as much as before the War, sesame oil more than thirteen times as much, coal nearly eight times as much, petroleum thirty times as much, salt eight times as much, lentils and tea fifteen times as much, wood nearly six times as much, and milk five times as much.

The teachers give some typical family budgets of their colleagues. One reveals a minimum monthly expenditure of 268 francs [\$51.72] against a salary of 120 francs [\$23.16], another of 430 francs [\$82.99] against 175 francs [\$33.78], a third of 823 francs [\$158.84] against 300 francs [\$57.90]. Perhaps the most severely felt calamity is the elevenfold increase in the price of bread, because in Palestine substitutes for bread are exceedingly difficult to get. There are teachers whose whole salary can provide only dry bread for their family.

A report from Jerusalem, dated end of June, supplements this account of the teachers. The writer says:

"This last year has caused enormous changes in Jerusalem, unfortunately all for the worse. You miss half your friends; they are all either dead or gone. Those who remain are depressed and exhausted by their sufferings. The money evil has become intolerable. In Constantinople paper money circulates freely; here you must pay in coin or fourfold the price in paper. The misery of the poor is unspeakable. The roads are lined with starving persons, who lie about begging for a mouthful of bread. The poor Jews sell all their belongings—clothes, linen, bedcovers—to the soldiers to get a few metalliks¹ for food. Epidemics have somewhat abated, and the spotted typhus is less severe. But most of the patients die, because, owing to the lack of nourishment, they can not resist disease.

"Early this year the Turkish authorities founded a wheat syndicate at Jerusalem, with the object of steadying prices and insuring supplies. It worked very well, especially from the point of view of the poor. It has now been suspended and replaced by a Government commission. The change is very much for the worse. The commission is charged with providing wheat for public institutions, as well as for the poor, but it has not the privileges of the syndicate. It must pay in gold and can sell only for gold. The buyers must get gold and this will further depreciate the value of paper money. The Government has agreed to allow every civilian 10 ounces of wheat a day; but the commission has for transport purposes only 500 donkeys, and these can not carry rations for more than a small part of the Jerusalem population. Occasionally the commission has the use of a few motors, but this is very rare."

The head master of the Hebrew Boys' School thus reports as to conditions in the institution:

"Our pupils belong to the poorest of the poor. Among 200 there are 51 orphans. The parents have died during this dreadful time. The children are

¹ The value of a metallik varies from 1 to 2 cents in United States money.

in rags beyond description, and it is impossible to provide them with clothes. They are fortunate that the school provides them with dinner, even though it be only thin soup and a piece of bread. In a great many cases that is the only food they get during the day. Often I have seen the children drink the soup but put the bread into their pockets to take home for brothers or sisters who have not even so much food as they."

THE HARVEST.

On the subject of the cultivated area in Turkey the *Wirtschaftszeitung der Zentralmächte* of September 7 states:

Thanks to the solicitude of the responsible authorities the area in cultivation of the Turkish Empire has grown annually larger in spite of the War. In the past year the cultivated area amounted to 25,000,000 deunums,¹ while this year it amounts to 30,000,000. There can be no doubt that the cultivated area will shortly be 60,000,000 deunums again, the figure at which it stood before the Balkan War. The minister of agriculture is making extensive preparations for planting large areas with rape.

Several of the harvest reports in the press (chiefly those of a general character) are extremely favorable. Thus a leading article in the *Tasvir-i-Efkiair*² says that the harvest is a rich one, and that there is no longer any fear of famine this year, and concludes by saying that if the Government solves the seed problem more than 50,000,000 deunums (about 12,500,000 acres) can be cultivated next year.

On the other hand the *Tanin*³ gives the following reports for individual districts, some of which are by no means cheering:

Djanik.—Maize is satisfactory, but wheat and oats less so.

Adana.—On account of the drought it is believed that the cereal crop will be 10 per cent below that of last year, but 30 per cent more land has been cultivated than last year.

Beirut.—Drought, but summer cultivation good.

Mosul.—The harvesting began in the first week of April. It is pretty good in some districts, but in the neighborhood of Charnak, the locusts having destroyed the crops, the fields have had to be cultivated afresh. At Sertchenar and Sourtach the locusts have destroyed 59 and 70 per cent respectively of the crops. This pest is spreading to other districts.

Zor.—Harvesting began on June 15. Wheat and barley show an increase in production of 40 per cent compared with last year. But the winter production shows a diminution of 493 Bekré [about 2,465 acres] compared with last year. Steps are being taken to remedy this.

Three other reports, given by the *Tasvir-i-Efkiair*, stated that in all of the three important grain producing districts of Adrianople, Braus, and Konieh, there had been adequate rainfall and that the crops were in good condition.

¹ 1 deunum equivalent to slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

² *Tasvir-i-Efkiair*. Constantinople, July 10, 1917.

³ *Tanin*. Constantinople, Aug. 8, 1917.

The Hilal¹ hears from Castamonnî that it was hoped to obtain an average of 150 kilograms [330.7 pounds] of cereals from each deunum ($\frac{1}{4}$ acre) cultivated.

The questions of labor and machinery have attracted a good deal of attention. As regards the former the Tasvir-i-Efkîar² stated that the execution of the decision to enroll men from 45 to 60 years of age for training for military service had been postponed by the Council of Ministers. The Ministry of Agriculture telegraphed to the Provinces that the men in question were to be employed in harvesting work.

Le Soir³ learned from Eski Chelir that the Agricultural Commission decided to employ all merchants and artisans in the city to bring in the harvest, which was expected to be very abundant this year. They were to receive wages of 15 piasters (66 cents) a day. Five hundred men had already been sent, under these terms, to the fields. Persons unwilling to go were obliged to find a substitute.

As regards the second problem, that of machinery, the Tasvir-i-Efkîar⁴ stated that the price of farming implements was beyond the reach of the farmers, and that the approach of the harvest was drawing the attention of the Government to the necessity of remedying this state of affairs. Over a month later Le Soir⁵ stated that 24 machines for cleaning grain and other machines had arrived in Konieh. To superintend the operation of these machines four students of the School of Arts and Crafts in Constantinople, at 50 piasters (\$2.20) a day, as well as four Hungarian experts at 50 francs (\$9.65) a day, have been sent to Konieh. Twenty-eight students from the Halki Agricultural School have gone to direct the operation of the reaping and binding machines.

INCREASED BREAD RATION.

The Tasvir-i-Efkîar⁶ expects that, on account of the relatively large area (11 million acres) under cultivation since the War, the especially good yield of grain this year would permit an increase from one-quarter to one-half an oka (0.7 to 1.4 pounds) in the portion of bread given on each bread card. Further, the quality would be much better. The farmers will be allowed to retain one-tenth of the yield. Efforts are to be made to sow 15 million acres next year.

In Damascus the Supply Service issued an order that, beginning August 15, 1917, the daily ration of bread would be 1 oka (2.8

¹ Hilal. Constantinople, July 8, 1917.

² Tasvir-i-Efkîar. Constantinople, July 7, 1917.

³ Le Soir. Constantinople, Aug. 15, 1917.

⁴ Tasvir-i-Efkîar. Constantinople, July 12, 1917.

⁵ Le Soir. Constantinople, Aug. 17, 1917.

⁶ No date given.

pounds) and one ratal (2 okas) will be sold at 16 piasters (70 cents) paper money.¹

PRICES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Tasvir-i-Efkiah, under date of July 17, reports the following wholesale prices for vegetables at Constantinople:

AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICES IN CONSTANTINOPLE, JULY, 1913, AND JULY, 1917.

Article.	Average price, July, 1913.		Average price, July, 1917.			
	Per oka. ¹	Per pound.	First quality.		Second quality.	
			Per oka. ¹	Per pound.	Per oka. ¹	Per pound.
	Paras.	Cents.	Piasters.	Cents.	Piasters.	Cents.
Pumpkins.....	20	0.8	8	12.4	.....	.....
Beans.....	20	.8	14	21.8	13	20.2
Tomatoes.....	10	.4	20	31.1	18	28.0
Onions.....	15	.6	6	9.4	5	7.8
Cucumbers.....	² 5	² 2	² 3	² 4.7	² 2	² 3.1
Eggplant.....	² 10	² 4	² 3	² 4.7	.....	.....

¹ 2.83 pounds.

² Each.

Retail prices were 20 per cent higher than in July, 1913. On August 19 the same paper reports that vegetables had decreased in price but were still very dear.

According to the Utro¹ the following retail prices were ruling in Constantinople on September 12, 1917:

	Piasters per oka.	Per pound.
Bread.....	2	\$0.03
Beef.....	20	.31
Mutton.....	30	.47
Lamb.....	25	.39
Butter.....	135 to 150	\$2.10 to 2.33
Butter (from cows' or buffaloes' milk).....	125 to 140	1.94 to 2.18
Raisins, black.....	22 to 23	.34 to .36
Wheat.....	² 26 to 27	.40 to .42
Maize.....	18½	.29
Barley.....	¹ 13 to 14	.20 to .22

BEEF PRICE IN SMYRNA.

The price of beef was fixed at 17 piasters an oka (26.4 cents per pound) by the municipality of Smyrna beginning July 3.⁴

¹ Ark-Sharq. Aug. 8, 1917.

² Utro. Sofia, Sept. 12, 1917.

³ According to quantity.

⁴ Ikdam. July 7, 1917.

FOOD SPECULATION.

The *Tasvir-i-Efkari*,¹ in a leading article, demanded energetic steps against speculation in the principal foodstuffs. It complained that owing to speculation, olive oil, which was sold at 60 piasters per liter (\$2.48 per quart) a month before, was then sold at 100 piasters (\$4.14 per quart) and that "Cachar cheese had otherwise risen from 60 to 100 piasters per oka." At the beginning of the war this cheese cost from 6 to 8 piasters per oka (9.2 to 12.4 cents per pound). In a former issue (July 14) the same paper complained that white haricot beans had risen in price from 2 piasters per oka (3.1 cents per pound) to from 45 to 50 piasters the oka (70 to 77.7 cents per pound).

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD TO OFFICIALS.

Press reports give the impression that Government officials are favored in Turkey in the distribution of food supplies. *Le Soir*,² for instance, stated that a certain number of loaves of bread were to be distributed to all officials in the capital and in the Provinces, and that other food would also be distributed as required. Another paper reported that many provisions, including tea, had been distributed to functionaries of the Grand Vizirate, the Sheik-ul-Islamate, and the various ministries.

¹ *Tasvir-i-Efkari*. Constantinople, July 28, 1917.

² *Le Soir*. Constantinople, Aug. 17, 1917.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

[The publication of the annual and special reports and of the bimonthly bulletin was discontinued in July, 1912, and since that time a bulletin has been published at irregular intervals. Each number contains matter devoted to one of a series of general subjects. These bulletins are numbered consecutively beginning with No. 101, and up to No. 237 they also carry consecutive numbers under each series. Beginning with No. 237 the serial numbering has been discontinued. A list of the series is given below. Under each is grouped all the bulletins which contain material relating to the subject matter of that series. A list of the reports and bulletins of the bureau issued prior to July 1, 1912, will be furnished on application.]

Wholesale Prices.

- Bul. 114. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1912.
- Bul. 149. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1913.
- Bul. 173. Index numbers of wholesale prices in the United States and foreign countries.
- Bul. 181. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1914.
- Bul. 200. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1915.
- Bul. 226. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1916.

Retail Prices and Cost of Living.

- Bul. 105. Retail prices, 1890 to 1911: Part I.
Retail prices, 1890 to 1911: Part II—General tables.
- Bul. 106. Retail prices, 1890 to June, 1912: Part I.
Retail prices, 1890 to June, 1912: Part II—General tables.
- Bul. 108. Retail prices, 1890 to August, 1912.
- Bul. 110. Retail prices, 1890 to October, 1912.
- Bul. 113. Retail prices, 1890 to December, 1912.
- Bul. 115. Retail prices, 1890 to February, 1913.
- Bul. 121. Sugar prices, from refiner to consumer.
- Bul. 125. Retail prices, 1890 to April, 1913.
- Bul. 130. Wheat and flour prices, from farmer to consumer.
- Bul. 132. Retail prices, 1890 to June, 1913.
- Bul. 136. Retail prices, 1890 to August, 1913.
- Bul. 138. Retail prices, 1890 to October, 1913.
- Bul. 140. Retail prices, 1890 to December, 1913.
- Bul. 156. Retail prices, 1907 to December, 1914.
- Bul. 164. Butter prices, from producer to consumer.
- Bul. 170. Foreign food prices as affected by the War.
- Bul. 184. Retail prices, 1907 to June, 1915.
- Bul. 197. Retail prices, 1907 to December, 1915.
- Bul. 228. Retail prices, 1907 to December, 1916.

Wages and Hours of Labor.

- Bul. 116. Hours, earnings, and duration of employment of wage-earning women in selected industries in the District of Columbia.
- Bul. 118. Ten-hour maximum working day for women and young persons.
- Bul. 119. Working hours of women in the pea canneries of Wisconsin.
- Bul. 128. Wages and hours of labor in the cotton, woolen, and silk industries, 1890 to 1912.
- Bul. 129. Wages and hours of labor in the lumber, millwork, and furniture industries, 1890 to 1912.
- Bul. 131. Union scale of wages and hours of labor, 1907 to 1912.
- Bul. 134. Wages and hours of labor in the boot and shoe and hosiery and knit goods industries, 1890 to 1912.

Wages and Hours of Labor—Concluded.

- Bul. 135. Wages and hours of labor in the cigar and clothing industries, 1911 and 1912.
- Bul. 137. Wages and hours of labor in the building and repairing of steam railroad cars, 1890 to 1912.
- Bul. 143. Union scale of wages and hours of labor, May 15, 1913.
- Bul. 146. Wages and regularity of employment in the dress and waist industry of New York City.
- Bul. 147. Wages and regularity of employment in the cloak, suit, and skirt industry.
- Bul. 150. Wages and hours of labor in the cotton, woolen, and silk industries, 1907 to 1913.
- Bul. 151. Wages and hours of labor in the iron and steel industry in the United States, 1907 to 1912.
- Bul. 153. Wages and hours of labor in the lumber, millwork, and furniture industries, 1907 to 1913.
- Bul. 154. Wages and hours of labor in the boot and shoe and hosiery and underwear industries, 1907 to 1913.
- Bul. 160. Hours, earnings, and conditions of labor of women in Indiana mercantile establishments and garment factories.
- Bul. 161. Wages and hours of labor in the clothing and cigar industries, 1911 to 1913.
- Bul. 163. Wages and hours of labor in the building and repairing of steam railroad cars, 1907 to 1913.
- Bul. 168. Wages and hours of labor in the iron and steel industry in the United States, 1907 to 1913.
- Bul. 171. Union scale of wages and hours of labor, May 1, 1914.
- Bul. 177. Wages and hours of labor in the hosiery and underwear industry, 1907 to 1914.
- Bul. 178. Wages and hours of labor in the boot and shoe industry, 1907 to 1914.
- Bul. 187. Wages and hours of labor in the men's clothing industry, 1911 to 1914.
- Bul. 190. Wages and hours of labor in the cotton, woolen, and silk industries, 1907 to 1914.
- Bul. 194. Union scale of wages and hours of labor, May 1, 1915.
- Bul. 204. Street railway employment in the United States.
- Bul. 214. Union scale of wages and hours of labor, May 15, 1916.
- Bul. 218. Wages and hours of labor in the iron and steel industry, 1907 to 1915.
- Bul. 225. Wages and hours of labor in the lumber, millwork, and furniture industries.
- Bul. 232. Wages and hours of labor in the boot and shoe industry, 1907 to 1916. [In press.]
- Bul. 238. Wages and hours of labor in woolen and worsted goods manufacturing, 1916. [In press.]
- Bul. 239. Wages and hours of labor in cotton goods manufacturing and finishing, 1916. [In press.]

Employment and Unemployment.

- Bul. 109. Statistics of unemployment and the work of employment offices in the United States.
- Bul. 172. Unemployment in New York City, N. Y.
- Bul. 182. Unemployment among women in department and other retail stores of Boston, Mass.
- Bul. 183. Regularity of employment in the women's ready-to-wear garment industries.
- Bul. 192. Proceedings of the American Association of Public Employment Offices.
- Bul. 195. Unemployment in the United States.
- Bul. 196. Proceedings of Employment Managers' Conference held at Minneapolis, January, 1916.
- Bul. 202. Proceedings of the conference of Employment Managers' Association of Boston, Mass., held May 10, 1916.
- Bul. 206. The British system of labor exchanges.
- Bul. 220. Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Public Employment Offices, Buffalo, N. Y., July 20 and 21, 1916.
- Bul. 223. Employment of women and juveniles in Great Britain during the War.
- Bul. 227. Proceedings of the Employment Managers' Conference, Philadelphia, Pa., April 2 and 3, 1917.
- Bul. 235. Employment system of the Lake Carriers' Association.
- Bul. 241. Employment offices in the United States. [In press.]

Women in Industry.

- Bul. 116. Hours, earnings, and duration of employment of wage-earning women in selected industries in the District of Columbia.
- Bul. 117. Prohibition of night work of young persons.
- Bul. 118. Ten-hour maximum working-day for women and young persons.
- Bul. 119. Working hours of women in the pea canneries of Wisconsin.
- Bul. 122. Employment of women in power laundries in Milwaukee.
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