

THE DAILY MAIL

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COMPULSORY PRODUCTION.

The Toronto Saturday Night thinks that compulsory production must come in the near future. It points out that the endorsement of the principle of Union Government during the present crisis is merely a preliminary, and the real test will come with action in the fulfilment of pre-election pledges. It is by results that the Union administration will be judged. In discussing the question of increased production, Saturday Night says:

"It has been generally agreed that production at home is practically essential in the winning of the war as seen at the front—and yet the sordid spectacle was witnessed not long ago in a western province of a stockmen's convention unanimously agreeing to increase this form of production—on condition that the government fix the prices so that they make a handsome and sure profit. Just fancy! The country has just decreed that the very lives of our young men, if necessary, must be conscripted to insure the safety of Canada, and yet men still get up and haggle over the price of stock they may have to sell, which means the very life of not only the Canadian army but the people at home.

"The sooner the Government makes it clear that every ounce of farm production must be delivered, irrespective of profits, the better it will be for the good name of this country. If the young men may be conscripted to fight surely it is right and proper to commandeer every farm or ranch and all sources of food supply. There has been altogether too much price-fixing, which invariably insures a handsome profit, and not enough compulsory production, irrespective of profits. No time should be lost preparing a huge production campaign with the opening of spring—of not only grains, but of stock, poultry and vegetables. It need not apply wholly to farmers. There is no reason why most of the people in western towns and cities should not in the spring become part-time farmers. Thousands of acres of land held by speculators might be commandeered during the war and brought under some form of production. The returned soldiers' organizations would no doubt be glad to take over the management of this form of production on a mutually satisfactory basis. Those who worked so strenuously for Union Government could become the guiding spirits in a joint effort to secure the most possible out of every available acre of land."

There are a lot of enemy alien residents of Canada who might with advantage to the country be utilized in connection with a greater production campaign.

These men, while not subject to war service, are holding down soft jobs, many of which could be filled by women. These men should be conscripted along with a lot of others and put to work on farms, and some thousands of them might be sent out west and put to work breaking new land. If kept under military regulations at a fixed rate of pay and made to work they could do a lot towards increasing the production of farm products. It is to be hoped that the Union Government will get after these gentry with a sharp stick before spring opens.

In unanimously electing Councillor Alex. Brewer of Douglas to the office of Warden, the Municipal Council has honored an experienced and most useful member of the board. Warden Brewer has been a prominent figure in municipal affairs for many years, and has rendered valuable service to the county. He is a man of sound judgment and is not afraid to speak his mind when occasion calls for it. The new Warden enjoys the distinction of being one of York county's most level-headed and successful agriculturists. The Mail heartily congratulates him on his appointment.

Montreal Gazette: Before the elections Canadians received some gratuitous advice in the cables from London to the effect that if they voted against war service it would have a very bad influence on their brothers in Aus-

tralia. The Canadian people by their decision showed that they were not influenced by the Australians' former referendums, and the voters in the Antipodes for their part proved that Canada's decisions had no effect on them whatever. Each people acted according to its own views, and each took a different stand. The advice givers are silent.

In the British House of Commons on Dec. 15th it was stated that the number of British prisoners, including all branches of service and including those in Switzerland, was as follows: In Germany, 1,863 officers, 41,856 of other ranks. In Turkey, 340 officers, 1,959 other ranks. In Bulgaria, 42 officers, 74 other ranks. Total, officers, 2,257; other ranks, 44,475. These are the latest figures in the War Office, but it is not possible to state the captures during the past month.

The Fredericton poultry show now going on here is easily the most successful ever held in this city. Some remarkably fine birds, many of which are owned by backyard poultrymen right in the city, are being shown and are a revelation to all who see them. It cannot be said that the poultrymen are not doing their part in the greater production campaign. Others can help by patronizing the show.

Chief Justice Hazen has been chosen as one of Canada's representatives at a joint conference to be held at Washington to consider outstanding fishery questions. The conference will open next week.

Through Our Sieve

Old Man Zero seems to be making us a lengthy visit.

If talking civic politics will warm things up, let's go to it.

Zero may mean nothing, but below zero seems to cut some figure.

And \$14 wood fades away as quickly as ever.

There is nothing whiter than a white rooster groomed for show purposes.

This country is now approximately 180 degrees away from the strawberry shortcake.

Genius is the ability to make other people furnish the money to carry out your plans.

Some men are kept so busy maintaining their dignity that they haven't time to earn a decent living.

Germany is spreading out over a great area and consequently must be very thin in spots.

Mrs. O'Hevens says if the poultry show offered a prize for the hen that could eat the most her hens would win.

FIRST DRAFT TO JOIN THE COLORS TODAY

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Ottawa, Jan. 3.—The first draft of men under the Military Service Act joined the colors today. Reports received here from all points indicate that arrangements are working quite smoothly and without hitch. Men are reporting for duty in daily batches as required by registered notices sent out by the district registrars, and will be taken on the strength of the depot battalions as rapidly as they can be handled and equipped.

Publication of the exact number of men called out in the first draft is regarded as inadvisable from the military point of view, but it is understood to be in excess of 20,000.

Under the provisions of the Military Service Act the total number to be called up is limited to 100,000.

LOTS OF SPUDS IN THE U. S.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 3.—A. D. Wilson, state food administrator, speaking before the members of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Association today, declared there was a surplus of from forty million to one hundred million bushels of potatoes in the United States. "Eat more potatoes," Mr. Wilson urged.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Evidence of organized German propaganda in Chile supported by almost every subject of the Kaiser in that country, has been received at the State Department in the form of literature by the German Chilean league, urging them to do their utmost to bring about delay in the severance of relations between Chile and Germany.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING WAS RATHER SHORT

Several Annual Reports Presented Last Night—Not Much Business Before the Council.

The January meeting of the City Council last night was short the amount of business to come before the council not being great. Several annual reports were made and ordered to be printed in the city Blue Book. Other reports will be made at later meetings.

Those present were Mayor Mitchell, Ald. McLellan, Ald. Lemont, Ald. Walker, Ald. Wilkinson, Ald. Baxter, Ald. Everett, Ald. Burnett.

Auditor's Report.
The auditor's report on the expenditure for December was adopted as follows:

Water	\$1,606.80
Sewerage	45.99
House connections	6.19
Admin. of justice	403.12
Roads and streets	283.42
Street lighting	924.66
Fire	51.55
City Hall	191.04
Wood	230.66
Contingent	91.17

Total \$3,824.90

Municipal Home.
For the Municipal Home Committee Ald. Baxter reported a total expenditure for the month of \$205.91 of which \$76 was for outside relief and \$129.91 for maintenance of the Home.

Tax Collections.
For the Finance Committee Ald. Wilkinson reported as follows on tax collections:

December, 1916	\$933.31
December, 1917	1,207.32

Street Lighting Report.
Ald. Lemont presented the annual report of Mr. Alex. Davidson, superintendent of the Street Lighting Department. The report stated that plant and exterior lines were in good condition. The report was received and ordered to be printed in the city Blue Book.

Ald. Burnett stated that the report of the Water Department was not ready for presentation on account of serious illness in the family of the chief engineer, but it would be presented later.

Wharf Report.
For Ald. Barker, chairman of the Wharf Committee, Ald. Burnett reported. The total receipts from harbor dues had been \$179.35 with some accounts outstanding.

Ald. Burnett pointed out that the receipts little more than paid the salary of the harbor master. River traffic had fallen off to such an extent that the wharves were not self-supporting. The only way for Fredericton to get good wharves would be for the Federal authorities to build them.

Ald. Wilkinson referred to the fact that practically no hard coal was imported by water during 1917, whereas in former years large quantities had been so imported. If this fact were not mentioned the report would be of little guidance to succeeding councils. The report was adopted.

Shelter at Dump.

Ald. McLellan brought up the matter of furnishing a shelter for the city employes assigned to permanent duty at the dump on the river front. During the winter and spring weather conditions were such that a shelter should be provided.

The general opinion was that such should be furnished. Concrete blocks were suggested by Ald. Wilkinson as a suitable material.

POTATOES

(Continued from page 8.)
food controller taking some action in the interests of the consumer.

A press dispatch today quotes the state food administration of Minnesota as saying that there is a surplus of from forty to one hundred million bushels of potatoes in the United States.

TENDERS FOR GRAVEL.

Sealed tenders addressed to G. R. Perkins, City Clerk, will be received up till the Eleventh Day of January, 1918, for delivery during the summer season at several different points in the city, of gravel suitable for city streets.

R. W. McLELLAN,
7 ins. Chairman Street Committee.

NOTICE

The Daughters of the Empire will canvass the city to obtain the necessary information for the new City Directory, now being prepared by the Maritime Directory Co. The money paid by the Directory Company for this information will be given to the Central Committee, I.O.D.E., for their work for soldiers in field and hospital.

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