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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

THE FOOD QUESTION

THIS is the planting season in most of the states. If the average farmer would double the acreage that he usually devotes to vegetables, there would be a double yield next fall. And he would if he could be assured a reasonably increased price. That would be assured if a proper rule could be established.

And if each farmer could give one more man employment that would help in another way. In many regions the cities have outgrown the country, outgrown it so much that the question of food for the poor of the cities has become a serious one. For many years up to the breaking out of the European war, there were heavy importations of the simpler and more bulky foods to our coast cities.

This was a disgrace and shame, due in most cases to the merciless grafting by middlemen, and the causes that have prevented railroads from reducing the rates on cheap and bulky food products to little more than the actual cost of transportation. These questions have all been solved in some European countries and should be in this, for who will deny that it is a shame and disgrace for, say, Denmark to bring eggs and potatoes nearly 4,000 miles to New York City and sell them at a profit? And all the more so when we know that there are millions of acres of good lands that can be bought, or at least hired cheaply and some hundreds of thousands of strong hands that need work. It would not be that way, would it, if there was such a craze to raise eggs and potatoes as there is for baseball and moving picture shows?

But seriously this question of cheap food for the people, especially the cheaper foods is so important that it should become a government affair so far at least as to see what abuses are being perpetrated in the handling of it and a way to abate those abuses provided. The transportation branch of it should at once appeal to the interstate commerce commission. It could help matters a good deal.

According to a statement made by Chief Inspector H. E. Emerson of the grain inspection department of the state of Minnesota, 22 cars of wheat, and 26 cars of rye have been imported from Canada since September 1st for milling in Minneapolis. This wheat was sold in competition with the American farmer and necessarily deprived him of a market for 298 cars of grain. Not only that, but it served to reduce the price the American farmer would otherwise receive. These figures cover only the amount milled in Minneapolis. It will be interesting later to see the figures covering importations of Canadian grain for milling in other American cities. The Democratic tariff law reduced the tariff on wheat from 25 to 10 cents and placed rye on the free list.

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Writing for the April "International," Dr. Max Stein says, "Every day the Association for the Distribution of Beer in Germany, of which I am the director, sends one and a half million liters of beer to our soldiers at the front."

It is the settled conviction in Germany that good, mild beer, such as

Fisher Beer

is necessary to the armies.

Dr. Stein says further: "We do not consider beer a luxury, we consider it a necessity, and we believe that the health of our troops would suffer greatly if for any reason the beer supply were cut off."

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