



To the People of Guernsey.

The Control of Food Supplies Committee consider that the time has come to appeal to their Fellow Islanders for a united and self-sacrificing effort to prevent waste of food and to restrict the consumption of Meat, Bread, Flour and Sugar within the limits laid down by Lord Devonport, i.e., Meat $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., Bread 4 lbs. or Flour 3 lbs. and Sugar $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. per head per week. Where possible these allowances should be restricted within narrower limits.

Economy of Bread and Flour is by far the most important. Bread is the staple food of the people. Extravagance or waste in the use of Flour, e.g. by indulgence in cakes, pastry, etc., must inevitably lead to scarcity, which will affect the poor far more severely than the well-to-do.

In placing the situation frankly before the people of Guernsey, the Committee think it well to say there is no threat of Famine and no occasion for Panic. There will be a sufficiency for all if good management and self-restraint are practised by all. But these are rendered imperatively necessary.

- (1) By the fact that last year's harvests were short almost all the world over.
- (2) By the increasing shortage in the ships required to bring our food to us.

The menace of the German U Boats is also a great factor. The Royal Navy will deal with the U Boats. The other factors must be dealt with in another way, and to that end the Committee make their appeal to the whole population.

All are asked to practise self-restraint, to put up with the inconvenience which must result from the temporary interruption of habits and tastes and to identify themselves to some slight extent with the heroic sacrifices being made by the men who are winning the war for us, and ensure that those sacrifices shall not be made in vain.

To the Women of Guernsey, the Committee make a special appeal. This is a Woman's question. The House-wives of Guernsey are asked each to regard herself as mobilized in the service of the Empire. Hundreds of thousands of women have left their homes to engage in various forms of National Service. What they have done and are doing will be remembered to the honour of women for ever.

“ They also serve, who only stand and wait.”

The Committee appeal for a National Service which the house-wives of Guernsey can do at the cupboard and in the kitchen, a service which is as honourable and as effective as any done by women anywhere.

The Committee are confident that their appeal will not be made in vain. The sole alternative to Voluntary Rationing is, of course, Compulsory Rationing, with its attendant waste of time, and energy, friction, hardship, and even injustice. So deplorable a contingency is not to be anticipated.

Among the most splendid traditions of this ancient Island-State, are those of hardships and privations cheerfully borne by Guernseymen for their country's sake, from the great war of a century ago to the far-off days of the Norman Conquest. These traditions tell how,

“ Not once or twice in our rough Island-story
The path of duty was the way of glory.”

Guernsey is not degenerate, whatever the German may vainly think. The people of Guernsey have not lost the courage and self-control, the will to endure and overcome, which distinguished their ancestors and made them great. In trusting to that fine hereditary spirit the Committee will not be disappointed.

JULIUS BISHOP,
President,
Control of Food Supplies Committee.

States Office,
Guernsey,
2nd May, 1917.

The Committee would be glad if Clergymen and Ministers of Religion would make some reference to this appeal in their Churches. Copies for distribution may be obtained at the States Office.