

The New Food Bill and What It Means

The Senate Agricultural Committee has reported out a Food Bill which is intended to take the place of other food bills providing for the conservation of what are termed non-perishable products. As applied to the cereal crops and their use, the bill has a direct bearing on the manufacture of beverages in common use by the American people and means much to manufacturers, consumers and to the government. It is worth while to consider in detail some of the results that would accompany its passage in its present form.

IT MEANS

that the government will lose approximately \$150,000,000 yearly, the revenue which it would annually receive on the estimated output of malt beverages entailing the consumption of less than three-quarters of one per cent of the grain production of the country. This represents an income to the Government of about \$3.64 for every bushel of grain actually consumed.

IT MEANS

that this great loss of income to the government must be made up by taxing some essential food or foods used in large enough quantities to render an income from that tax equal to the amount now provided by the tax on beer. This means a very large increase to the already high cost of living to those people who even now find it difficult to meet the cost of necessities.

IT MEANS

that a crop of barley estimated to amount to 181,000,000 bushels and which in this country is practically useless for human consumption, will have to be sold for animal food and at animal food prices, thereby greatly reducing the income of those farmers who have already planted and prepared for barley crops.

IT MEANS

that the dairy interests will be deprived of an animal food source in brewery grains which provide a highly nutritious fodder for milk cattle at a very low cost. This excellent cattle food will have to be replaced by the use of corn and other cereals useful for human food and to which people are already accustomed.

The brewers of the country stand ready to co-operate to the fullest extent possible in any way that the President desires. They do not ask consideration from any other standpoint than that of public policy and fair dealing.

IT MEANS

that an industry representing an investment of more than \$1,200,000,000 and employing thousands of workmen will be instantly made valueless, with a total loss of all the taxes which such property pays in the localities where it is situated. The trade conditions of those localities would be affected to the extent of the sudden and entire cutting off of the enormous pay rolls which accompany the activity of the brewing interests.

IT MEANS

that this country will have seen fit to adopt a measure of conservation much more drastic than has any other country that is at war, although all the other countries have had three years of experience in the demands of the conflict, while we have not yet had three months' knowledge of what the requirements of war will be.

IT MEANS

that in many important industries there will be made necessary a great and disturbing change in the personal habits of workmen who are accustomed to the daily use of a temperate beverage and who have become accustomed to rely upon their supply of beer as a part of their daily food and source of energy.

IT MEANS

that with the discontinuance of the manufacture of beer those accustomed to use a temperate beverage of small alcoholic content will have no other choice than the use of distilled liquors, whisky, brandy and rum, of which there is a storehouse stock of three hundred million gallons, or enough to last more than three years under normal consumption.