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FOOD ECONOMY.

ADDRESS

BY

B. E. SARGEAUNT, ESQ.,
(Government Secretary),

AT PUBLIC MEETING IN VILLA MARINA.

ON

APRIL 26TH, 1917.

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May 1917

15th November, 1917.

Name of member of family.	Weekly allowance of Bread.	Weekly allowance of other cereals,	Weekly allowance of Meat,	Weekly allowance of Butter, Margarine, Lard, Oils and Fats,	Weekly allowance of Sugar.

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WEEKLY RATION.

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7	0
4	8
5	0
4	0
3	8

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0	10
0	8

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FOOD ECONOMY.

Mr B. E. Sargeaunt first emphasised their deep regret at the absence of the Lieut.-Governor. His Excellency had this matter very much at heart, and he could tell them that in no house was food economy more rigidly enforced than at Government House. In the second place, he wished to say that he knew there was some indignation felt at the treatment of prisoners of war in the camps. He did not think it would advance the question they had met to discuss, if they allowed themselves to be drawn into a debate on that subject. In that respect the Insular Government had not absolute control, but he could tell the meeting with certainty that no prisoner of war in the Isle of Man, unless he was in employment paid for by the Government, was in receipt of more food than was required under the Food Controller's regulations in England. That was to say, no prisoner of war received more than 9 oz. of bread; more than 1 oz. of sugar or more than 6oz. of meat per day. He could go further, and say that no prisoner of war was permitted to purchase in the Isle of Man any foodstuffs whatsoever, and no prisoner was allowed to purchase in the United Kingdom foodstuffs whatsoever. Their power of purchasing was con-

fined to the Canteen, and for the Canteen no meat, sugar, or flour was now ordered, nor was any article which contained meat, sugar or flour.

Interruptions.

A Voice: Question!

Mr Sargeaunt: It's no good saying "question"; I know. (Applause.)

A Voice: Question!

Mr Sargeaunt: You can question it 50 times over. You practically call me a liar.

Mr W. G. T. Hargraves (Ivydene) was seen to rise in the body of the hall. He made a statement, which was inaudible to those seated on the platform.

Mr Sargeaunt: I have told the audience to the best of my ability and with certainty that the facts put before the meeting are perfectly correct. If Mr Hargraves knows better he calls me a liar.

Mr Hargraves again interrupted.

Aliens' Food.

Mr Sargeaunt said he would continue, and assured the audience that the facts placed before them were correct. Whether the prisoners of war received more nourishment than was necessary for them, or less, was not a question on which he was at liberty to express an opinion; but he understood on medical authority that a man leading an idle life did not require so much food as others. He required 2,200 calories, whereas a man leading a sedentary life required 2,500 calories, and a man leading an active life, and doing hard manual work, required from 2,800

to 3,000 calories. Prisoner-of-war until quite recently has now been about. The do no good that evening of war camp details he had correct. Who came from nor did he (pause).
With these would pass on. They met the critical stages which their country involved for two. They had the for them; there for the other cause. their bit" at the could "do their do it by "sa audience should Island acting people to "save the men who were the front. Now, what they knew day? They knew what they had seen weeks, that the gallant Allies were. There was no question.

Mistress of the They knew that was mistress of the more brilliant than they read in that day (pause) — of the g lacking, with and vessels of the enemy the spirit of Nelson. Sir Sydney Smith. crew, young midship cutlass in hand. Could anyo

Governor shall be substituted in the case of the Isle of Man.

By order,

B. E. SARGEAUNT,

Government Officer

Government Secretary

Name of member

to 3,000 calories. The dietary in the prisoner-of-war camps in the Island was, until quite recently, 2,200 calories. It had now been increased to 2,500, or thereabouts. Therefore he could say it would do no good to bring into the discussion that evening the question of the prisoner of war camps. They could take it that the details he had given them were true and correct. Whether meat, sugar, and flour came from Germany, he could not say, nor did he care; let it all come. (Applause.)

With these preliminary remarks, he would pass on to the subject before them. They met that night at one of the most critical stages of this great war, in which their country had now been involved for two and three-quarter years. They had their gallant troops fighting for them; and they were met there for the purpose of fighting in another cause. The soldiers were "doing their bit" at the front; they at home could "do their bit," and they could best do it by "saving their bit." The audience should go throughout the Island acting as missionaries; urging people to "save their bit," and so help the men who were "doing their bit" at the front. Now, what was the position today? They knew perfectly well, from what they had seen during the last few weeks, that the British Army and her gallant Allies were holding the enemy. There was no question about that.

Mistress of the Seas.

They knew that the British Navy was mistress of the seas. What could be more brilliant than the action of which they read in that day's papers—(loud applause)—of the gallant little "Broke" tackling, with another destroyer, six vessels of the enemy. That savoured of the spirit of Nelson, of Hawke, and of Sir Sydney Smith. Look at that gallant young midshipman and gun's crew, cutlass in hand, repelling the enemy. Could anyone say, with spirit

like that, that England was not mistress of the seas? (Applause.) Then there was the question of finance. They had got all the money they needed. They could buy all they wanted as long as it was obtainable.

Food.

But they came to the question of food. Food was the serious question at the present moment. He said with all seriousness, it was a grave question. Unless the people complied with the voluntary rations there was going to be grave trouble. It was the duty of every person to comply with those voluntary rations. The man who over ate his ration—that was to say, who ate more bread, more meat, and more sugar than is laid down—that man was no credit to his country. That man was as much an enemy of his country as the German, the Austrian, the Bulgarian, or the Turk. He said the man who decried the ration, who did not try to help to enforce it, or try to encourage others to enforce it, was a traitor to his country. The man who criticised and did not try to get people to comply was an assistant to the enemy of his country. Unless the ration was adhered to by the people, not only in the Island, but in Great Britain, there was going to be a grave calamity. He had figures in his possession which he supposed no one else in the Island had, and though he would not be justified in divulging those figures he could say that the situation was serious.

Economy or Starvation.

It was a question of economising now or of starving later. Which was the people to do? Surely they would try to cut down their consumption of food at the moment. (Hear, hear). He knew there were people who would say "what is the good of talking about voluntary rations? Why does not the Government make them compulsory at once and

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