

FOOD SUPPLIES OF SWITZERLAND
and
PRESENT REQUIREMENTS

1.

Bread Consumption

A. Present (insufficient) ration

1. Individual consumption

(a) Principles:

Barring the following exceptions, the standard general allowance is at present 225 gr. of bread and 18.5 gr. of flour daily.

(b) Exceptions

1. Children - 150 gr.

All children under two years of age (except those of producers) are given a childrens bread card, entitling them to 150 gr. of bread daily and 500 gr. of flour monthly.

2. Individuals on the Relief Fund list: 275.

A supplementary allowance of 50 gr. of bread daily is granted to those persons who, having proved that their resources are insufficient for their support have consequently been placed on the Relief Fund list and can secure bread and milk at reduced prices. The number of such persons, which in October 1917 totaled 601,000, was increased to 888,000 in June 1918, a certain number of whom are not granted this additional 50 gr., being already entitled to the 100 gr. supplementary allowance granted to hard labor workmen. (see below)

3. Hard labor workmen: 325 gr.

In accordance with article 29 of the decision of the Swiss Military Department of September 14th, 1917, which reads as follows:

".....are considered as belonging to the class of hard labor workmen, adults who perform manual labor requiring continuous physical exertion, that is to say, during at least 20 days of the month and 8 hours a day. 400,000 workmen over 16 years of age who fulfill the foregoing conditions are granted a supplementary allowance of 100 gr.



4. Army - 400 gr.

Soldiers under arms receive a 400 gr. ration.

5. Producers -

Producers are allowed to retain 135 kg. of grain a year per member of household. Their grain consumption amounts to 370 gr. daily.

NOTE. In this memorandum the term of producers is used to denote those farmers who produce sufficient wheat for their own and their families' support.

2. National consumption

Taking into account the foregoing figures, the daily average consumption per capita is 260 gr. of grain (flour included) which amounts to a total daily consumption of 1040 tons.

B. Why the present allotments must be increased.

At present, as we have seen, the daily bread ration of the large majority of the Swiss population is 225 gr. of bread per capita.

The present state of under-nourishment, especially of the urban population, makes it imperative that this standard ration be increased by one third and fixed at 300 gr. daily and that a proportionate increase be granted to all other classes of the non-producing consumers.

This increase would seem justified even if other essential foodstuffs were normally abundant and cheap in Switzerland. However, as they are all scarce and as the prices of several of these commodities place them beyond the reach of the average consumer, the increase in the bread ration is an absolute necessity if economic and social catastrophes are to be avoided.

On the other hand, an increase in the bread allowance would be a very dangerous experiment before increased shipments are absolutely guaranteed. This alone would allow us to get aside a part of our domestic crop as a reserve for emergencies.

The daily potato ration is only 250 grammes, and even so it is not certain that this amount will be secured by everyone, as the supply of potatoes formerly imported from Germany and Holland will probably not be available ~~this winter~~^{this winter}. In order to compensate this serious deficit, it is of the utmost necessity that we receive a substantial monthly allotment of corn.

No meat ration has as yet been prescribed, but meat is too expensive for many laboring families. If equally distributed among the population, each person would only have from 50 to 60 gr. a day, according to the season (from March till July still less).

There are hundreds of thousands of individuals in Switzerland who have to rely for their maintenance exclusively on those goods, the administration and apportionment of which have been taken over by the Government.

Such persons are restricted to the following amounts daily:

Daily Allowance	Albumen	Fats	Hydrates of carbon	Calories
260 gr. Grain (bread & flour incl.)	26.69	1.305	122.20	575.47
3-1/3 gr. Butter	--	2.71	--	26.32
10 gr. Pâtes aliment	0.9	.08	7.3	34.4
14 gr. rice	0.84	--	10.8	48.0
20 gr. sugar	--	--	200	99.5
13 gr. corn	1.17	0.442	9.36	46.4
1/2 litre milk (1 pint)	15.0	15.0	20.0	333.0
1/4 potatoes	5.0	--	50.0	222.5
13 gr. grease	--	12.87	--	107.0
	49.60	32.407	239.66	1491.59

Before the war, the Swiss workman, like the American, consumed approximately 4,000 calories daily. In 1917, the non-producer consumed on an average only 2750 calories per adult, including everything (imports, meats, etc.). The situation has since become even more serious because of the scarcity of milk and cheese, due to the reduction in importation of cattle, fodder and fertilizers.

According to reliable estimates, cattle has undergone an average decrease in weight of 50 kg. per head and the yearly production of milk has decreased by a sum which amounts to 110 litres per head of the population.

The porc herd, which in 1916 totaled 544,000 has decreased to 364,000 in 1918. The only remedy to this serious reduction, due to the lack of food, is an increase in the importation of oil-cakes and corn.

The scarcity of oats has resulted in a grave under-nourishment of horses; we require a minimum allotment of 8000 tons of oats monthly to overcome this serious difficulty, which tends still further to weaken our agricultural production.

The following table shows the deficit in the importation of the most important cereals for the period beginning January 1st, 1918 and ending September 30th, 1918.

Commodity	Allot. for 9 Months according Paris Agreement.	Imports Jan. 1 to Sept. 30	Deficit
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Wheat & Rye	235,000	115,258	109,742
Oats	90,000	23,970	66,030
Barley	23,625	13,661	9,964
Corn	105,000	16,122	88,878
Oil-cakes	34,500	11,127	23,373

The foregoing figures may suffice to show how alarming the present situation is.

II.

Bread Supplies as of the 21st of Septembre

A.	<u>Inland Crop</u>	
	1. Swiss crop (113,000 hectares at 1.5 ton)	170,000 tons
	2. Minus Producers' consumption (700,000 at 135 kg a year)	94,500 "
	Balance for rest of population	<u>75,500 "</u>
B.	<u>Imported Supplies</u>	
	1. Stored in Swiss warehouses	35,600 "
	2. En route or at french ports (inclu- ding 5400 tons owed by French Govt)	52,260 " " " "
		<u>87,860 "</u>
C.	<u>Total Supplies available</u>	
	1. Total supplies	163,360 "
	2. Minus 28,000 tons for the manufacture of pâtes alimentaires	28,000 "
	Total of available supplies	<u>135,280 "</u>

This supply would last 123 days on the present insufficient ration, or if the bread ration be increased as above (as it must be) for the period beginning January 1st 1919, for 155 days only, that is to say until February 25th.

NOTE: Since September 21st, 29,900 tons of bread grain have been shipped from the United States. Thus increased, our supplies can last 29 days more, i.e. until March 24th.

III.

Conclusion

The conclusion to be derived from the above memorandum is clearly evident. Switzerland's situation with regard to food supplies, especially bread grain and corn, is very serious, and under nourishment threatens the health of a considerable part of the population.

Owing to the low stock on hand and to the considerable delay to which arrivals are subject, an immediate resumption of regular shipments of cereals is of the utmost necessity.

We require, in order to meet the pressing needs stated above, monthly allotments of 40,000 tons of bread grain, 10 - 15,000 tons of corn and 8,000 tons of oats.