

MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDERS MAY BE PASSED BEFORE LONG

Will Not Permit Importation of New Models From U. S.

WAR-TIME ECONOMY

Gradual Transformation of Nation's Habits Now Sought

From The Spectator's Ottawa News Bureau, by Charles Bishop

Ottawa, Nov. 26. — The whole question—it is a very large one—of restricting consumption of non-essentials is under consideration by the government. It relates to importations from outside, but also to things produced in the country. The whole philosophy of this policy—there are no signs of it being any more popular than any other restrictive war measure—is to cut down on luxuries and non-essentials so as to save money for war purposes.

In another aspect, the idea is to transform gradually, where this is possible, peace-time industry into war-time industry. New orders and regulations are being considered. One of them would be in sequence to the action taken prohibiting constructing in Canada new models of various commodities of common use.

The policy is progressive. It was indicated in the first emergency session after the war started. It is part and parcel of the dozen controls and controllerships set up, the latest of them being the war requirements board. It had an acute illustration in the high taxes imposed in the last budget on fancy models of motor cars, and but slightly less on the average price model.

Last week Hon. C. D. Howe announced no new models generally, save under license, in order to conserve tools for war industry. This applies to vehicles of all kinds, bicycles, refrigerators, cooking and heating equipment, vacuum cleaners and some other manufactures of common use. New models call for new tools, moulds, plates, etc. They are held to be much more needed for the war, hence the order of the machine tools controller.

A counterpart of this policy is the move to embargo, or at least very much restrict, the importation into Canada of these newly modelled articles. Manufacturers don't want people to be able to buy outside what cannot be made at home.

With the consistency of that policy the government is disposed to agree.

An authority said to-day, however, that this is "only one factor in the whole question which is being studied. It relates to other things than new models."

Won't Stop Buying

The general policy has been laid down. Its elucidation will be in further and supposedly impending orders. Protests are fairly plentiful, particularly against any cutting down on luxuries—Christmas gifts are usually in that class. No merchant is likely to be restricted in selling what he has or even buying more if he can get it. Much less would a customer be restrained from buying such things by making it an offence to do so.

But all the counsel is to "pipe down" on such outlays, while fifteen months of instructive experience show luxury expenditures going up, not down.

Just what policy in detail will be followed is not yet classified nor finally decided. But the action taken against new models in the lines aforementioned may afford a reasonable hint. The idea is to reduce consumption of non-essentials. That could be effected in two ways—by restrictions at the producing end and, perhaps corresponding ones at the consuming end. The question is now being debated in parliament and considered by the government and clearly something about it is in the wind.