The Queenstown News

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Friday, July 24, 1593

Stirring Thought

While the Government is holding a billion dollars worth of surplus wheat, it is feverishly building more storage capacity for the additional quantities it must continue buying to support the price to the farmer. To make the picture worse, the outlook for using it at home is pretty bleak, according to the nation's flour millers. In fact, jolly miller has been less jolly yearly ever since 1948 as the domestic demand for flour has kept shrinking. Today, they report, 162 mills totaling a quarter of the nation's capacity for making flour ,are shut down.

The reason is simple to state—we don't eat enough bread. In the Gay Nineties, the average American ate 225 pounds of flour in his bread, rolls, cake ,macaroni if he could get that much. Today, he is putting away less than 130 pounds.

The solution is simple too, according to Vice President Herman Steen, of the Millers' National Federation. All we have to do to make the miller jolly again is to eat two more slices of bread a day. For example, that would just about use up the 126 million bushels of wheat Kansas expects to harvest this year—and Uncle Sam wouldn't have to buy any of it, either.

But, when 95 per cent of our bread comes out of the commercial bread foundries these days, the wonder is that it has remained an article of diet. And the task of persuading every man, woman and child to eat more slices per day seems pretty grim.

The true solution lies in persuading every woman who can make real bread to up and do so. A new Era of Good Feeling, not only for the saddened millers, but for all of us, would return on the first Saturday night that the aroma of fresh home-baked read floated out of the nation's kitchens. Nor do we exclude iscuits ,dropped, rolled and beaten, or cheese-straws ,or doughnuts, or dumplings with out stewing chicken or a tender brown crust on the meat pie . . and let us not forget that under cover stuff in genuine straw berry shortcake.

The world might well discover that the mixing-spoon in the dainty hand of a proud cook is mightier than that atomic cannon we've been braggin about.

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