

PROHIBITION OF WHITE FLOUR AND BREAD

As announced by the Minister of Food in the House of Lords to-day, the milling of white flour (i.e. flour of 75 per cent. extraction) will be prohibited from March 23, 1942. From that date, millers will be allowed to produce only National Wheatmeal Flour or flour with a minimum extraction of 85 per cent.

After March 23, millers, factors and importers may dispose of their existing stocks of white flour only to licensed bakers, who at the same time are required to take at least three times the quantity of National Wheatmeal Flour.

Current stocks of white flour can be used up: Bakers may continue to produce white bread until April 6; and from March 23, they may use up to 25 per cent. of white flour, along with wheatmeal flour, to prepare wheatmeal bread.

From April 6 bakers may bake only wheatmeal bread, using not less than 75% of wheatmeal flour; or speciality breads using not less than 75% of flour of at least 85% extraction.

A new definition of 'National Wheatmeal', incorporating technical instructions based on the best scientific advice, will be included in a Statutory Order, to ensure the uniform quality of the flour.

From April 20 the prohibition of the use of white flour by bakers and manufacturers will apply to cakes, biscuits, buns and all other foods containing flour as well as to bread. From that date only flour of which three quarters is of not less than 85 per cent. extraction may be used for these foods. The flour bought by housewives for home baking will also, after present white stocks are finished, be of 85 per cent. extraction.

In order to maintain flour prices at their present levels, particularly where less than the maximum price is now being charged, the Flour (Maximum Retail Prices) Order has been temporarily revoked and in its place the Minister has made the Flour and Flour Mixtures (Current Prices) Order, 1942. This Order prohibits the sale of any flour or flour mixture at a higher price than that charged on January 31, 1942. In addition to this measure, a limitation upon deliveries of flour by millers and factors was imposed on February 19, in order to prevent excessive purchases.

MINISTRY OF FOOD