

BRITAIN'S BREADLINE

For folks like me, in the bakery business, bread rationing started with a big question mark. We didn't like it and here we are saying so.

"Gentlemen: I don't want to labour this point. We were building our case up and there is no need for it but in any case if the Government is going to come to these people and say "Well, you have got to do it - if you don't we will send you to gaol for seven years and fine you £5,000" well, gentlemen, that is the law. I don't know what you are going to do about the law".

Well, like the chairman said, it's the Law and there isn't much we can do about it, is there? That's what old age pensioner Mrs. New said when I took her her first day's ration. "One small loaf for me and my husband", she said "What do you think I'm going to do with this?"

And here's an old customer of mine, Miss Hunt. She keeps house for her two brothers and sisters and an aunt. For the five of 'em she gets 45 bread units a week. A large and a small loaf a day and 2 pound of flour at week ends.

Next on my round is Mrs. Sievier. Her husband works in an office and she's got 5 growing youngsters. She lays out her 45 units on a big and a small loaf a day - and that leaves a bit over for flour to put in the week-end cake for the kids.

Of course, you got to keep moving on the round, what with all this extra work. I said so when I called at Mrs. Brown's. Her husband's a heavy worker and they've 3 kids. She gets a large and a small loaf a day with 3 on Saturday and a lb of flour and a lb of cake.

So there you are - and here am I. I could do with being a book-keeper. But we'll get through somehow.

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