

WINNING THE WAR.

MRS. PEEL'S HINTS TO HORSHAM.

Mrs. Peel, of the Ministry of Food, gave, deliberately and impressively, an able address on "Economy" at the King's Head Assembly Rooms last evening, before a large audience. The Rev. E. D. L. Harvey, J.P., presided, and beside the speaker there were on the platform Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Smithe, Mrs. Keatinge, and Commander R. H. Powell, R.N.

HORSHAM'S PRIVILEGE.

In opening the meeting the Chairman said Mrs. Peel was one of the two selected speakers under the Food Controller, Lord Devonport, to go about the country addressing meetings, and Horsham was very much privileged in having her there. The subject of thrift must appeal to all. We were up against what our statesmen had never contemplated, and could not disguise from ourselves the seriousness of the menace. We had complete confidence in our rulers and in the Navy (applause), but the submarine difficulty had not yet been met, still less overcome. We had to practise thrift in every possible form so that we could defeat the object of our enemies, which was to cause us to make an unworthy peace through the stoppage of our supplies. He had much pleasure in calling upon Mrs. Peel (applause).

WARNINGS AGAINST WASTE.

Mrs. Peel said she had a pleasant task, and that was to preach to the converted, and they would all act as missionaries. The way in which we dealt with this food problem might be the one way of winning or losing this war. We had to realise that all the money in the world could not get the thing that was not there. What had happened in regard to potatoes and sugar might very well come to pass with bread. Some people said there was plenty of food, but as a matter of fact there was a world shortage of wheat, and the year before the harvest was poor. Under ordinary conditions we had 60 per cent. of our sugar from Germany, Austria and Belgium. Now there was none from those countries. Germany planned to starve us into submission. So far their plan was answering very well. We had not got the better of the German submarine. We hoped we might. We must see that by greediness and stupidity we did not make our

trouble worse than it need be. We had got a chance, not a long chance, to avoid compulsory rationing, and must take it. We were fighting the greatest war the world had ever seen for the honour of Englishmen and the freedom of England. Was it possible we could refuse to be put upon our honour, and to be trusted with our own freedom? England would respond to the call; she was sure of it (applause). We had all got to eat as little bread and breadstuffs of every sort as possible, because it was the scarcity of all the bread food that was causing the terrible anxiety. How could we do it? In a great many ways. There were well-to-do people in every class, and they could cease to eat bread at any meal at which it was not absolutely necessary. Domestic servants could give up their eleven o'clock lunch; every woman who had a good midday meal should give up afternoon tea; and the poorest mothers should give no bread to any child that did not really want it. No less than 8 per cent. of the bread baked in this country was still being wasted. A teaspoonful of breadcrumbs wasted in each home meant 40,000 tons wasted every year. All well-to-do people were asked to eat considerably less. They were doing it; the returns from all the towns showed it. Mrs. Peel warned the audience against various ways in which waste would win the war for Germany. She could not help feeling that there was a horrible awakening for Germany.

Questions were asked and answered, in the course of which Mrs. Peel pointed out that in every other country prices were higher than in England. The shortage could not be due to "cornering." Public kitchens, properly run, were going in large towns to lead to great economy and do an enormous amount for the health and happiness of English people. As to sweet shops, sweets in the windows were merely "dressing"; it was the great supplies at the back of the shops that mattered. The Government had stopped 60 per cent. of the confectioners' sugar. Poorer children, with a scant dietary, benefited by sweets, and with the bigger "boys and girls" (laughter) sweets meant less alcohol. No matter how much one could wish to see a temperate England one had to realise there was some food value in beer, and if you stopped the beer of men accustomed to it they would eat more bread, so that you could not save very much. We were coming to Temperance by leaps and bounds, and we should come to it all the quicker by improving the standard of cookery, because two of the great reasons that caused drink were bad housing and abominable feeding. Those who could make porridge and use it instead of bread should do so. The rationing of children must be left to the common sense of the person looking after the children.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mrs. Peel and the Chairman, on the proposition of Commander Powell, seconded by Mrs. Keatinge. At the close the Chairman announced that at midday on Monday a professional would attend at Mrs. Willis', Arun Lodge, to demonstrate with potato spraying. All interested were invited. —Major Campbell Fraser announced that he had a supply of voluntary ration cards that could be obtained for signature from him.