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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

NO MORE PANIC, PLEASE!

The panic of the first week of war is over, and let us hope it will not return. At Chichester, Bognor, and Littlehampton, even if at none of the smaller places in this part of Sussex, the inhabitants have experienced more or less the effects of inexcusable selfishness on the part of a certain number of people, who, if the stories that have been related are to be accepted, ought to have known better. But the Government have made it clear that they will stand no nonsense during this time of national crisis, and measures are being taken with a view to instituting proceedings against those who are holding up food supplies with the object of making gain through the public necessities. This is as it should be, for such people deserve all the criticism that is being levelled against them.

THE SELFISH WELL-TO-DO.

In the same way there is much to be said against some of the well-to-do people whose selfishness has led them to lay in large stocks of provisions at their homes. Instances have been given at Chichester where supplies have been purchased sufficient to last several months, and this was the cause to some extent for the high prices which have told so hardly upon the poor. It has to be remembered that in the case of large private houses orders for provisions are proportionately greater than for the average household, but even allowing for this some of the orders have been quite unreasonable. It is a pity that all traders do not follow the real spirit of patriotism as shewn by Messrs. Shippam, who have announced their intention to receive normal orders only.

AN AMPLE SUPPLY.

It is important to remember in this connection that it is officially announced by the Board of Agriculture that there is at the present time five months' supply of breadstuffs in the country, and this is in addition to the wheat and flour now on passage and due to arrive shortly. There is, therefore, absolutely no occasion for panic, and if people will only behave reasonably and make their purchases of provisions as in normal times, prices will soon find their level at a point very little above that at which they stood before the war.

HOW TO ASSIST THE ENEMY.

It is not often that we can quote the Chancellor of the Exchequer with any great amount of pleasure, but politics are forgotten for the present, and too much publicity cannot be given to the following words of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons: "Gold," he said, "will be one of the most formidable weapons in this exhausting war. Anyone who, from selfish motives of greed, or through excess of caution and cowardice, goes out of his way to attempt to withdraw sums of gold and appropriate them to his own use, let it clearly be understood is assisting the enemies of his country—assisting them as effectively, probably, as if he were to take up arms on their behalf. These are strong words, but they are true, and events since they were uttered have proved that they are being heeded.