

## Raise More Hogs to Win the War

(Continued from page 3.)

British Food Controller stating that many shops in Britain had no bacon to offer at all and that the retail price of such as was available was 60 cents a pound, disposed of the current belief that bacon was selling more cheaply in Britain than in Canada. Another rumor, which has obtained wide currency, is that the price of hogs is to be fixed at \$10. Mr. Hanna assured the meeting that his department had no intention of fixing prices at all, but they would use their power to stabilize prices that should be remunerative to the farmer. Earlier in his address he said: "My duties as Food Controller are food conservation and food production. This does not mean that the man who produces food will not get his cost of production and a fair return as profit. When a fixed price drops below the cost of production, the sources of supply will dry up. Low fixed prices are what I call a big remedy for the high cost of living."

### The Question of Feed.

When the meeting was thrown open for discussion, two questions came to the front, the supply of feed and the price of pork. Mr. Hanna was hardly vested when an enquiry was made as to the embargo on corn. The Food Controller explained that the embargo applied only to the 1916 crop and the United States had placed no embargo on the new crop, which will be available by the middle of December when we can have all we will pay for. In answer to further questions he stated that arrangements had been made by his department whereby millfeeds, such as shorts and middlins, would be sold at cost by the millers, they having been instructed to take all of the profits that they are allowed, 25 cents per barrel of flour, out of the flour and of their business. Mr. J. D. McCreary stated that the price of screenings is at present ridiculously high. Screenings, he said, were excellent pig feed and he assured the gathering that the government would take action to make it available at a reasonable price which he considered should be about \$30 a ton at point of shipment. These assurances regarding the new crop of corn, no profits on mill feeds and screenings to be made available, gave the meeting confidence in one phase of the business, that has been a difficult problem in the last few months. Said one delegate, "The prices for hogs are good. We could raise more hogs, but the trouble is the feed. We can't buy it." In this he was seconded by a man from Norfolk county who said that thousands of hogs in his county had been sold light because there was no heavy feed with which to finish them. Another delegate was even more frank and he admitted that he had himself sold light weight hogs, partly because of lack of feed, but more particularly to take advantage of a high market. Regulation was needed, he said, to stabilize the market. Mr. Brethour of Burford, summed the matter up when he said, that he would be willing to leave the price of hogs with the Food Controller if he could be supplied of a supply of feed when it is needed. He felt confident, however, that this would be attended to.

### The Market Question.

Dr. G. C. Greenman made an earnest appeal to the men before him to go back to their counties and act as missionaries among their neighbors in the cause of greater hog production. It was this knowledge that they were to act as missionaries in their home counties that keyed up the audience on the question of hog prices. Every man knew that the first question he would be asked by his neighbors would be

"Can you guarantee us a profitable market?" No business, said one man, "has been bedevilled up and down like the hog business. When we have few hogs to market, we get a profit. When we get a lot ready for market, the price drops and we get no profit." This delegate suggested that the price of hogs be allowed to vary with the price of feed and considered that 100 lbs. of pork should sell for the same price as 12 bushels of corn. Another delegate remarked with some heat that while the profits of the hog business were merely to be limited, the farmer was not guaranteed a profit at all. "Give us the price and we will produce the goods," said he. This last speaker brought another man to his feet who declared emphatically, "We have made more money on our farms this year than ever before. We don't want large prices and we don't want the impression to get abroad that farmers are squeezing for higher prices. The most of us are willing to produce for no profit, if it will be of benefit to our country."

The last speaker was heartily applauded. The president of the meeting said: "All were ready to help and interest in profits was not paramount. There was a feeling, however, that the farmers should not be asked to sacrifice more than other classes in the community and the majority at least understood that the profit margin of the average farmer is so small, that to increase his hog production at a loss would mean severe hardship if not financial ruin; and in the long run such a course would be an injury rather than a benefit to the cause of the allies."

The Food Controller's guarantee that the spread in prices would be limited, gave the meeting a confidence in the future stability of the market, as the main incentive to market manipulation would then be removed. Confidence was further strengthened by the stand taken by men in whom the farmer has been accustomed to put his trust. E. S. Askell, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, stated his earnest conviction that the future of Canada for the next five years is tied up with the live stock industry and that the farmer can regard greater pork production as sound business. Prof. Geo. E. Day stated that, in the past, he had always been afraid to ask farmers to increase production because of the risk of a depression in the market. Under the present circumstances, however, he felt that he must break his rule and that in asking them to produce more now, he was asking them to embark on a proposition into which he too was putting his own money. Prof. Day saw his duty even more clearly in the light of patriotism.

### The Plan of Campaign.

And now for the plan of campaign. Mr. C. F. Bailey, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, who acted as chairman, outlined the campaign to be conducted in Ontario. The district representatives had been asked to invite three leading men from each county to the conference which he addressed. These men were to constitute a committee with the district representative as chairman to take charge of the campaign in their counties. They were to call a conference for Nov. 16. Two men from each township were to be invited to that conference. The need for greater production, as it had been presented to them at the Toronto meeting, was to be presented at the local conferences. Following that, a conference was to be held in each township and one of the men who had attended the meeting in Toronto would be present at each township conference and present the subject and emphasize the need for greater hog production. Through this same organization it is hoped that the Government will be kept closely in touch with the prospect for increased production.



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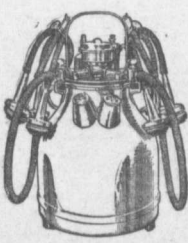
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