



One Million Acres of Wheat for Ontario Will Be Justified in 1918 by the Present Abnormal World Situation

THIS IS HOW WE STAND: In 1915 wheat exporting countries had a bumper crop, hence a huge carry-over was provided for 1916 of 329,000,000 bushels. This surplus saved the Allies; for the 1916 crop was short—745,000,000 bushels less than 1915, 156,000,000 bushels less than 1914, and 82,000,000 bushels less than the five-year average. As a result we have to-day practically no available exportable surplus. The world must live from hand to mouth—must depend on each crop to carry it until the next harvest.

This would be an extremely serious situation even if there were no war. The normal condition is a large surplus at the beginning of each harvest to make provision for crop failures which usually occur in some part of the world. The war, of course, aggravates the situation. Europe produces less wheat now and consumes more. North America, the present great source of supply, is sending, or will send, millions of men to the battlefield, while labor has been diverted to new industry. Added to all this, the submarines take a constant toll of shipping and cargoes. That is the general situation.

Supply Unequal to Needs

Nor are the prospects bright this year. England, France and Italy require 460,000,000 bushels of imported wheat. India and Australia are too far away to render much assistance in view of submarines and shortage of shipping. The Argentine new crop is a failure and no surplus is available there for export. The best of weather conditions will not, it seems now, permit of a greater exportable surplus from the North American 1917 wheat crop than 225,000,000 bushels.—125,000,000 from Canada and 100,000,000 from the United States. In all probability it will be less. Hence the supply of wheat in the world this year will not nearly equal the demand.

That is the outstanding factor. No trade agreements or organization can supply the wheat that does not exist. Nothing can restore the balance but heavy production. High prices must of necessity prevail until the balance is restored—and that can scarcely occur while the war lasts. Therefore the situation justifies the planting of all the winter wheat in western and central Ontario, and all the spring wheat in the eastern and northern counties that can be handled without disturbing too greatly the general scheme of farming now practised—for which stock and buildings have been provided.

A Crisis is Coming

The wheat situation is given in detail as an illustration of the food crisis we are approaching—for we have not reached it yet. The true crisis will occur in 1918 or 1919. Although wheat is the chief exportable food grain, all other staple crops must be considered in somewhat the same light. Wheat, beans, oats, dairy products and meat are required by our Allies. High prices for these must increase the prices also of non-exportable foods. And we must utilize the latter products in the fullest measure to permit the liberation of greater supplies of the former for our armies in the field. It would seem that necessity in 1918 will make for high prices and the conservation of food by all our people, regardless of when the war ends.

That it is his duty to produce foodstuffs need not be told the farmer. He realizes his duty as well as any element of the Canadian people. He practises thrift, he works long hours, he studies how best to meet a perilous situation. He will continue to do his part throughout the war as loyally as he has thus far.

Government Help with Labor

The labor problem is the most pressing. Ontario farms are undermanned. Only from cities and towns can more help come. But machinery will be of assistance. Fifty-three tractors, owned by the Ontario Government are at work right now plowing and preparing the soil. This number will be greatly increased as rapidly as is possible. They do the work at cost—write for particulars. Wider horse-drawn machinery will also help. Gang plows do not plow as nice a furrow, but the results are just as good. They will do much this year to turn the land for 1918 crops.

In view of the world shortage of food and consequent higher prices, the labor situation and weather conditions, certain points may be therefore emphasized with reasonable assurance regarding our preparations for the 1918 crop.

Michigan Amber are good general purpose varieties. Where winter wheat is not a reasonably sure crop, spring wheat should be a profitable cash crop next year.

Winter Rye. If it is impossible to sow winter wheat by the latter part of September—at latest—winter rye will give good results. It is very hardy, yields well and will stand later seeding than the wheat.

Keep the plow going. It is wise, both from the standpoint of production of crops and of economy of labor to plough land in the fall for the spring crops. In Ontario we have to-day 400,000 acres more in sod than we had four years ago—and there has been no corresponding increase in live stock. Much of this is old pasture which yields little feed. A Government tractor or a gang plow would do much to turn over your part of this huge acreage of old sod. After the rains in fall the land will plow more easily. But, of course, it will not be wise, even though prices may be high, to attempt to crop more than can be handled properly.

Fertilizers. In preparing for fall sown crops and spring crops alike it is well to consider very carefully the manure question. Farmyard manure should be so applied as to give best results while in many cases it can be profitably supplemented with commercial fertilizer. Write for fuller information regarding the question.

Live Stock. Our armies afield must have meat and Ontario is by nature and development a live-stock province. But the great demand for food grains and consequent high prices of concentrates is tending to encourage field crop production rather than fattening live-stock for market. The live-stock man's slogan may safely be "Carry on". His foundation stock must be maintained in his own good interests, and in the best interests of the Provinces. It will continue to command extremely high prices for some years after the war. But each animal should be studied closely and every individual which will not pay its way should be sold. This is a splendid time to unload for meat every breeding animal which is not giving a profitable return.

Information Gladly Furnished

For immediate and definite information in detail concerning:

Latest approved methods of preparing land for winter wheat, winter rye or any field crop.

Best varieties of any of these crops for your particular section of the province.

Special information regarding fertilizer requirements for any crop.

How to treat wheat for smut.

How to secure a Government tractor to do your plowing at cost.

Different kinds of plows, field machinery, etc., and their efficiency in practice.

Methods of economical feeding of any kind of live stock.

General market conditions in relation to any branch of the live-stock industry.

When it will pay to feed mill-feeds, and the fertilizing value of these feeds as a by-product.

Or any other question regarding the preparation for next year's crops write the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Is Your Farm for Sale?

If so let us know. Many returned soldiers with some capital, will wish to buy good farms in Old Ontario, conveniently located and at a reasonable price. To facilitate these purchases the Ontario Department of Agriculture is compiling a list of suitable farms for sale and will put owners who desire to sell and prospective buyers in touch with each other.

Send Full Information

If you wish to sell kindly forward a complete description of your farm—the location, distance from church, school, post office and nearest town, and the condition of the roads, nature and condition of soil, amount of drainage done and required, kind and condition of fences, number of acres and how cropped, noxious weeds prevalent, complete description of buildings and source and condition of well water. State sum for which you will sell.

Write at once the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Some Crop Suggestions

Wheat. As much land as possible can profitably be ploughed after haying for winter wheat. The seed sown should be of good quality, standard variety, unmixed, high vitality, thoroughly cleaned of every impurity and treated for smut. The seed bed should be properly fitted. It's a waste of much good seed to sow it in poorly prepared land. Dawson's Golden Chaff, The American Banner and American Wonder are high yielding varieties, but rather soft in grain. Imperial Amber and

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