

is ready to ship more men to the front than can be transported, all suggestion of necessity for conscription in Canada is absolutely foundationless.

OPINIONS.—I quoted also noteworthy opinion as to the duty of Canada under these circumstances:

1. "That the Government should, without delay, endeavour to encourage the breaking of a large acreage of wild lands in order that such new soil may be ready for cultivation next year and our productive capacity there by increased" (*Senate Committee*).

That "the shortage of farm labour must be met, and the method of meeting it must be prompt and decisive, if our production of wheat and other cereals is to be maintained, let alone increased" (*Senate Committee*).

2. "That an increased export of food supplies must entail diversion of effort from other enterprise" (*Lord Rhondda*).

3. That the greatest encouragement to the Allies will be rendered "in utilizing every ounce of national energy to increase production" (*Lord Rhondda*).

4. That "we should use all the experience we have thus far gained in planning and carrying forward a campaign for larger acreages, and higher yields in 1918, and the years that are to follow" (*Dr. Robertson*).

MORE FACTS.—In order to emphasize some of the foregoing facts—to prove the increasing dependence of our Allies upon Canada for food, I add the following tablet:

FRANCE

Average production of wheat for the five years preceding the war.....		317 639 000
Production of 1916.....		214 624 000
Estimated for 1917.....		161 670 000

ITALY

Average production for the five years.....		183 336 000
Production of 1916.....		176 531 000
Estimated for 1917.....		147 000 000

BELGIUM

Average production for the five years.....		14 896 000
Production for 1917.....		11 917 000
Estimated for 1917.....		9 000 000

Combined, these figures show a reduction from the ante-war period of..... 515 871 000 to the 1917 product of..... 317 670 000 a total reduction of..... 198 201 000 or more than 38 per cent.

The figures of this war-caused reduction added to the normal shortage of those countries and the United Kingdom, are presented to Canada with entreaties for her devotion to food production.

(a) These figures are taken from *Agricultural Gazette* Sept. 1917.

WOMEN CANVASSERS.

A prominent society woman in Ottawa has been visiting the wives and families of soldiers telling them that if they voted for the Laurier candidates that their patriotic allowance will be taken away from them. The name of this woman is Mrs. Fred Heney. Was ever a more contemptible canvasser made than circulating such falsehoods as this.

If the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is returned to power a much more adequate, sane and permanent system of providing for the soldiers' dependents will be put into force. The soldiers' wives will not be dependent upon the Patriotic Fund, upon the wives and the daughters of profiteers or upon those who may see fit to subscribe money for this purpose. In Sir Wilfrid's manifesto he states:

"That all of this work, must be discharged by the Nation and not through the medium of public benevolence or charity."

Is there a soldier's family in Canada who would not feel much more secure if their allowance was provided by the Government. This is Sir Wilfrid's policy.

BIDS FOR VOTES.

That the Borden Government is playing the game of politics is proven beyond a question of a doubt by some of the recent statements made by the members of this Government.

Speaking at Hamilton on November 3rd, General Mewburn, Minister of Militia stated that Canada was in the war not for 100,000 but for 200,000 and 300,000 men.

Speaking in London on Thursday November 23rd, Premier Borden also stated:

"The Government intends to enforce the Military Service Act impartially in every community, every district, every Province and they intend to appeal the decisions of Tribunals where exemptions have been granted indiscriminately or by wholesale."

This was a statement made by the Prime Minister on his first week's tour in Ontario. Before the second week of his tour was ended the situation had completely changed and we now find that the Minister of Militia has issued a statement that farmers' sons will not be taken and if they are taken that he, as Minister of Militia will see that they are exempted. Even a more definite pronouncement on this important matter is rumoured.