

They might have shown their patriotism in a more effective way by endeavouring to solve the problem of unemployment and stimulate the production of foodstuffs. Had they put under cultivation their vast waste lands, they could have kept at work the numerous labourers they have thrown on public charity. Should they persist in doing nothing to help in this crisis, the government and parliament of Canada have a strict duty to bring them to task. In England, where respect for private property and freedom of trade have been brought to the extreme, the government has not hesitated to deal summarily with all attempts at cornering foodstuffs. Firms and individuals who tried that profitable operation have been virtually despoiled of their accumulated goods. Is it not as legitimate and urgent to put an end to the cornering and unproductiveness of land? Foodstuffs come from the soil. It is the duty of the people of Canada to draw from their soil the largest production possible, in order to keep the cost of food at a proper level for the consumers of Canada, and increase the supplies of those nations of Europe for which we profess so much friendship and loyalty.

### Unemployment and food production

If the government and parliament are sincere in their wish to help Great Britain, France and Belgium, if they really want to bring our people *back to the land*, to diminish unemployment and misery, and stimulate the production of food, they have a clear duty to perform: let them put the State, temporarily at least, and without disbursement, in possession of a portion of the immense waste lands cornered by the

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large firms of London, enjoying the patronage of Queen Alexandra, subscribed £2,000 to the Patriotic Fund. At the same time the salaries of its employees were reduced. This being known, the subscription cheque was returned to the firm with notice that the patronage of the Queen Dowager was withdrawn. In Canada, a large portion of the Patriotic Fund has been 'sponged' in that manner. Our Shylocks, far from being condemned by public opinion, are lauded to the skies as models of true patriotism. Some of them will reach the Senate and their names will soon appear on decoration lists. True, they are also generous subscribers to electoral funds. Patriotism is still the refuge of scoundrels.