

POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times and Star

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THE FOOD CONFERENCE

Several outstanding facts are to be noted in connection with yesterday's conference in Fredericton on food production. The first is that the people are eager to respond to any appeal made on patriotic grounds, and that in this movement the government is assured of universal sympathy and support. The conference was held at short notice, because the new government has only been one month in power, and had much to do; but delegates were there from all parts of the province, and they were thoroughly representative of the agricultural, industrial, commercial, educational and religious interests of New Brunswick. Add they were all of one mind as to the duty of the hour. The time for action is short because the government has been so short a time in office; and, moreover, for many weeks before it assumed power, the agricultural department had been merely marking time. And so, as Hon. Mr. Tweeddale said, an attempt is now being made, with regard to seed supply and some other things, to do what should have been done three or four months ago. But there is yet time to do much, and the people are ready to do their part with promptness and energy.

Another outstanding fact is the shortage of fertilizer and the utter impossibility of getting supplies this spring. Nova Scotia even tried to get a cargo from England but was refused. We must therefore make the best of that situation. It is also doubtful if more than a very small supply of seed wheat can be got, but Prof. Cummings declared that it is wiser in any case to raise oats and potatoes and beans; and Hon. Mr. Tweeddale points out that barley is also a certain and valuable crop, and seed for these is available.

Still another fact to be emphasized is that we are also organizing for next year, since the food conditions then may be worse than they are now. So far as the return to the farmer is concerned, Prof. Robertson expects to see high prices for three years, and several of the speakers, who should be qualified to judge, expressed the fullest confidence that the farmers would get high prices for all their products, whether field crops or live stock.

But whether the profit be large or small, duty to the Empire demands the largest possible production. Prof. Robertson bluntly says it is no great feat of patriotism to sell produce at the highest possible price; and that it is now our duty to produce whether there is a profit or not, since the very salvation of humanity is at stake. That is a view of the situation which must be emphasized from every pulpit and platform in the land.

The things the conference decided upon, with the full sympathy of the government, are practical and must be helpful. Labor bureaus will do much to aid in solving one of the farmer's problems, and the mobilization of the school boys will also be of very material help. Instruction of the women in canning vegetables and fruiting will do a vast amount of good. Field crop competitions with prizes will help provide a better seed supply for next year, and prizes for general production, including live stock, will be another helpful stimulus.

Very much benefit must also be derived from the formation of the provincial committee, to co-operate with the department of agriculture. And the committee in each county will doubtless perfect a local organization of great usefulness. Thus there will be co-ordination and co-operation from the department right down to district committees, ensuring practical results. This organization will be even more valuable in connection with next year's operations.

The plan of having a National Service Sunday, with its message to all the people from end to end of the province will concentrate attention upon the urgency of the case and deepen the universal desire to have some part in doing what has become a great moral duty instead of a merely business transaction. There is a shortage of food in the world. Britain and her Allies must be helped. The soldiers must be fed. There is still no sign of an early end of the war, and when it is over there will be an immediate and pressing demand for food supplies—a demand that will continue for two or three years before anything like the normal conditions of food supply are restored.

Every citizen of New Brunswick has a share in the obligation imposed upon the nation. The people of the cities, towns and villages must not only co-operate with the farmer and help him to do whatever may be done this year, but they should also cultivate all available vacant lots to the limit of their ability to get the requisite seed and other requirements. Vegetables should take the place of flowers. Everybody should raise as large a portion of their own food as possible, that the farmer may have the more to export to meet the want overseas. We are facing not merely a great opportunity but a paramount duty, not for this year alone, but for the year to follow.

SHIPBUILDING

Mr. T. H. Estabrooks rightly said in Fredericton yesterday that it is of little use for the farmer to produce unless he can market his products. That means ships, and Prof. Robertson points out that a million tons of shipping has been destroyed since the first of February. The conclusion is obvious. With the submarine menace growing more and more serious there must be shipbuilding on an enormous scale. It is today a prime necessity of the war, so far as Britain and her Allies are concerned. Moreover, it is good business to build ships when ships are wanted.

New Brunswick should have a part in the great shipbuilding program. It would be a war measure, and the production of a ship can be produced at a sawmill, and assembled at a building and launching port. This province has the mills and the lumber, with the exception of southern pine or Douglas fir, which could be landed at bay or gulf ports about as cheaply as at ports in Maine.

The proposition placed before the provincial government at Fredericton yesterday commends itself to the people. Necessarily the delegation did not go into details, but the general principle that the government might fairly create a non-partisan commission with large powers, and provide say a million dollars, to be used to encourage the production of ships at the most rapid rate possible at various ports in the province commended itself to all who discussed the situation at the capital yesterday. It would be a war measure. It might also be, as Hon. C. W. Robinson observed, the most profitable enterprise the province ever engaged in; but profit and loss aside it is a needed war measure, and as Mr. Estabrooks suggests, even if there were a loss, it might very well be taken care of by the municipalities in the case of the Patriotic Fund. No proposition ever got a more cordial reception than this about shipbuilding at the hands of the delegates from all parts of the province assembled yesterday at the capital. It appealed at once to their patriotism, and there were shrewd men who also regarded it as good business.

Premier Foster was perfectly right in reminding the delegation that the Valley Railway has imposed a tremendous burden upon the province, whose finances are in a bad way; but he and the members of his cabinet were sympathetic, and will go more fully into the whole matter with a provincial committee to be appointed for that purpose.

THE WAR SITUATION

Today's news from Russia is somewhat more satisfactory. There seemed yesterday to be ground for fear that internal revolution would weaken the Russian resistance to Germany, or lead to a separate peace. Today's cables tell us that the agitation is confined to a small but noisy faction in Petrograd, and that the great majority approve of the war minister's message to the Allies to the effect that Russia would never consider a separate peace. It is not at all surprising that there is more or less trouble in the Russian capital. All things considered it is surprising at this distance that there has not been much more serious conflict of opinion. Indeed there may yet be a serious outbreak.

From Germany comes word that the Kaiser's wings are to be clipped by the Reichstag. The All Highest is to be shorn of some of his arbitrary powers. This is another of the signs of the times. Failure to get a military decision on any front, and the disturbances in the various cities have combined to awaken the autocrat to a realization of the dangers of their own position. All Germany is still busy, however, but the hope that the submarine will save them from utter defeat, and the frank admission of Britain that the menace grows more and more serious will tend to keep that hope alive.

The British have continued to gain success in the terrible struggle on the western front, and the like is true of the French. The territorial gains are very small, however, and the chief advantage lies in the heavy losses inflicted upon the enemy.

The line of sudden inebriates in the police court of a morning appears to have become a thing of the past. This week's pay envelope should be of more real value to many men and families than was the case before prohibition came. No doubt tonight and tomorrow will produce some business for the courts, but much of its odor has departed.

The member of parliament who insisted that Mr. F. B. Carroll was a "black cat" got what was coming to him without any unnecessary delay in the performance.

Fredericton is beginning to put on a spring appearance, and the charm of the noble river at its feet has re-assured itself. Yesterday's visitors to the capital had a very enjoyable day.

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24 lb. bag King's Quality.....	\$1.90	4 lb. tin Pure Fruit Jam.....	17c.
24 lb. bag Royal.....	\$1.90	7 lb. tin Pure Fruit Jam.....	30c.
24 lb. bag Royal Household.....	\$1.90	Flake White Lard in 3 lb. Pails, 70c.	
		Flake White Lard in 10 lb. Pails, \$2.25	
		Flake White Lard in 20 lb. Pails, \$4.40	
		2 Lipton's Jelly.....	25c.
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		Southern's Pork and Beans, tomato sauce.....	12c.
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		5 cakes Naxia, Fairy, etc.....	25c.
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THE WHEAT SITUATION

That the inflated prices for wheat and flour are due to a corner in the Winnipeg wheat market unintentionally created by the British purchasing commission. There is not sufficient wheat of the grade contracted for by the British agents to fill the orders and the dealers have been caught "short."

Sir Thomas White told parliament yesterday that the Winnipeg corner was causing an artificial inflation in the price of both wheat and flour, and that he had called Sir George Perley to take the matter up with the British wheat commission and insist on action being taken at once to relieve the situation.

If such relief is not afforded, said the finance minister, the government will have to take such further action as it may deem in the public interest.

Plenty of Both

"What do you want?" demanded Mr. Newlywed, as he confronted the tramp at the door of his little week-end cottage down in the country. "Breakfast or work?" "Both, sir," replied the tramp. Mr. Newlywed disappeared into the house, and presently returned carrying a large piece of his wife's homemade bread. "Then eat that," he exclaimed, sagaciously, "and you'll have both."