

Canadian Food Bulletin

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The Canadian Food Bulletin is published under authority of the Food Controller, for the information of official organizations co-operating in the work of food control, and of other bodies or individuals interested. The information published is carefully prepared to ensure accuracy of all statements so that it may be a permanent and useful record of the work of the Food Control organization in Canada.

EVERY ONE A FARMER: A CALL TO THE CITIES.

IN the labor force represented by people in cities, towns and villages is the principal hope of any large increase in the production of food in Canada in 1918. There must be readjustment between producers and non-producers if the present dangerous situation is to be relieved. The Canadian farmer today is doing his utmost. Even the inducement of higher prices would not result in much greater production, because greater production is for him a physical impossibility under present conditions of labor scarcity. The dwellers in cities and towns must now do their part. The need of food is indeed grave and now is the time when plans must be made for the coming season.

Cultivation of Back Yards and Vacant Lots.

Every back yard should be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Suburban areas should be utilized for food production. Much could be done by individual households if people only realize the desperate seriousness of the situation and the fact that every ounce of food is a necessary and important contribution in the fight against defeat. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, boys and girls could spare a short time each day to cultivate a garden and thus to grow food which would release other food commodities for shipment overseas. The staffs of industrial establishments, both office and factory, could do much by organizing clubs to cultivate vacant areas near their own places of employment or vacant lots elsewhere in the municipality. Girl Guides and Boy Scouts could also make a real contribution towards relief of the situation. In this way a large part of the requirements of cities and towns, in so far as vegetables are concerned, would be supplied by back yard and vacant lot cultivation, so that market gardeners could use their land in part for grain crops.

City cultivation received a very important stimulus last year. Amateur gardeners will be more efficient this season and splendid results should be obtained if the people will understand that every vegetable and every ounce of other food which they can produce from city land frees labor and developed land for the production of grain for export to the Allied armies and peoples.

Market Gardener Must Grow Grain.

The market gardener would do well to plan during the coming season to devote part of his land to grain. It is quite probable that there will be as much profit for him in growing oats, or even wheat, as in raising cabbages or similar vegetable crops. It is important that he appreciate the real significance to him of back yard gardening and vacant lot cultivation schemes. Our cities are gradually working towards the time when a large part of their requirements of perishable vegetables will be provided from city land. The market gardener must adjust his operations to this changing situation.

The people of the cities must do more than cultivate back yards and vacant lots. The farmer looks to them for active assistance to overcome, in so far as may be possible, the labor shortage. There are many thousands of men in cities and towns who are not eligible for military service but who could do very necessary war work on a farm. The call comes to these men to consider their individual responsibility. There are men now engaged in occupations which are not essential to the prosecution of the war, who could,