

"Taking all these factors into consideration, it is no exaggeration to say that the world faces a food situation that is **NOTHING SHORT OF APPALLING**. . . 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**" (a)

That is precisely the contrary of what we are doing.

SENATE OPINION.—A committee of the Senate, under the capable chairmanship of Mr. Nicholls, during last session considered the situation and reported (capitals added)

"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 thereby increased.

2. That if it is found necessary, in order to encourage farmers to bring additional acreage under cultivation, that a bounty of a certain sum be paid for each and every acre of wild land put under cultivation and off which a crop is raised during the next ensuing two years."

Observing that bounties and high prices would not of themselves produce wheat—that Governmental action was necessary—the committee added:

"The shortage of farm labour must be met, and the method of meeting it must be **PROMPT AND DECISIVE**, if our present production of wheat and other cereals is to be **MAINTAINED, LET ALONE INCREASED**."(b)

The committee proposed the introduction of Asiatic labor—a possible solution, and one which, rather than that our allies should severely suffer, I should be prepared to accept. But Sir Robert did not like it. And he knew that British Columbia would not like it. So, with some excellent Senate speeches, the work of the committee passed into oblivion. "The shortage of farm labour must be met;" action "must be prompt and decisive," said the Senate committee. And Sir Robert sends the only available supply to France!

OTHER OPINION.—So much for the Senate. Now let me give some facts from other sources—

(a) *Urban and Rural Development, published by the Commission of Conservation, Canada, p. 62.*

(b) *Hansard, 15th August, 1917, pp. 683-7.*