



NEWFOUNDLAND AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

Bulletin No. 5.

The Country recognises and appreciates the excellent practical response in the past year by producers of agricultural products to the pleas made by both Government and Press for increased production. It is not yet possible to fully estimate the extent to which we have benefitted thereby but it is certain that we have profited very materially.

The Country has reason to be pleased with the chief outstanding result in that the cost of potatoes has thereby been kept the present season at nearly pre-war prices. But for the increased production of the past two years we should have been compelled to import potatoes largely, and the almost prohibitive freight rates alone would have so increased their cost as to make them almost a luxury, and thus have debarred their utilization as a substitute to some extent for flour, and if we had been compelled to import potatoes the cost of local potatoes would have been proportionately increased.

The need of the past year was great and the response nearly equal thereto, but in the present year — the crucial year of the war — IT IS NOW BUT TOO APPARENT THAT WE SHALL BE COMPELLED TO MAKE A SUPREME EFFORT TO PROVIDE, so far as humanly possible, every pound of edible matter that our soil will furnish.

It is the imperative duty of every individual to do all that in him lies to aid the Empire to fight this war to a victorious finish. We owe this duty, first, to the Almighty, as it will mean the triumph of Christian ideals and of justice over the inhuman and semi-barbarous procedures of our enemies. We owe it to the Empire of which we are proud to be a part, and we owe it to ourselves, as the conservation of our economic position and, very possibly, freedom from acute suffering during the present year will in great measure depend on our determination to make ourselves independent, so far as we possibly can, of food supplies from outside sources.

The Agricultural Board is therefore warranted in again requesting all growers of farm and vegetable products to at once take steps to ensure their being able to make even larger plantings the present year than in the year past. The Board is convinced there is but too good reason to fear that we shall need it all. Every plot of land allowed to remain unplanted the coming season will be a reflection upon the character and intelligence of its owner and a menace to the Empire's safety.

Let us, therefore, make a united and supreme effort to protect Newfoundland from becoming a weak link in the Empire's chain of war cares, as this will result if, by our indifference, we allow starvation to threaten us.

With our God-given abundant fish supply and the requisite quantity of potatoes we cannot be made to suffer very acutely from hunger, and we can afford to await the time when, in the wisdom of Divine Providence, it shall be fitting to crown the heroic struggle we are making with a victorious and lasting peace.

The Agricultural Board expects within a few days to be able to announce that it has secured a supply of Seeds for the coming season.

A. J. BAYLY, Acting Secretary.

Filed. Agricultural Board's Office, February, 1918.

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