



NEWFOUNDLAND AGRICULTURAL BOARD.

BULLETIN NO. 6.

Since the issuing of Bulletin No. 5, the aspect of the Food problem, not alone in Newfoundland, but throughout nearly all Europe and North America, has become much more acute, and as the advent of the planting season is at hand the Agricultural Board realises that a plain statement of actual conditions should be placed before the country, being convinced that if it be fully understood how urgent is the necessity, the Country will do its full share towards the further and absolutely necessary increase of production of all crops in the present year—and in this alone appears now to be our chief hope of safety from most serious consequences.

In its Report for the year 1914, and again in the Report for the years 1915 and 1916, the Agricultural Board warned the country of the necessity for preparation for the alarming condition of things that now confronts us, and the Board would be recreant in its duty if it failed to again give a final warning that the need of the present year is more grave and imperative than was that of the year past.

The present war is being waged by the whole Empire, not by Great Britain alone, and we, by virtue of our being raised to the status and dignity of a Dominion, in recognition of our efforts in the cause of Empire, are now an integral link in the world-girdling chain of British Dominions, and it is incumbent upon us to live up to the obligations and to make the sacrifices therefor that loyalty and devotion to the Empire and its traditions demand and that all the other Dominions are so cheerfully making.

Famine alone can cause the Empire to lose in the present war. The safety of the peoples of the Dominions is of the same consequence as are those of the Motherland, and famine could compel the Empire to sacrifice itself to save any one of those peoples as readily as to save those of the Home Countries.

Hundreds of our own noble Volunteers have shed their blood and made the Supreme Sacrifice in our defence since this war was declared and we would be unworthy of the sacrifice they have made if we fail to take the necessary precautions to guard against our being the means of nullifying the great work they have done, and this we will be, collectively and individually, guilty of doing if our failure to protect ourselves from the famine that will come if we make not the required effort to stave it off, and thus cause the Empire's surrender in order to save us. Such a result would stamp us, and those from whom we have sprung, with an eternal disgrace.

We can all picture to ourselves what would happen if the people of this Country, or any considerable number of them, were but a single week without bread, or an acceptable substitute therefor, and it now amounts almost to a certainty that we will not be able to procure sufficient flour to provide for our wants throughout the whole of the present year.

The most acceptable substitute for flour that we can provide is the potato, and if we but make the effort that both prudence and patriotism demand, we can produce a sufficiency of potatoes that, with our abundant supply of fish food, will safely protect us from the absolute hunger that would force on the Empire the dire consequences indicated.

If our indifference to our own pressing needs cause the Empire to lose in the war we are now waging in the interest of humanity, of liberty and of christianity, we can be accused of having needlessly sent our Volunteers, who have died for us, to their deaths. Our paramount duty therefore, in the present year, is for everyone owning a plot of land to plant it fully, giving a preference to potatoes. Our own individual interests, our Country's and the Empire's interests are dependent upon our doing this. Thus can we best do honour to the memories of our soldier dead—they gave their lives to save us; let us, therefore, now do what we may to assure it that they have not died in vain.

A. J. BAYLY, Acting Secretary.

Office of the Newfoundland Agricultural Board, April, 1918.

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