

GREATER MAPLE PRODUCTION.

Increased Output is Expected in All Eastern Provinces.

Reports reaching the Canada Food Board indicate that there will be an unusual effort to produce maple sugar and maple syrup this season.

At the annual meeting of the Pure Maple Sugar and Syrup Co-operative Agricultural Association, Mr. Gustave Boyer, M.P., read a letter from the Chairman of the Canada Food Board and supplemented it by warm endorsement as President of the Association. Mr. J. H. Grimm made a strong speech in which he urged that producers "bring out the old sap buckets" where modern equipment was unobtainable, and tap every available tree. He pointed out that the market was a profitable one as never before and deplored the fact that many farmers had dropped out of the business in past years, owing to the competition of adulterated sugar and syrup. This competition, however, had been eliminated by the Pure Maple Sugar law, so that it was now illegal to use even the name "maple" on any but the pure product. A resolution was carried, endorsing the campaign for increased production of maple syrup and sugar in 1918. A lecturer or lecturers, will be sent through the Eastern Townships by the Quebec Government to demonstrate modern and efficient methods of sugar making. Mr. Boyer states that maple sugar will sell this year at 18 cents per pound and the syrup at no less than \$1.50 per gallon, 30 cents extra for the can. This compares with 1917 prices a little higher and more than double the prices obtained previous to the war.

Letters from the District Representatives of the Agricultural Department of the Province of Ontario received in reply to a circular letter sent by the Food Board, promise increased production for that Province also. The Ontario Government is also co-operating to the fullest possible extent.

Granted a favourable season, the prospects are for an increased production of maple sugar and maple syrup of from 50 per cent to 100 per cent. There is no question about the market for the demand is greater than the supply.

NEXT TWO MONTHS CRITICAL.

Lord Rhondda, Food Controller for the United Kingdom, has expressed the opinion that the food situation among the Allies will be in its most difficult stage during the next two months

BEES, RABBITS, PIGEONS.

Food Resources which are Capable of Greater Development.

General interest is being taken in the suggestion that rabbits be more largely raised for food purposes in Canada. A campaign to interest city people in the possibilities of raising rabbits for food has been launched in Vancouver. Mr. J. R. Terry, Chief Poultry Inspector of the Department of Agriculture for British Columbia, addressed the organization meeting. It was claimed by speakers at this meeting, and by other enthusiasts who have made the raising of rabbits a specialty, that rabbit raising is much more profitable than poultry raising, and that the flesh of a garden-raised rabbit or hare is very much more tender than the best chicken. The young rabbits mature in three months and the rabbit families are numerous. They can be raised on green food in the summer time.

The raising of bees is also a question of more than ordinary importance at the present time, owing to the world scarcity of sugar. In this connection Mr. F. W. M. Sladden, Apiarist of the Dominion Experimental Farm, suggests that bees be purchased without combs from the Southern States early in the spring before the dealers are overburdened with orders. To avoid disappointment, intending purchasers should be careful to select reliable and experienced dealers. Mr. Sladden quotes the result of three lots of bees shipped from Alabama to the Experimental Farm. This shipment consisted of three 2-pound packages, each with its queen, which arrived on May 9. After being supplied with combs and brood from other colonies, these three lots produced 433 pounds of honey, and built up into five strong colonies fit for wintering. Another shipment of three lots produced a total of 316 pounds of honey. The cost of the three lots was \$9.75, and express charges \$1.25. Full information as to where to purchase bees may be secured from the apiarist, Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The keeping of pigeons has also been receiving attention from those who are interested in increasing the food supply. Pigeons pick up a living, very largely by their own effort, and multiply rapidly. Boys could care for their management, and they will pay for themselves very quickly.

The Loyalist Chapter, I.O.D.E., Saint John, N.B., has decided to omit refreshments at their meetings in future in order to help to conserve food.