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## EDITORIAL.

Be calm during the crisis.

Never did we see pastures dry up faster.

Conservation now becomes a grim reality.

All markets are panicky and nothing seems sure.

Dry weather has shortened crop yields in many places over the Dominion.

A promising crop is often greatly reduced in yield by a few hot days.

"There is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

After-harvest cultivation should now be the chief concern of the good farmer.

Carefully cure and store all the feed, as feed is likely to be high-priced this winter.

Militarism—war—waste—death—this is the terrible sequence through which the world is passing.

In the last recourse the farmer's position is more secure than that of the townsman—he can feed himself.

The short crop harvested in many sections may yet prove more valuable than some heavier crops have done.

Never in the history of the world has there been a time when good farmers were more needed than at the present.

In war as in peace the farmer feeds them all, and it is upon him and the laboring man that the heaviest burdens fall.

As never before in this generation, the minds of the over-crowded cities are turning back to the land, whence food supplies come.

The day is coming when the people of the world will refuse to stand targets for each others' rifles simply to settle the quarrels of a few autocrats.

Live stock is none too plentiful as it is, but all indications point to a wholesale destruction of it in Europe, and prices seem to be almost sure to climb upward.

Producers and consumers alike will stand by the government in anything which they may do to prevent speculators making an undue profit on foodstuffs in this critical time.

We cannot understand why some farmers allow weeds to overrun their pastures, and make no attempt to get rid of them. Cutting in due season would destroy a large number of them.

The first big flour deal, since the opening of hostilities, by which Canada sends one million sacks of flour to Great Britain, is only a beginning of the flow of foodstuffs to the Motherland.

## Our Products and Prices in War.

Canada has been officially declared in a state of war, but so far very little evidence of actual war, as it is generally construed, has been noticeable in this country. Glaring headlines and sensational paragraphs have produced somewhat of a "scare" and war prices for foodstuffs have been prophesied and denied, but nothing really sensational has yet happened, although there has been more or less of a "run" on the supply of foodstuffs on hand. We must admit that the situation in Europe is grave and that it is sure to affect the entire world, and as Canada is a part of the British Empire she is sure to feel the pressure of such a deplorable state as now exists across the Atlantic. There is a great talk of high prices for the products of the soil, the favorite term used being "war" prices. According to estimates and reports the crop of continental Europe is a light one, only one of the great nations now in conflict having a full crop. In view of this fact, coupled with the destruction which must be wrought by mammoth armies, and the neglect caused by lack of men to properly harvest the grain, there seems sure to be a world shortage of supply. Regardless of the action of Governments supply and demand must, to a certain extent at least, control prices. The supply will be short, and consequently the demand must increase, which ultimately means higher prices.

Facing the situation squarely, what should Canada do? We think that Canadians generally will commend our Government for the stand they took in buying one million sacks of flour, and making the Motherland a present of it. Of course, Canada is ready with men and money, but our foodstuffs may be more needed and the beginning which the government has made should, we believe, be followed up with other gifts on the same basis. Such action is rational, and adheres closely to the principle of Canadian autonomy.

It has been hinted that the Canadian Government should take over the crop and prevent any increase of prices, but it does seem that at this time this would be a rather drastic measure. There is some danger of going too far in pressing such a measure upon some of the struggling settlers of the West, who at best will realize small enough net returns on what in many sections is a very scanty crop. If our government would follow out the principle it has begun and buy what is necessary to send to Great Britain and give it free to the Motherland, then our farmers would reap the benefit of increased prices, and no burden would be placed upon Great Britain, as she would get the foodstuffs entirely free of charge. The government, which is the Canadian people, would be undertaking the burden—one which would be cheerfully born. There is a grave peril in placing all the burden directly on the land in the form of taking over the crop in that it would increase the tendency away from the farm, which is already all too serious. Everyone knows that farming as an occupation is none too attractive to the young now. It would be folly to multiply its disadvantages. Some other industries have already reaped considerable benefit, why not Canadian farming? Everyone realizes that it is the land holder who in the end must foot the bills connected with this awful destruction.

Let us suppose that the crop were taken over by the government; what would it mean? With a short crop in Europe and a short crop in Can-

ada, and Europe engaged in war, how long would Canada's surplus last? At best a few months would consume it all, and then what? United States with its unprecedented bumper crop, and The Argentine with its great output would reap a harvest from war prices, while the Canadian farmer, directly interested, and upon whom a certain part of the burden must eventually fall, would be at a disadvantage, having to pay the piper after being excluded from the music. If higher prices prevail on the world's market for the products of the soil we cannot see why the Canadian farmer should not get his share, and if our government carries out the system which it has begun Canada can show her loyalty and her true worth by giving scot free, as a Dominion in the Empire, all her surplus to aid Great Britain in her time of trial. This system would please the producer far better than seizing his surplus crop at a stated price, and would prevent endless trouble, while Great Britain would reap the greatest possible benefit.

There is a vast difference between the conditions which have made it imperative to take over the crop in Great Britain and those prevailing in Canada. Canada's duty is plain. No Canadian wishes to shrink from it. Great Britain needs our men, our money and our foodstuffs, and she will get them without a flinch, but the farmers who have borne the burdens and made this country and who must bear them again, should receive some consideration. The law of supply and demand must work, to some extent, regardless of the interference of those in authority. One thing most needed is that the government take measures to prevent unwarranted speculation and "corners" in foodstuffs by moneyed middlemen. Such precautions are necessary. If these are exercised, while there may be an advance in prices generally, no one is likely to make a "big haul." The producer as an individual cannot, because he is limited to one season's small output.

The whole thing is a maze of baffling perplexity, which only goes to show the awfulness of war. Truly, war is hell, and the more civilized the combatants the more hellish the combat, in that its effects are so much more far-reaching. The horror and dreadfulness of the whole thing is just beginning to impress itself upon the people who shudder at the outcome. Both the winner and the loser must be losers in the end. There is no other alternative.

## How Dependent are the Nations?

One country may be able to get along for a time without another, but when the great nations of the world clash and commerce is suspended, it is not long before all countries feel the pinch in some line of endeavor. After all nations are dependent upon one another for their prosperity. We are far removed from the seat of conflict, and yet the echo of the first guns of the military campaign, now in progress, had scarcely died away before we began to hear of fears for our export trade. Even the United States, a strictly neutral power, is feeling the effects, and her people are being cautioned to live plainly until the crisis passes. Down at Montreal and even up here in Ontario cheese buyers expressed their opinion that cheese, although there is a comparatively short supply, would fall flat unless exporting was soon in progress again. However, prices have not fallen at time of writing, although no sales are reported from several