

harvest, as far as human labor can achieve, will be a striking demonstration of Canada's efficiency and determination. The willingness of the Canadian people to permit control of their products for purposes of winning the war is naturally welcomed by all the Allies as tending to increase the supply and to regulate prices. The certainty that we can rely on your whole-hearted co-operation, not only in utilizing every ounce of national energy to increase production, but in equitable adjustment of prices, gives me the greatest encouragement. I most heartily wish you every success in your all-important work" (a).

**THE RESPONSE.**—Our duty—our plain, manifest, imperious duty—was to make quick, active, and effective response to these appeals. I charge against Sir Robert that he has done almost nothing. Last year, indeed, Mr. Burrell issued some excellent pamphlets, and he and others preached "production, more production, and still more production." But all that has been accomplished is that some vacant lots have been turned into vegetable gardens. Lord Rhondda asked for devotion to food-raising and "the **diversion of effort** from other enterprise." Sir Robert replied with conscription, for the purpose of **continuing our effort** in "other enterprise." Lord Rhondda appealed for aid against Germany's "threats of starvation." Sir Robert replied with pamphlets and preachings. Lord Rhondda urged "utilizing every ounce of national energy to increase production." Sir Robert replied by disrupting Canada in order to send the very best of our energy to Europe. That is not playing the game. That, if you wish, is "desertion"—desertion of our plain duty, and a childish preference for the spectacular to that which, if less showy, is of infinitely greater importance.

**IMPORTANCE OF FOOD-SUPPLY.**—The question of food-supply for the Allies is, to my mind, very much more serious than the defection of Russia, and Lord Rhondda does well to interject the word "starvation." If you do not agree with me, it is because you do not read current and easily available literature. More than a year ago, I tried to rouse public opinion to a realisation of the terrifying importance of the food situation; and, for my reward, received some newspaper abuse. Do you know what are the conditions in France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, and Rumania today? You do not know them fully, and neither do I. But we know enough to justify the recent statement of Dr. J. W. Robertson (capitals added)

(a) *Military Gazette (Can.)*, 14th August, 1917.