# IF I WERE PREMIER

A Canadian Woman, with a Broad View and a Big Vision, Sets Forth in this Remarkable Article a Plan for the Mobilization of a Big Canadian Army to go out, Right Here in Canada, on an Expedition to Help the Empire Win the War.

AM a Canadian and an Imperialist, a lover of peace who yet believes that the struggle we are engaged in is a righteous war for freedom; that with right on our side we are fighting for the principles of British government, defending England and the Empire. I make this statement of position to preclude any misunder-standing, for I consider that the policy

of position to preclude any misunder-standing, for I consider that the policy have to outline is as Imperial as it is Canadian, as patriotic as it is humane.

#### What We Have Done

Canada has responded to the call of Empire. A Canada has responded to the call of Empire. A special session of Parliament voted a war loan of 50,000,000 dollars. The foresight of the Premier of British Columbia obtained submarines for the defence of the Pacific Coast. Thirty-three thousand Canadian soldiers are in France; 108,000 men will go before the end, to fight on the battlefield of Europe for Canadian life and Canadian liberty. We have sent wheat and other food supplies to the Belgians; we have subscribed to patriotic funds and to the Red Cross. Whatever we have found to do we have done.

we have done.

But it is as nothing to the opportunity, the privilege—and the necessity—that is before us.

We Canadians, removed by a generation from even the rumor of war, do not realize the losses entailed by war to the Allies, to Germany and Austria, and, inevitably, to the whole world. The loss of men is chiefest; then comes the loss of their labor, the loss of the material and the labor that have labor, the loss of the material and the labor that have gone into the making of their equipment, the loss of horses, and of crops and buildings immediately destroyed. But the keenest loss to the productivity of the world is the reduction in agriculture due to the absence of farmers from the fields.

#### Famines

The greatest danger to the Allies, to Germany, to Austria, to the world, is Starvation. This, in time of peace, we never think of as a danger to our civilization. I deed, we have almost come to take food for granted—a foolish supposition, as an examination of the great wheat producing countries examination of the great wheat producing countries shows. India produces only enough wheat for her own enormous population; it is true India exports wheat, but it is at the expense of her own people, who have died of famine by millions during the past century; it is also true that the production of wheat in India is not increasing, but decreasing, while the population increases. In England, Scotland and Wales, from the 11th to the 19th centuries there were 107 famines; in the last hundred years, two scarcities.

Wales, from the 11th to the 19th centuries there were 107 famines; in the last hundred years, two scarcities. In the United States, while the production and the increase in production is great, economists are already discussing what less nutritious grains the large population will eat when wheat is no longer easily available. In France, in Austria-Hungary, in the Balkans, in Spain and Portugal, in Africa, in the United Kingdom the production of wheat has decreased; nor has the supply of two used to supplehas decreased; nor has the supply of rye, used to supplement the wheat foods, increased. Our security about food, of which I have taken wheat as the chief instance, is rather overdone. The world has enough to eat—and barely that—only by constant effort and toil, and by constant increase in food production. Let that effort and increase cease and shortage in food supply would be felt at once and felt keenly.

### Famine Still Possible

That shortage faces the world in 1915. In Europe 18,000,000 men are removed from productive occupations, and becoming soldiers, are non-productive consumers. By May there will be 25,000,000 men under arms. They have to be fed. Many of them are from the farming population. In spite of all braggadocio statements as to the resources of the countries at war, no bravado can overcome the fact that this strength is non-productive. To Russia the the world has turned for wheat, to Russia, which increased the production of wheat by one-third in three years; Russia, where there will not be an increase this year, but where it is more than probable that there will be a decrease. The enor-That shortage faces the world in 1915. In Europe

where it is more than probable that there will be a decrease. The enor-mous sugar exports of Germany and Austria are not available to the world. The food imports to Great Britain from the Continent, which form a considerable quantity of the total consumption, are rendered uncertain. Horses, which are needed in agriculture, are destroyed in ap-palling numbers by war, and the longer the war lasts, the greater will consumption of food and wastage of horses, increase against their production.

## Demand Increased

Not only is the production in the And the state of the production in the allied countries less, but the demand has increased—in Belgium, in France, in England. The loss in population due to death in war—1,000,000—is slight in comparison with the total population, and does not affect this argument, for in one year the births in the United Kingdom alone amount to 1,000,000. The consuming, non-producing classical terms of the consuming of the consuming the ses are not only the fighting and wounded men, but also the women



We all know what happened to poor Belgium, and how much greater the distress is going to be before the fighting stops in that country. Northern France and Poland are also suffering great distress and hunger. The nations are going soon to invade Germany. The farmers of Russia. of France, of England are in the army of invaders. The farmers of Germany are in the army that is going to defend their country. The result is not hard to contemplate. An immense shortage of food faces all the nations now at war, and the non-combatants are going to be the sufferers. They are going to look to Canada for food. Are we going to be able to supply it? Not unless we act now.

and children who have been driven from their homes. These people must be fed. With what? By whom?

What will happen in 1915? Belgium, under ordinary conditions, imported \$80,000,000 worth of wheat. The people whom that wheat fed have still to be fed. France got wheat from Russia. England, Scotland and Ireland got \$20,000,000 of wheat from Russia, \$36,000,000 from Argentine, \$55,000,000 from India, \$100,000,000 from I



While the armies on the Continent of Europe are fighting their terrible battles, each one the enemy of the other, there appears on the horizon the grim spectre of an enemy more formidable, more destructive, than any enemy in France and Belgium. He is the enemy of the whole world. His name is Starvation.

conditions. We cannot tell what changes war may make at any time. The production of wheat and food is less, the demand is as great, trade relations and trade routes are disturbed. It is probable that the war will be a long one; we may expect that it will be. What will happen in 1915?

#### Rise in Wheat

It is expected that the price of wheat will rise and keep on rising. The rumor indicates that trade conditions are very disturbed and that a serious shortage is anticipated. This means disaster for all production, for labor, for manufacturing, and for commerce.

#### Yearly Increase in Food Production Needed

Needed

The world looks chiefly to Canada and to Russia to produce its wheat, for it is in these two countries that increase in wheat production is possible on a large scale. Canada's wheat supply was multiplied four times from 1901 to 1911, so that Canada is now the second greatest new wheat country, Russia being first. It is to Canada and to Russia that the world looks for the increase in food production necessary to meet present demands. "Russia produces 500 million bushels and will increase the yield to 1,000 million bushels in course of time"—but not under present conditions. "Canada grows something like 200 million bushels and her produce will in time reach the present Russian figures," but not unless the rate of increase is maintained.

#### No Increase in Canada

Are we going to produce more wheat in 1915 than in 1914? Not unless very special measures are taken, for we shall not under present conditions increase our cultivated acreage as we have in the past, nor will there be an increase in intensive cultivation that might take its place. The usual increase represented on an average 37,000 homestead entries each year for the past seven years. Men have been drafted from the country, more will be taken. The increase to our population by immigration in fourteen years has amounted to months of the year 1912, the number of immigrants to Canada in 1914 from January to July, was less by 10,000. (Since August 1, no figures are obtainable). Immigration to the United States through the Port of New York in 1914 decreased as much, no immigration to Canada from Europe until after to Canada will drop off on account of Canada's status as a increase in wheat produce the demand of the world's need in the past.

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Our Vacant Land

# Our Vacant Land

Can we in any way meet this need? satisfy this demand? We have the land to produce the wheat, for our land area is nearly four million square miles, which is only partially cultivated along the southern border. In Alberta, taking Alberta as an instance, the arable land is reckoned to be a hundred million acres, of which less than three million is under cultivation. This yielded, in 1912, 64½ million bushels of grain. At the same rate, the total arable acreage would yield 4,300 million bushels of grain. We have the land, land enough for an Empire. Have we the men to sow the seed and reap the harvest?

### Men Out of Work

Unhappily, yes. Of our population of eight millions, 60,000 men are unemployed. Even when the third and fourth contingents are recruited, under present conditions, we may expect that the coming of summer will hardly relieve the distress caused by this lack of work. For consider—railroad construction is suspended, factories are shut down, building is stopped. We have heard building is stopped. We have heard a great deal of world over-popula-tion, of increased cost of living, of unemployment, all told in tones of greatest distress and pessimism, as if they should be accepted as an inevitable part of life. In view of our vast untilled and unpeopled land, to look upon lack of food and land, to look upon lack of food and lack of work as inevitable conditions in the world, shows worse than cowardice—shows lack of thinking on the part of those who govern and lead. Unemployment is a ghastly ironical comment on civilization.

# If I Were the Premier

I would put these men—25,000, 50,000, 100,000—on our land in the west, virgin land ready to plough, and produce the wheat for which the people of the world hold out their hands to us. Consider the possibility: in Alberta alone the rural population of 232,725, farming 391,752 acres, produced, 64,465,058 bushels of grain; that means that 50,000 increase in farming labor on increased acreage would produce 12,000,000 bushels more grain. As a