

## NEW SPIRIT IN CANADIAN LIFE.

Co-operation and community effort in food production in 1918 has shown a marked advance in keeping with the needs of the Allies for food. This spirit of brotherhood bids fair to make even greater progress in the coming year.

In Ontario, community farming, gardening, berry picking, canning, hog raising and flax pulling have made a remarkable record, which is embodied in a circular issued by the Organization of Resources Committee of that province. This binding together of Canadians in unselfish, co-operative, patriotic enterprises is one of the best and most significant results of war necessity. It is practical conservation and largely tends to reduce the cost of living.

The Organization of Resources Committee proposes to carry on what it has begun and to increase its usefulness by utilizing the tractor and contractor idea of farming idle lands close to cities and large towns in the province of Ontario. In the spring of 1918 co-operative farming companies were organized in Sarnia and St. Catharines along lines similar to those initiated by the Border Cities' Agricultural Association at Windsor.

This was the largest town community farming enterprise carried on in Ontario. Seventeen manufacturing firms organized to cultivate 500 acres adjoining the city. Shares were allotted at \$30. Two calls totalling one-half the value of the shares have been made. The work was under the charge of a special Executive Committee with a practical and experienced farmer supervising it. A tractor and other equipment were bought by the Association, but men and horses were hired when required, being obtained where possible from the firms interested. Two hundred and fifty acres were in crop in 1918, producing potatoes, corn, beans and flax. Land has been prepared for fall wheat so that for 1919 the prospects are that the whole five hundred acres will be producing foodstuffs or flax. The Executive sells the crops. The proceeds first apply to cover the cost of operation.

The initial consideration is not profit but increase of foodstuffs. The testimony of one of the committee is:—

"I have never known in all my years of public life any scheme which has been taken up more energetically and more enthusiastically or with a greater degree of public spiritedness than this public undertaking. So far there has not been a single hitch."

The Lincoln County Greater Production, Limited, operated at St. Catharines. It has a capital of \$25,000, with shares of \$20 value. There are 250 shareholders, chiefly among the business men of the city. Two Fordson tractors, a complete set of ploughs, seeders and cultivators and other implements have been purchased. The company has a Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee, composed of practical farmers. The secretary is the Agricultural Representative of the county. W. H. Secord is Chairman of the Advisory Committee and also the working farm manager. He is paid \$100 a month and expenses during the working season and provided with a Ford truck.

The Indian Lands Company, Limited, of Sarnia, leased 175 acres of Indian reserve for a term of years. In 1918 fifty acres were put in grain, flax and potatoes. The work was done by hired teams, but in 1919 the company plans to buy its own outfit. A competent and experienced manager supervises the work.

Community gardening was developed widely by manufacturing companies and their employees. Where space was available on factory sites large plots were cultivated in the larger towns and smaller cities. Church organizations were not behind hand in co-operative production, while the schools of Ontario did much elementary work along the same line. The Vacant Lot Associations, Board of Trade Production Committees, Rotary Clubs, Town Council Committees and Horticultural Societies cultivated twice as much private back-yard gardens in 1918 as they did in 1917 under community schemes, and the good work is only begun.

Women's Institutes arranged for canning outfits to be set up in many cities in the province. The products are used in military hospitals in Canada and for the troops Overseas.

Community hog-raising caught on with the people of the province, and the results of 1918 indicate that greater production will ensue by continuation of the work in 1919.

Flax-pulling was done by helpers from towns and villages throughout the flax-growing area, with the result that men, women and children turned out and worked.

All these efforts of community co-operative farming by public spirited citizens have assisted in 1918 to meet the shortage of food, which is one of the grave war problems confronting the Allies.