

PLANS FOR PRODUCTION

Objectives of the Provinces in Eastern Canada are Announced.

The campaign for increased food production is receiving splendid support in all parts of the Dominion. The Provincial Departments of Agriculture are co-operating with the Federal Department of Agriculture and the Canada Food Board. Business men and farmers are showing the fullest possible sympathy with the objects of the campaign and every disposition to help in every possible way.

Dr. Jas. W. Robertson has been appointed to represent the Federal Department of Agriculture and the Canada Food Board in co-operation with the Provincial governments of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. He has been in the Maritime Provinces, where he has met with the Provincial governments and members of the legislatures, and has been working out definite plans of organization and application.

Objectives of the Provinces.

Ontario has set for itself an objective of 1,000,000 additional acres of cereals and other cultivated crops, and also the greatest possible production per acre on all cultivated lands.

Quebec expects to exceed an objective of 600,000 additional acres.

The three Maritime Provinces are depended upon for increased crops to the extent of 400,000 acres, an increase of 5 acres per farm on the average.

Judging from the enthusiasm which has been shown and increasing realization of the need, these objectives are likely to be reached.

In his address in the Eastern Provinces, Dr. Robertson pointed out that the requirements of the Allies for 1918, of wheat, barley, oats, rye and Indian corn, amounts to 360,000,000 bushels more than the annual average of their requirements of these food commodities before the war, and by reason of the shipping situation they are dependent very largely upon North America, not only for these increased requirements but also for a large part of the imports which they formerly secured from other countries.

"Not Enough Food".

"There is not enough food on our side," Dr. Robertson said, "to let us be free from

anxiety and danger of famine this year or next year, even if peace should be won before the winter comes; and if we all produce only as much as we used to produce and eat as much and waste as much as we used to eat and waste, the privation among our Allies will become still greater—privation which is almost certain to mean starvation for women and children and the weakening of our position in the war. That is the gravity of the food situation."

"One of the most effective ways to conserve shipping is to provide as large a proportion as possible of the food requirements of the Allies from Canada. . . .

"Now the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are leading and directing the farmers towards an immensely increased production in 1918. A war production campaign is in progress, which will reach every township from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In the towns vacant lots will become war gardens. . . .

Five acres more per farm.

"The farmers of Eastern Canada are called upon, by the grave emergency which our Allies face, to produce in 1918 two millions of acres additional of cereals and cultivated crops. That amounts to about five acres per farm."

Dr. Robertson expresses the opinion that a sustaining army of 400,000 farmers in Eastern Canada can save the situation.

One of the methods of procedure in carrying out the general plan in each province is to form a Greater Production Committee in every township or parish. The members of these committees will be leading and influential farmers who will personally visit their neighbors in the township or parish to secure their earnest co-operation. It has been proposed that in every Province the Lieutenant-Governor should issue a proclamation calling for the observance of a week solemnly dedicated to preparation for the crops of 1918, in order to avert dire privation and threatening famine. During this week dedicated to preparation, the plans for the season's crops on each farm will be reconsidered with a view to increasing the acreage to the utmost, the seed will be made completely ready and all machines, tools and harness will be put in order to avoid loss of time when the Spring work begins.