

# ITEMS FOR AND ABOUT THE FARMER

## WILL STARVATION FOLLOW THE WAR?

Hundred Million Acres in Canada That Might Avert Disaster.

To suggest that the world may emerge from war, only to find itself plunged into famine, may seem like playing upon the public nerves at a time when they are already overstrung. So many apparently impossible things have occurred within the last three years that the mind is now prepared to accept almost any disaster as within the range of possibility. To the well-informed reader of 1917 a world famine seems almost inevitable. Indeed, the indications which point to the possibility of famine have not even the remotest possibility of being exaggerated. The modern world is much too sane to fight "sanity" properly distributed over the great nations, might have saved the world from war, but no degree of sanity can save it from starvation if it continues to produce less food than it consumes.

The question may be asked, "Why should war bring about a food shortage? The millions who have died in the war were previously fed, doubtless equally well, in civil life. The tremendous loss of life means a proportionate decrease in food consumption. All countries are encouraging food production on a scale and of an intensity never before attempted, and the high prices offered for the products of the farms are a powerful economic incentive toward meeting any shortage that may exist. The answer is found in the same high prices. After making allowance for the effects of speculation, the price of food products must surely indicate the growing scarcity. Take the figures prevailing in Western Canada, for example. Here is a great food-producing country which never fails to have a surplus for world consumption; it eats. The average price of wheat in Western Canada (Fort William basis) for four years previous to the outbreak of war was 62 cents. At this writing it is \$2.08. Oats, used principally as a food for livestock, have advanced from 37 cents to 68 cents, and other cereals in proportion. Even in this prairie country, which produces more than its requirements, potatoes are now selling at \$60.00 a ton. And look at the prices of livestock, clipped from a market report early in April:

Hogs: Calgary, \$14.75; Winnipeg, \$14.85; Montreal, \$16.75; Chicago, \$16.00.

Cattle: Calgary, \$9.90; Winnipeg, \$10.15; Montreal, \$12.00; Chicago, \$12.15.

Sheep: Calgary, \$10.75; Winnipeg, \$11.00; Montreal, \$15.00; Chicago, \$15.50.

Milk cows, offered for sale at farmers' auctions, bring prices as high as were commanded by horses a few years ago, and a broad sow registers a market value greater than a milk cow of the last decade. These prices may not mean famine, but they can be interpreted only as shadowing the spectre of universal food shortage.

**Crop Deficits.** But, to return to the original question, why should there be a food shortage? Let us drop theories—which, in case of hunger, have no filling quality—and consult facts. The United States produced in 1916 640,000,000 bushels of wheat, which is 385,000,000 less than the crop of 1915, and 250,000,000 less than the crop of 1914. If a wheat-eating country consumes 6½ bushels of wheat per head of population per year, it is apparent that the United States, with its hundred million people, will eat more wheat in 1917 than it grew in 1916—if the wheat can be had. France faces a deficit for 1917 of 127,000,000 bushels, and the aggregate deficit of entente allies and European neutrals is estimated at more than 200,000,000 bushels.

Then there is the shortage in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, of which definite information is not available, but which is known to be very acute. In the case of well-informed persons, Germany's surplus stocks of grain will be exhausted during the present summer. Russian reserves, also, are an uncertain quantity. Altogether, an enormous producer of wheat, the millions of men engaged in her military service, and the millions more in transportation, munition works and other branches of labor connected with the war, must have materially reduced the acreage to wheat.

Another point of great importance, applying particularly to the older lands, is the fact that under war conditions it is practically impossible to secure artificial fertilizer, and without fertilizer old and exhausted lands are practically non-productive.

Then there is the destruction of food which inevitably accompanies war. When an army is obliged to vacate a territory it is considered good policy to destroy all food which cannot be removed, rather than allow it to fall into the hands of the enemy. How much food has been destroyed in this way in Poland, Russia, Hungary, Rumania and Serbia can only be conjectured. In addition to this, Germany has been sending to the bottom of the sea hundreds of thousands of tons of food—and glorying in the accomplishment. It would be poetic justice if Germany herself should yet starve for lack of food which she has so ruthlessly destroyed.

**The Present Objection.** Sufficient aspects of the food situation have been presented to convince the reader that, whether or not a world famine may be threatening, the greatest obligation and the greatest opportunity which rests upon the public today, next to winning the war, is to produce food. To the people of great food-producing countries such as Canada and the United States the appeal is particularly forceful, and, entirely aside from the patriotic duty, lies the fact that food production at the present time is immensely profitable. Not all the sudden wealth arising out of the war has been for munition makers and contractors. Two-dollar wheat and fifteen-cent live hogs mean wealth on the farm as well as in the factory.

It will be one of the tragedies of all time if, with modern methods of transportation, famine should threaten the world. The world has not nearly

## Hoover's Message to America

"I feel it my duty to emphasize that the food situation is one of the utmost gravity, which, unless it is solved, may possibly result in the collapse of everything we hold dear in civilization. The only hope of providing the deficiency is by eliminating waste, and actual and rigorous self-sacrifice on the part of the American people. We must also plant everything where it will grow, or this time next year the food problem will be absolutely unsolvable, and the world will face absolute starvation."

reached its capacity for production. The unoccupied areas of Western Canada alone would turn the scale. In the single Province of Alberta there are 100,000,000 acres of agricultural land which have never yet felt a plow. This land, under cultivation, would raise three times as much wheat as was grown last year in the whole of the United States. It is lying idle for lack of population to make it productive. Meanwhile the spectre of famine stalks over Europe.

C. L. Gray and Sons, Willow Farm, Aurora, have sixty acres in oats and barley, are seeding fifteen acres to corn and have three acres in roots. They have two fine stables and up-to-date machinery. They are contemplating putting in a electric motor to run their milking machines, etc. Last year they were shipping six to seven cans of milk daily.



Good specimens of Jersey milkers belonging to W. Cowleson, Queensville, Ontario. The World will be glad to receive photographs of animals belonging to Ontario breeders, which will be reproduced free of charge.

## CROP PROSPECTS OVER THE WORLD

Thruout Europe and Russia Conditions Are None Too Good.

At the present moment news of the world's crop prospects is interesting to every thinking man. Not alone the farmer, but every man and woman in civilized countries and not a few in uncivilized districts, is interested in never before in reliable reports on farming conditions. On account of the generally small crop of last year, and the prevalent shortage of labor all over the world, as well as the greatest demand for foodstuffs ever known, the farmer and his doings are much more in the public eye than at any time in the world's history.

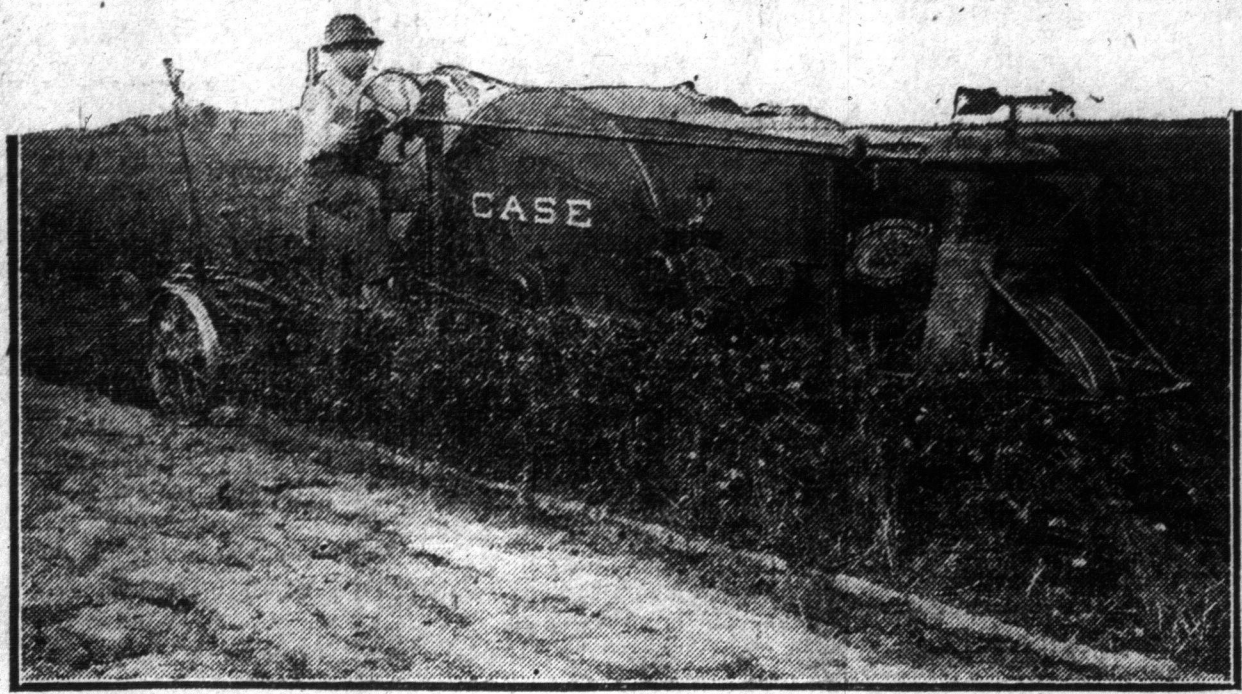
According to a most reliable source of information, crop and weather conditions in the various European countries present many different aspects. Crop prospects in Germany are poor on account of weather conditions. Italy has not had the best of weather conditions. Conditions in the United Kingdom, France and Russia are somewhat better, though not up to what might be called a good standard. In Spain, Norway and Sweden, North Africa, India, Australia and Argentina conditions are apparently good, and all of these last mentioned countries are fairly big producers, the not to the extent of being able to feed Europe as well as themselves.

Therefore, we can see that Canada and the United States are being looked to for the food supply of the allies, and the question is: "Will we be able

to produce enough?" Winter wheat is apparently two-thirds a failure, both in the United States as well as in Canada, and the country will therefore be grateful to every farmer who, under such conditions, has re-sown his acreage to spring wheat or corn. Every bushel harvested will be needed. We cannot produce too much. The demand for foodstuffs of all kinds is great, indeed, now, and will be even greater as the armies are reinforced, more men are drafted as recruits, and more shiploads of food are sunk by the submarines.

Harvesting operations have already commenced in the southern states, and reports concerning the Texas harvest are good. That state is expected to produce 15,000,000 bushels of wheat, an increase of ten per cent over last year's crop. Conditions are not sufficiently advanced to state with any degree of accuracy what the results will be in the northern states and throughout Canada, but conditions are such as to give grounds for the hope that a larger harvest than last year will ripen.

In order that this greatly-to-be-desired result may be attained, let every farmer keep the high goal in view, and let him not neglect giving his best attention to every acre sown. On account of the demand, prices are bound to remain at a high level and so, not only because our armies need the food, but also because nothing but best distribution can prevent every load of produce being purchased, let us be awake to the necessity of using every effort to care for the crop and to secure all the help in harvesting that is available. This year as never before, the opportunity is presented for the farmer to serve the cause of Great Britain and her allies, and a



Reginald D. Snoblin operating his Case tractor and three-bottom plow, turning over clover three feet high on his farm near Blenheim, Ontario.

clearer and more practical recognition than at any former period will be given of his services.

## Co-operation Between Wool Section and Farmers is Good

Today is the last day on which wool for sale thru the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association can be received at Guelph, and The World trusts that all Ontario breeders intending to avail themselves of the help from this co-operative association, which is approved by both the Provincial and Dominion departments of agriculture, will have been able to complete their shearing in time for shipments to reach their destination within the dates specified on the application forms distributed thru the secretary of the association, R. W. Wade. The literature issued by the Ontario Sheep Breeders' Association and by the live stock branches of the governmental departments of agriculture are good examples of that co-operation between the government and the farmer, the fuller development of which contains such bright possibilities. We are today standing on the threshold of this co-operative movement, which undoubtedly will result favorably for both elements of the population of Ontario as also in all other countries where action is being taken along similar democratic lines.

While on this point, we remind readers of the farm crops and fleece wool competitions held in connection with the Canadian National Exhibition. Entries for these and for the livestock judging competitions close August 14.

## Agricultural Summer School Will Be Opened in August

The Ontario Agricultural College announces that it has now completed the program for its third annual summer school for rural leadership. This year the dates are Monday, July 23, to Saturday, August 4, inclusive. The program is stronger than ever. Its leading feature is a course of ten lectures on the rural school as a community-building institution. These lectures will be given by H. W. Foght, specialist in rural school practice, United States Bureau of Education, Washington, D.C. There is probably no one who knows more about the subject than Mr. Foght, who has written on "The Danish Folk High Schools," "The American Rural School," besides many others. There are also courses on community leadership, rural church problems, field husbandry, poultry, dairying, economics, co-operation, vegetable gardening, home beautification, a special series of lectures for women, etc.

## FOOD SUPPLIES IN BRITAIN.

The list of articles of food which are now difficult to obtain steadily grows. Sugar has been scarce from the earliest days of the war; potatoes are almost unobtainable now, there is a widespread dearth of margarine, the supply of cheese is much short of the demand, and there is a lack of mutton in the market. The stocks of cereals are so low as to cause anxiety, although owing to the delay in introducing commodities broad ranges large numbers of people seem to be unaware of the situation. The margarine shortage is being felt in all parts of London. Farmers make their own margarine can still supply their customers, but stores and shops which have in the past sold Dutch margarine are in hundreds of cases entirely without stocks. The "no margarine" cards appear in more windows every day. The price of margarine in known brands has now risen to 1s 3d a pound.

Large consignments received from the dominions keep the supply of butter for the present on a level with the demand. The Australian and New Zealand seasons are coming to an end, and we then shall have to depend more upon the home dairies and the Danish importations. With regard to cheese, it is stated by distributors that the fixing of maximum prices has interfered with the supply. The prevention of profiteering is highly desirable, but the production of food is even more important.

W. J. Curry, R.R. No. 2, Aurora, is shipping thirty-two cans of milk per week. He is milking eleven cows, Holsteins, which are in the pink of condition.

W. J. McKinney, R.R. No. 3, Brampton, reports that there will be but little doing in sales until after harvest. He has fifteen acres in turnips and six in beets and has had considerable success in this line in the past.

A woman subscriber requests that articles on flower growing be published. The World will therefore be glad to receive photographs of flower gardens with descriptions.

## COMMERCIAL BOOKS SHOULD BE STUDIED

Valuable Features of Catalogs and Information Books Pointed Out.

There are but few of us who properly appreciate the assistance which we can secure for ourselves by obtaining and studying certain descriptive books and catalogues published by manufacturers of farm implements and machinery and by their selling organizations. A very false friend, which seems to stick mightily close to the majority of us, is the thought that because a certain thing is offered free it is therefore not worth taking. Another idea that we could profitably rid ourselves of is the hesitancy of asking for freely offered advice. There is perhaps a sense that by doing so we thereby put ourselves under an obligation to some person or corporation. We would, however, be greatly benefited by remembering that the "person or corporation" is not thinking anything of the kind. Even if you should never do business with him, the "person or corporation" which offers the free book or information is quite willing to take chances on some other farmer hearing about him.

Many of the books and catalogues thus issued contain information of the greatest value, being the result of both money and labor expended, and the applied reason of years of experience in farming needs. A good example of how such catalogues and books are valued is seen in many up-to-date business houses where copies of them are kept in the same manner as are copies of ordinary books in libraries. So The World will frequently review such books and catalogues which come to hand and which represent extra value for the farmer. In order that readers who are reading in the fall season may send for copies and avail themselves of the information contained therein.

In such a class is a book whose cover represents a binder in operation. 'Tis a pleasing scene, and one which we trust will be familiar to all readers when the fall season arrives. Across the face of this picture is the one word "Deering." Inside as we turn over is seen a picture of the country, and in it, as the farmer, a tree whose leaves stand out prominently and remind us of the tree whose leaves are "for the healing of the nations." The illustrations of harvesters, machinery and farm implements and the information contained in this book cannot help but be beneficial to the owner of a copy who reads it. Get and write to the International Harvester Co. of Canada, Limited, Hamilton.

A book of similar value is entitled "Review of Co-operative Wool Sales in Canada," published by the direction of the minister of agriculture for Canada. Why the sheep industry is not so far advanced to the position in Canada which its important possibilities demand, what the chief obstacles in the way have been in the past, and the methods which are now being used by the Dominion Government to encourage the development and assist the growth of the sheep raising industry of Canadian farming, with complete statements of wool graded and offered for co-operative sale in each province, are among the important points handled by the authors. Copies can be had from the live stock branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

An excellently planned and well printed book is entitled "Himman Milkers' Diary." This is a practical touch by describing the invention and development of the milking machine, continues by giving detailed description of the machine and its parts, and ends with good testimonial letters from Ontario farmers. An interesting book and well worth writing for a copy to H. F. Bailey, Son, Galt, Ontario.

Another book showing good illustrations and well worth securing a copy of is entitled "The Bissell Land Roller." This book has a well written introduction expressing such sentiments as "We cannot meet all our customer-friends personally, our only means of becoming acquainted with you is thru our business literature." Copies can be secured from T. E. Bissell Co., Ltd., Elora, Ont.

## LARGE SALE OF WESTERN LAND.

The Tony Day ranch, southwest of Medicine Hat, has been recently sold for \$150,000. The purchaser is J. J. Bowen, of North Battleford. The ranch is one of the oldest in the west, comprising as it does nearly 70,000 acres, including the lease, and extends to the boundary line. Some idea of the size of the ranch may be gained from the fact that over 100 miles of fence are required. The new owner expects to cut 500 tons of hay on the ranch this year to use for winter feeding. Such a large transfer of land from one party to another is becoming rare, even in our great northwest. The Battleford territory must be a place of wealth to enable a resident to enter upon the Tony Day ranch.

## DAIRY RECORDS HELP ASSURE EXTRA PROFITS

Enable the Farmer to Eliminate Stock That Are Not Earning What They Should.

One remarkably satisfactory result of keeping simple dairy records, yields of milk and cost of feed, is the knowledge gained that cows of good dairy type do repay the cost of extra feed. One example may be given. Not far from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, one hundred cows produced 104,854 pounds of milk more during 1916 than one hundred did in 1915. The 1915 records showed that ten were not paying so well as the others. In 1916, eleven were sent to the block, being replaced by better milkers. Better feeding contributed largely to the above noted big increase in milk yield; more corn was fed, more clover and a little higher meal ration. The value of the extra feed was \$605.00; this produced more milk to the value of \$1,577.66, so that the extra clear return was \$1,072.66, and the cows were in much better condition.

Dairy records help to select good cows and to ensure larger profits. Write the dairy commissioner, Ottawa, for free milk and feed record forms.

## ANIMAL FERTILIZERS AND VALUES PER TON

The manure from 24 steers, averaging in weight close to 1,000 pounds each, and running loose in two boxes at the Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S., covering a period of 120 days, or four months, weighed 112 tons, 640 pounds. The average for each day was 1,872 pounds, or 78 pounds per steer. Straw bedding amounting to 10 pounds per steer per day was used, and all liquids as well as the solids were saved. The fresh manure from fairly well-fed steers contains in each ton seven and three-quarters pounds of nitrogen, three and a half pounds of phosphoric acid, and nine pounds of potash. When buying commercial fertilizer we pay 25 cents per pound for nitrogen, and 10 cents for phosphoric acid. Potash cannot be bought at any price, but in order to get a fair valuation for the manure we should allow at least 5 cents per pound, the price of potash before the war.

A ton of the above manure at these prices would, therefore, have a value of \$2.63. At the valuation of \$2.63 per ton, 112 tons, 640 pounds would be worth \$295.40, or \$12.31 per steer, a little over \$3 per steer per month. Considering that potash will each year become a greater factor in economical agricultural production, the value is even greater than that given above. Nothing has been allowed in the above calculation for the value of the humus. It is estimated that the humus value of manures is 50 to 100 per cent. of the value of the chemical ingredients, depending upon the soil on which the manure is used and the manner of application. It is a well known fact that half of the total value of the excrement from live stock is in the urine. If the liquid part is allowed to drain away thru holes in the manure, or other wise, over one-half of the value of the manure will be lost, therefore, every effort should be made to conserve all the excrement voided by animals. The water retained after twenty-four hours by 100 pounds of material used for absorbents in the stable is estimated to be as follows: Wheat straw, 220 pounds; oat straw, 285 pounds; well dried peat, 600 pounds; dry sawdust, 435 pounds; dried leaves, 162 pounds.

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