

These two seasons, 1915 and 1916, emphasize the fact that weather, seasonal conditions, constitute a limiting factor in crop production, a factor that will always make agriculture as an industry more or less of a hazard. No matter how well the soil is tilled and cared for, no accurate prediction can be made of what the yield will be; the harvest alone will show the results of the year's labour. It is this consideration that supplies one of the chief reasons for advocating mixed farming, for this obviously must materially reduce the hazard.

But in this matter of results it is well to remember that agriculture compared with other industries is not one that can be readily or quickly "speeded up". In a very real sense it is the methods of the past that largely determine the success of the future, at all events, the immediate future. There are few soils that can be built up to their maximum productiveness in a season. Even with the adoption of the best methods the work of improvement is comparatively slow; soil deterioration, due to poor and irrational methods, unfortunately is much more rapid. We know there are thousands of acres in the Dominion that have not been brought up to their maximum productiveness, not even giving average yields, for the tendency in the past has been towards extensive rather than intensive farming—too many acres to thoroughly till with the labour and capital at the farmer's command. But we shall mend this as the years go by.

With live stock, meat products, dairy produce, the difficulties for immediate increased production are still greater. Many of the reasons for this will be obvious and I need only refer to one, that live stock needs labour—and the labour problem is without doubt the most serious and the most difficult to solve of all agricultural problems to-day. Its solution may be temporarily sought in some degree, by rearrangement of the labour of the country as a whole, by importing labour from the United States, and by the help that to some extent that may be drawn from our towns and cities.

The main purpose of this address is to give you some account of our propaganda, the teachings which, if followed out, might lead to increased production. I must not, of course, attempt to enter into detail which would only be of interest to an agricultural audience. I shall therefore confine myself to an epitome, emphasizing the more important features of the campaign.

In the first place I may point out that the principles of rational, successful farming remain the same, whether we are at war or dwelling in peace. Consequently we had nothing new of a fundamental character to propound, no panacea to advocate that would cure the ills of soils and crops and ensure large yields; no short cuts that would eliminate work