

with seed of at least average quality, but with the outbreak of war conditions became different.

During the first year of the war there was really no actual danger of Canada suffering from seed shortage in the immediate future, because the Canadian seed houses were well stocked with all principal varieties; they also had contracts for the delivery of varieties actually available in allied European countries. But as time went by, with no signs pointing to an early peace, the danger of a seed shortage in Canada gradually increased. The danger began to be pronounced when it became known that the European seed-exporting countries, from which Canada still might hope to secure an adequate supply, i.e., the United Kingdom, France and Holland, had restricted the export of seed for the duration of the war. The danger became intensified when it began to be realized, on this side of the Atlantic, that the warring nations in Europe gradually were being forced to concentrate, if not all, at least most of their activity in agriculture on production of food for the armies. Later still, the danger became extremely grave when, to the difficulty of buying the seed in Europe, was being added the difficulty of securing ocean transportation, and, if such could be secured, to bring the seed in safety across the Atlantic.

To sum up, the war has created a situation with regard to Canada's root seed supply that must be called extremely serious. I am sorry that I have to make such a statement, but there is no use to try to deceive ourselves when we have the actual facts staring us in the face.

As it is, something must be done to bring relief, and to bring it as quickly as possible. I shall briefly sketch what has been done by the Dominion Experimental Farms to relieve the root seed situation.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS TAKE ACTION.—Before I tell you what the Experimental Farms are doing now, I beg to call your attention to the fact that, from the very beginning of the war, the Experimental Farms have been warning the farmers of Canada repeatedly against the possibilities of a serious curtailment in the root seed supply, and have tried, I think, their best to prevent the creation of a situation such as exists at present.

The Central Experimental Farm, in Ottawa, realized, right from the beginning of the war that, on account of a very probable disorganization in the seed-exporting business of Europe, there was a certain danger of Canada's supply of seed being partially, or even wholly, cut off, should the war last any length of time. For this reason a bulletin was issued early in the spring of 1915, i.e. approximately half a year after the outbreak of the war. This bulletin, which is entitled "Growing Field Root, Vegetable and Flower Seeds in Canada," strongly urges the Canadian farmer to take up field root seed growing for the purpose of meeting a threatening shortage in the supply.

A year later, i.e. in March, 1916, the "Seasonable Hints," a publication issued by the Central Experimental Farm three times a year, and distributed to nearly 400,000 farmers, had an article on the root seed situation, saying in part:

"Reports from Europe indicate that the growing of field-root seed in the countries at war has been neglected during the past season. As a result, the export of all kinds of seed from France and Germany, the chief root-seed producing countries of Europe, has been restricted for the duration of the war.

"In view of this it is evident that, even should the war be brought to an end in the nearest future, there is still a grave danger of Canada not being able to secure from Europe, for years to come, the quantity of root-seed necessary to fill its needs. You are, therefore, urged seriously to consider the situation and to help to lessen the danger