

FOR GREATER PRODUCTION.

Meetings are Held to Consider Labor Problem and Other Matters.

The Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Food Controller are alive to the necessities of the labour situation in connection with the campaign for increased production. Every effort will be made to mobilize helpers for the farms.

The problem was discussed at a meeting of the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, Deputy Ministers and other representatives in Ottawa on January 16th and 17th, under the Chairmanship of Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture in the Dominion Cabinet. A number of suggestions were made by the various representatives of the Provincial Governments attending, to be considered and discussed.

Mr. Crerar referred to the fact that the Allies looked to Canada in 1918, for an increase of 250,000,000 bushels of wheat over the amount supplied in 1917. United States winter wheat, he pointed out, had amounted in 1917 to only 420,000,000 bushels as compared to an average for six previous years of 600,000,000 bushels. The prospect of the Spring wheat crop of 1918 was not bright. Labor was the essential factor and the chief problem.

Allies' Great Need of Wheat.

Mr. H. B. Thomson, speaking on behalf of the Food Controller, said that the Allies required from abroad, for 1918, at least 450,000,000 bushels of wheat. On December 1st, 1917, United States had shipped its last bushel of wheat over the amount of normally required for domestic supply. On December 15, there was an estimated surplus in Canada of 110,000,000 bushels of wheat. There was wheat in Australia and in Argentina, but the length of voyage to Australia was four times as great and to Argentina, five times. The ships could not be spared. On December 1st, France had wheat and flour on hand for three days' supply. In December, five large ships, ready to sail for France from the United States, had been diverted to Italy by cable order, such being the seriousness of the food situation in that country. Mr. Thomson pointed out that France depended largely upon imported fertilizer, transportation of which was now out of the question. In 1917 the crop was only one-third of a pre-war harvest and there was little hope of increased production in 1918. The rest of Europe was in an extremely serious position. Canada had both to conserve and to

The Labour Situation Survey.

The representatives outlined the labour situation in their respective provinces as follows:

Alberta	6,000 more men needed for spring and summer.
	7,000 more for the harvest.
Saskatchewan	10,000 more men needed for spring and summer.
	15,000 more for the harvest.
Manitoba	7,000 more men needed for spring and summer.
	10,000 more for the harvest.
Ontario	7,500 more men needed for spring and summer.
	12,500 more for the haying and harvest.
	15,000 boys and 5,000 women.
Quebec	Several thousand more men needed.
New Brunswick	1,500 to 2,000 more needed.
Prince Edward Island	Enough men but none to spare.
British Columbia	Men scarce.
Nova Scotia	About 2,500 more men needed.

produce, and the latter was even the more important, as the producing power of man was greater than his conserving power.

Card Rationing Impracticable Here.

Mr. Thomson said that the expense, trouble, etc., which would be involved in putting Canada on a card-rationing system would not be justified by the comparatively small saving that would be effected in this way. Ninety per cent. of the people were willing to do voluntarily everything they possibly could. In the field of production, Canada could do much. Labor would have to be provided. Mr. Thomson called attention to the large number of men employed on unnecessary labor in this country and men engaged on work which could be done by women—"Destroyers of Rations," he called them. He told of a plan that had been authorised by the Food Controller, under which it was expected that 25,000 boys would be enlisted by co-operation of the Departments of Education and Agriculture, to work on Canadian farms this summer. It would be necessary to speed up