

September 11

PRESS STATEMENT

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Canada now having definitely declared war against the German Reich, must now without delay, decide how best the nation can serve in the present conflict. If Canada is to make efficient preparation for home defence, few men can be spared for overseas service, and except for the supplying of men especially trained in aeronautics, radio and other means of communication, for which our Dominion provides an exceptional training base, few men should be allowed to leave Canada.

The most effective service our nation can contribute is that of providing necessary supplies to our allies, and for that purpose, man power must be available to produce and process in adequate volume, these requirements. Our vast mineral wealth is of inestimable value at this time. Minerals, metals and lumber should be expected in large quantities from our Dominion.

A continuous supply of flour, wheat and other grains, poultry, butter, eggs, cheese, meats of various kinds and fruits etc., to allied combatants, and non combatants, is however, unquestionably the greatest practical contribution Canada can make during this period of conflict, which I fear will be severe and of long duration, and for that reason, those engaged in the production of these requisite products, must have freedom to efficiently apply themselves to the work of quantity and quality production. In agriculture, however, there is at present a grave danger that by excessive municipal regimentation, largely made possible by legislative enactment, and drastic debt collection methods farmers will be greatly restricted from making the maximum production contribution. To that degree of restriction, Canada will fail in its duty to our allied nations.

Despite recent wheat price rises, it should be remembered that the market price has not yet even reached the price decided to be average production cost four years ago, viz. 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and further, despite increased average yields present price levels are yet far below the price line of goods which

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