

insistent call issued by the British Government for food and still more food; indeed, it is a matter of daily wonderment how the food requirements of the immense number of those engaged in actual warfare, in the making of ammunition, are met—certainly they must far exceed those that had hitherto satisfied the needs of the Old Country.

Our Federal Government and our several Provincial Governments took up the call promptly and enthusiastically in the autumn of 1914. Throughout the length and breadth of the land it went out that every farmer, if from patriotic motives only, must make an honest effort to increase his crop yields, his live stock, his dairy produce. Every farmer must seriously consider the gravity of the occasion and after a careful survey of his conditions and circumstances see wherein he can do his bit for king and country towards meeting the demands for a larger and still larger output from his farm.

A dominion-wide campaign of education and inspiration was at once inaugurated by the several departments of agriculture and carried forward with earnestness and enthusiasm in every province from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Meetings of farmers were addressed, special bulletins of an educational character were written and widely distributed, articles on timely subjects appeared in the press, correspondence on matters pertaining to better farming was invited. This outlines the principal features of the campaign, in which the officers of the several departments of agriculture took a prominent part. This campaign in certain of its features is still being prosecuted. It has done and is still doing a great deal of effective work and the results are to be seen, I believe, in every province of the Dominion.

The harvest of 1915 was unprecedented in Canadian history. In its truly magnificent abundance it was a record-breaker. This we know was largely due to the exceptionally favourable seasonal conditions that prevailed in that year over the larger part of the Dominion and especially in the great grain-growing areas of the North-Western provinces.

Unfavourable weather conditions prevailed in 1916 over large areas in Canada both in the East and in the West, very materially reducing the agricultural output. It was a very trying year for the farmer in almost every part of the Dominion. In the East, continued and heavy rains prevented the getting in of the crops in good time—and it is seldom that late sown crops give even fair yields no matter how rich the soil may be, though we safely say that crops in a properly prepared and fertile soil will go far towards offsetting the disastrous influence of an untoward season. In certain sections of the prairie provinces, weather conditions induced an outbreak of rust—the most severe since 1904—and this most materially reduced the wheat output.