

PLANS FOR PRODUCTION.

Canada Food Board Hears Proposals from Provincial Representatives.

A conference of representatives of the Agricultural Departments of the five eastern provinces with the Canada Food Board and other officers including Mr. H. S. Arkell, Acting Live Stock Commissioner, and Mr. George H. Clark, Dominion Seed Commissioner, and Dr. J. W. Robertson, was held at the Chateau Laurier on February 19-20. Mr. Thomson occupied the Chair. He summarized the food situation in Europe and gave the following figures showing the decrease in supplies in France:

Wheat.	53.3 per cent decrease.
Potatoes.	53.1 "
Sugar beet.	67.9 "
Cattle.	16.5 "
Sheep.	36.6 "
Hogs.	40.2 "

Mr. Thomson said that the deficiency must be made up on this side of the Atlantic as far as possible. To export 30,000,000 pounds of beef from this country during the next two months would practically clean the prairies bare and no more will be in condition to ship until August. This amount, however, would only afford the Allies one week's supply and it would be inevitable that the Argentine Republic would be called upon. As the voyage was twice as long, this would mean cutting down the regular imports in Europe by one-half. The producing power of Canada was much greater than the conserving power owing to our large territory and our sparsely scattered population.

Working to One End.

Hon. Mr. Dunning said that it was not the intention of the Board to dictate to the provinces but to get their ideas as to the means of stimulating production and to try to co-ordinate their efforts to a common end. There were certain essentials upon which these efforts should concentrate, namely, wheat, oats, barley and rye, and cattle, hogs and sheep.

Mr. W. Bert Roadhouse, Deputy Minister for Ontario, said that the province was fairly well organized and was ready to go ahead. Federal tractors would be taken advantage of in Ontario and would contribute to an increase in the acreage in 1918. A local committee of the agricultural section of the Organization of Resources Committee was being organized in every township.

Enough Seed Wheat.

Mr. Geo. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, said there was no shortage of seed wheat

as, thanks to the Wheat Export Company, he had secured supplies of the best Western seed wheat. The difficulty was to move it to the distribution centres in time for the spring season. Three hundred and fifty thousand bushels of No. 1 Marquis seed wheat had been secured for Quebec and the order could be enlarged without difficulty. Fifty thousand bushels of oats had also been secured. In regard to oats, he had been obliged to compete with the abnormal milling demand and the demand for feed. Orders for seed oats in the West were in excess of the supply. Alberta wanted to hold her own seed until the local demand was satisfied, and it would be difficult to move seed oats to the East until the whole Western territory was provided for. There was not a serious shortage although the price was high. There was no serious shortage of barley. The seed corn situation in the United States, Mr. Clark described as a "national calamity," the average supply being 72 per cent of normal and that of some states only 17 per cent. Nevertheless, the United States was ready to share its supply with Canada.

Needs of Provinces.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island, said that if shipping were available, corn from Argentina could be brought to the Island, thus releasing oats for seed to the other provinces. Small schooners carrying lumber to New York and fish to Argentina should be made available for bringing return cargoes of corn. Mr. McKinnon also suggested that the Government might provide increased transportation on the Island for fertilizer.

Hon. Mr. Caron said that the Department of Agriculture of Quebec had tentative plans for the promotion of greater production which would require an expenditure of \$500,000. They looked to the Federal Government to meet them half way. The Province intended to encourage the building of piggeries by granting 10 per cent of the cost, if built on plans approved by the Department of Agriculture.

Prof. Cumming said that the lack of fertilizer was the chief problem in Nova Scotia. Premier Murray said that certain Government boats were subsidized to carry freight in the coast trade and it should be possible for the Government to take some of them off their regular routes and send