

than would normally be broken for crop next year.

3. Assistance of Provincial Departments of Agriculture in taking orders for tractors and forwarding same to the Canada Food Board, Ottawa.

a. Assistance of the Provinces, through their Educational Departments in making teen age boys available by providing that such boys shall not lose their educational standing through absence from school for the purpose of working on farms.

b. Co-operation by Provincial Governments in securing the teen age boys as recruits for the Soldiers of the Soil, by means of lectures in every Public and High School to show the boys the necessity of getting out on the farms and helping the labour situation.

c. By voluntary enrollment in all cities, towns and villages of persons able to work on the land.

4.—Arouse the people to the need, by way of public addresses, and organization, through municipal machinery, with a view to having committees working in every municipality and township.

a. By frank statements from time to time of the seriousness of the situation, giving definite facts in respect thereto.

b. By a series of addresses in each Province from the Premier, members of the Provincial Governments, and other prominent citizens.

c. By requesting the clergymen of every church in Canada to preach two sermons in March on this question, urging increased food production to save people who may otherwise starve.

d. By enlisting the assistance of all newspapers to keep this need continuously before the public.

e. The Canada Food Board to continue to supply reading matter to newspapers, to circularize boards of trade, societies of all kinds, women's associations, and other organized bodies.

I am confident that the thanks and congratulations of the House and the country will be extended to the Minister of Agriculture for the good work which he has carried on, and which has resulted in the organization thus described.

In connection with this, I should inform the House that the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs has also taken into account the very urgent need for increased food production during the present year and has taken effective action.

Under an Order in Council passed on the 16th day of February, the minister recommended as follows:

That Mr. W. M. Graham, Inspector of Indian Agencies, South Saskatchewan Inspectorate, be appointed a Commissioner for the Department of Indian Affairs, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with the following duties and powers—

To make proper arrangements with the Indians for the leasing of reserve lands, which may be needed for grazing, for cultivation or for other purposes, and for the compensation to be paid therefor;

To formulate a policy for each reserve.

To issue directions and instructions to all inspectors, agents and employees in furtherance of that policy.

To make purchases and engage or dismiss any extra or temporary employees and market the yield of grain and live-stock, and in effect to have the sole management of this work subject to the approval of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs to whom he shall report fully at close and regular intervals.

The minister further recommends that the said Commissioner be authorized also to make recommendations to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, looking to the greater efficiency of such of the Indian service in the said provinces as is not related to the said special work.

The minister believes that in this way it will be possible to bring larger areas under cultivation and produce grain and meat supplies of great value.

The minister recommends further that, pursuant to the provisions of the War Measures' Act, 1914, and of all other authority in that behalf, the sum of \$300,000 be advanced from the War Appropriation to the Department of Indian Affairs for the purchase of agricultural machinery and implements, seed and live-stock, fence wire and other supplies and for rentals, salaries, and expenses necessary for the undertaking, the said amount to be refunded to the War Appropriation from revenues arising from sales as they accrue; all expenditure and revenue to be treated in the usual way and all accounts to be audited by the Department of Indian Affairs and by the Auditor General.

Under this Order in Council active steps have been taken. The memorandum submitted by the department is as follows:

The Department of Indian Affairs and Commissioner W. M. Graham have undertaken vigorously the work outlined by the attached Order in Council. Mr. Graham has already visited the chief reserves in Alberta and Saskatchewan and has interviewed agents and inspectors, has taken the necessary preliminary action to obtain surrenders from the Indians and has had authority to inform them that land may be taken without surrender under the War Measures Act for temporary use. We have insured that every acre ready for cropping will be seeded this spring; tractors and ploughs have been purchased to break land for next year's seeding.

The department has received many applications direct and through Commissioner Graham for the lease of grazing lands, and these are being promptly dealt with, and much of the rich natural grazing on Indian reserves will be utilized by settlers and ranchers.

Mr. Graham has already purchased 150 two-year old steers and 120 sows and distributed them on Indian reserves.

Like measures are being taken throughout Ontario, and it is hoped that the purpose of the Order in Council will be met:

1. The Indians will have under crop every available acre, and will increase their breaking.

2. By the use of tractors a large acreage will be made available for next year's crop.

3. The natural advantages for grazing throughout the Territories will be made available to ranchers and settlers who have cattle to feed.

I dwell upon this work with some particularity, because I cannot emphasize