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**Canada and Fertilizers.**

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The food needs of Great Britain and her Allies will approximate one and one-third billion bushels of wheat this coming year. With the Canadian crop of about 250,000,000 and the United States crop of 650,000,000, there is still a deficit of over 150,000,000 bushels to be made up by the crop that is available for export in other allied countries.

Our neighbors to the south are making a vigorous effort to greatly increase the wheat acreage this year. The government is calling upon the various winter wheat-growing states to increase their wheat areas from 18 to 30% over their average wheat planting. Our own efforts are bending in the same direction. One of the very important factors in increasing wheat production is the judicious use of fertilizers. Up to date the Ontario farmer has not given full thought to the importance of the use of this form of plant food. Investigations on the Dominion Experimental Farms have shown a material increase in farm and garden crops where fertilizers are used to supplement manure that is added.

While Ontario has been able to depend very largely upon manure which results from her livestock population, many of the more thickly-populated states have found it very profitable to supplement the decreasing amount of manure available with suitable fertilizers.

The Ohio Experiment Station, as an average of 25 years' test finds that wheat can be increased 12 bushels per acre. Indiana found an increase of 11.6 bushels per acre, as an average of several years experimentation in increasing wheat. Missouri Experiment Station points out that farmers can look for an increase of from 4 to 10 bushels per acre in wheat yields from the addition of 200 to 300 pounds of suitable fertilizer per acre.

What would this mean to Ontario, if similar increases could be obtained? In 1916 this province produced a little over 17,000,000 bushels of wheat, at an average yield of 21.2 bushels per acre. If this yield could be increased to 30 bushels per acre, which would mean an increase of only 8.8 bushels per acre, Ontario could produce over 23½ million bushels on the same land. There are important facts at a time when every section of the empire is vitally interested in producing a maximum amount of food products for 1918.

With the great scarcity of labor, the question of increased yield is of double importance. The Dominion Experimental Farms at Ottawa found that for one hour man labor expended on the common crops of the average Ontario rotation, they got a return of 83c. per acre in crop yield, where nothing was added. Where it was possible to heavily manure the land with 30 tons per acre, the return per acre for each hour of man labor expended to \$1.18, but it is rarely possible to cover the cropping areas of the province with 30 tons of fertilizer per acre. Where manure was supplemented with fertilizers, one-half the quantity of manure being used, and a suitable additions of fertilizers being made,—there was a return of \$1.05 per acre for each hour of man labor expended.

Ohio Experiment Station found that for each hour of man labor expended on corn where nothing was added, they got a return of 68c., while for the same amount of labor expended on fertilized corn, they got a return per acre of \$1.05.

The foregoing important points were brought out in an interesting exhibit in the Horticulture Building, at the Canadian National, maintained by the Canadian and National Fertilizer Associations. The exhibit was purely educational. Some time ago this magazine told of the work of the National Fertilizer Association through its Soil Improvement Bureau. The Canadian fertilizer manufacturers became identified with this organization in 1916. The objective of the work is to spread as widely as possible reliable information regarding the proper tillage of the soil and the management of plant food.

In the exhibit special attention was paid to the question of soil drainage. The importance of the use of lime, also, was very clearly illustrated, both in charts and in frequent demonstrations. A point of special interest to the Ontario farmer was a demonstration of five reasons for keeping up the humus of the soil. Humus is nothing more or less than decaying plant matter—rotting straw or

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