

WHAT TO DO.—"What are you going to do about it," Sir Robert? Nothing? That would be bad enough. What you are doing is to make impossible the hearty response which Canada ought to give to appeals for food, not only for our allies but for our own soldiers. "We can at least fight famine for them." Yes, we can; but we cannot do it with pamphlets and preaching—alone.

The Provincial governments, Sir Robert, are doing something. Ontario has provided tractors, and several of the Provinces have encouraged school-boys, civil servants, and others to help at seeding and harvest. That is good, but it is most lamentably insufficient. And while the Provinces are working in one direction, Sir Robert, you are working in the other. Is it not possible for you to shade your eyes from imperialistic glare, and get a straight, steady look at the reality of things? Mr. Hanna puts upon the title page of his "Hand Book for Speakers" the injunction,

"Help to shatter Germany's threat of starvation."

And inside is, "What are you going to do about it?" What, Sir Robert, is your answer?

What have you done? Last session Sir Edward Kemp told us that, up to June 30 last, 45,797 farmers had enlisted, of whom 24,592 came from the western Provinces(a). You claim credit for that, and you denounce Sir Wilfrid for not helping you to do it, while, at the same moment, your new Minister of Agriculture is laboring to UNDO it(b). You will say that those men volunteered. Of course they did, and so did thousands of others whom you refused to accept. Why did you deplete the farms? And why now do you make impossible the substitution of new workers? There may be little glitter and glamour, Sir Robert, about conscription for food-production, but it will enable us to "fight the famine" which threatens our allies. Is it not worth doing?

UNITED STATES TROOPS.—There is another very important consideration that must be taken into account before the question of more troops or more food can be settled. The United States entered the war on April 6 last—more than two months before Sir Robert's conscription speech; and with that accession of almost unlimited soldier-supply, any possible doubt as to the advisability

(a) *Hans. p. 4968.*

(b) *Ottawa Evening Journal, 8th Nov., 1917.*