

Under date of April 10th, Ogden Armour, executive head of Armour & Company, one of the world's largest dealers in food products, stated that unless the United States wishes to walk deliberately into a catastrophe, the best brains of the country, under Government supervision, must immediately devise means of increasing and conserving food supplies. Armour urged the cultivation of every available acre. The food shortage, he said, is world-wide. European production is cut in half, the Argentine Republic has suffered droughts. Canada and the United States must wake up!

People are starving to-day in Belgium, in Serbia, in Poland, in Armenia, in many quarters of the globe. Famine conditions are becoming more wide-spread every day.

On these alarming food conditions becoming known, President Wilson immediately appointed a Food Comptroller for the United States. He selected Herbert C. Hoover, to whom the world is indebted as Chairman of the International Belgium Relief Commission for his personal direction of the distribution of food among the starving Belgians.

Mr. Hoover is already urging sacrifice and food restrictions, for, as he states, "The war will probably last another year and we shall have all we can do to supply the necessary food to carry our Allies through with their full fighting stamina."

The Problem for Ontario

1. The land under cultivation in Ontario in 1916 was 365,000 acres less than in 1915.
2. Consider how much LESS Ontario produced in 1916 than she raised in 1915:

	Year	Acres	Bushels	1916 DECREASE	
				Acres	Bushels
Fall Wheat	1916	704,867	14,942,050	106,315	9,794,961
"	1915	811,185	24,737,011		
Barley and Oats	1916	529,886	12,388,969	24,432	7,504,160
"	1915	552,318	19,893,129		
Peas and Beans	1916	95,542	1,243,979	31,401	799,070
"	1915	126,943	2,043,049		
Corn	1916	258,332	12,717,072	51,441	9,043,424
"	1915	309,773	21,760,496		
Potatoes and Carrots	1916	139,523	7,408,429	34,411	5,858,594
"	1915	173,934	13,267,023		
Mangel-Wurzels	1916	42,793	9,756,015	8,006	15,600,308
and Turnips	1915	50,799	25,356,323		

Other crops show as critical a decline.

3. Reports from Ontario on the condition of fall wheat for 1917 are decidedly discouraging.

4. As there is an average of not more than one man on each hundred acres of farm land in Ontario, the prospects indicate even a still smaller acreage under cultivation in 1917 unless extra labor is supplied.

Is It Any Wonder that Food Production is the Greatest Problem the World Faces To-day?

Owing to destruction by submarines, ocean ships are scarce.

It is much easier to protect shipping between Canada and England than on longer voyages from India or Australia.

One vessel can make twice as many trips from Canada to Britain as from India, and four times as many as from Australia.

Therefore, every ton of food stuffs grown in Canada is worth to the Motherland two tons grown in India, or four tons grown in Australia.

Is It Any Wonder that the Call to Canada is So Urgent?

If this country does not raise a big crop this year, not only will the people of Canada suffer but the Motherland and her Allies will suffer and their military power will be weakened if not paralyzed. Therefore, the right solution of the present war problem comes back to the farm, as to a foundation upon which our whole national and international structure must be built and maintained.

The farmers know that they are the last reserve, and that the soil on which crops are grown is the strategic ground on which wars are decided. To their care is entrusted the base of supplies.

To enable the farm to do the work, two factors are essential. The first is Time. Whatever we are to do must be done at once. Nature waits for no man. The second is Labor. Many farmers cannot plant the acres they would because they cannot get the necessary help. Many are afraid to increase their acreage because they fear they would not be able to cultivate and harvest an unusual crop after they have raised it. If they are to do the work that is essential for them to do, the last man in each city, town and village must be mobilized at once.

Every man not on Active Service can help. In every city, town and village are men who, by their training on the farm, or by their present occupation, can readily adapt themselves to farm work. These can render no greater service to the Empire at the present time than by answering the call of the farm. Capable men and boys willing to learn should not allow their lack of farm experience to stand in the way.

Can the employer render a more signal service in this crisis than by encouraging these men to help the farmer to cultivate every available acre, and by making it easy for them to go?

Ontario's farm lands are waiting—the implements are ready—the equipment is complete—the farmer is willing—all he needs is labor.

So short is the world's food supply that without increased production many in Canada must go hungry, and even with enormously increased production we cannot expect cheap food. The world is waiting for our harvest.

If peace should be declared within a year, the food conditions will be no better, for the accumulated hunger of the Central Empires must be met. This will absorb a large part of the world's supply.

We do not know when this war shall cease. It is endless—its lengthening out has paralyzed the thought and conception of all men who thought about it and its possible time of conclusion. Three months—six months, we said; nine months, a year, we said; and yet two years and eight months have passed their long, dreary and sanguinary length and there is no man who can tell how long this gigantic struggle may yet last.

Lloyd-George, in a letter addressed to farmers throughout the Empire, said:

"The line which the British Empire holds against the Germans is held by those who WORK ON THE LAND as well as by those who fight on land and sea. If it breaks at any point it breaks everywhere. In the face of the enemy the seamen of our Royal naval and mercantile marine and the soldiers gathered from every part of our Empire hold our line firstly. You workers on land must hold your part of our line as strongly. Every full day's labor you do helps to shorten the struggle and brings us nearer victory. Every idle day, all loitering, lengthens the struggle and makes defeat more possible. Therefore, in the nation's honor, heed! Acquit yourselves like men, and as workers on land do your duty with all your strength!"

So, for the honor of Canada's soldiers in France—and for the glory of our New-born Nationalhood—let it be said of Ontario's citizens that, in the hour of our greatest need, their response was worthy of their sons.

We owe a great debt to those who are fighting for us.

—We Must Produce More Food—

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