

been keenly sensible to the realities of the times and are moving solidly. The American writer referred to above states the case to his countrymen in the following forceful terms:

"The 1917 food crisis is the greatest in the history of the world. The vast majority of our people refuse to realize the emergency. They express alarm over rising prices, yet assume that the first peace move will bring relief. **IT WILL NOT.** Sixty million workers have been withdrawn from normal production in Europe. Reserve stocks of meat, grain, butter, eggs, canned food have been steadily sagging below the danger level.

"Europe has bought for future delivery, 300,000,000 bushels of 1917 wheat. Unless Federal regulation intervenes, wheat may sell at \$3.00 or even \$4.00 a bushel. It is up to the American farmer to stave off a graver calamity than any that has so far attended the world war."

And Mr. J. Ogden Armour of meat packing celebrity has this to say:

"We face catastrophe in an unregulated food shortage. We must have increased production to avert catastrophe. There is an

obligation upon every American who owns a tillable acre, and who can somehow command labor for the work, to grow foodstuff. I have plowed up every tillable acre on my estate at Lake Forest, and on the remainder I shall graze cattle and sheep. I know of many men who will do likewise. I am getting word from all over the

country of a quick response, but the demand calls for millions of additional acres under cultivation, not thousands. If we can only drill home the fact of the pressing need there will be a greater response, a really effective response."

Now if that is the attitude of America, is it not peculiarly Canada's business to move body and soul in the same direction? We forget for the moment the aftermath of the war, but to the actual war we pin ourselves down solidly and seriously as men whose hearts are alive to a sense of decency and whose souls cannot cool off while our sons are on the fighting line and there's a single obligation unfulfilled.

The war may end unexpectedly at any date, but the probabilities are that it will be many months yet until it is fought to a finish. Optimism and faith in ultimate victory, even in a speedy victory does not burn more fiercely in any Briton than it does in the heart of the writer, but if he or any one would dare presume on this mere intuition to "ease off," that act would earn the undying condemnation of every one of those fighting brothers, the most heroic souls the world has ever known who

—every minute of their lives—the last risk a man can take for his friends.

Mr. Farmer, if you are not fighting, you ought to be feeding the men who are fighting for you. With our millions of rich sodd-covered acres that have never felt

withheld until you've done your job and are able to take your place with us again on the old farm."

It seems sheer nonsense in this connection to talk about "organization to our farmer friends. As our American friend says:



"Old Times"—but much slower than an old time funeral

the plowshare, with our untold ability to produce, with not a single embargo or handicap that does not begin and end with our own indolence or cursedness, what punishment would fit the crime if it turned out that these splendid men had to throw up their hands to the enemy because we would not back them up with the ordinary necessities of life?

The political situation at this date is quite beyond us. While our men are banking on us "to the last man and the last dollar," the political chiefs are quabbling like fish-hawkers and we are nearly 200,000 men short of our promised supply. No doubt every reader of "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer" has his own hot moments as he contemplates the position of these political quacks and opportunists at such a time and when he is next asked to go to the ballot box it will be in a frame of mind and with a purpose he has never known before.

Meanwhile, and until those job-hunters can reconcile their differences or get out, there is one thing only the farmer can do and that is to step over them, so to speak, and grasp the hand of his brother or son on the firing line and say in effect: "My boy I will stand by you while I am above the sod. Nothing that my brain, brawn or 'brass' can do shall be

He (the farmer) must have the labor to assist him; he must be assured of the labor to assist him. Some inflexible, compelling force must provide the labor to assist him. There is only one such force—that is the Federal Government, and unfortunately the Government cannot rush to the farmer's assistance with the speed the emergency calls for."

This is precisely the case in Canada to-day. We can say, however, that if any farmer will redouble his efforts and make good on his boasted "enterprise" to purchase or obtain the use of the machinery that will do in time and quantity what human hands could never accomplish—even if they were available—he will be doing the finest thing he can do in his own interests, and he will be doing the very best, if not the only thing he can do for his absent friends and compatriots in the trenches.

It's a duty no man can escape; except to his own moral ruin, in these days. It is idle to talk of the disorganized state of our marketing. The one thing is to get the stuff, to raise the food in cereals and live stock on our farms and if we can't beat the market crooks, we haven't the business instinct of a common pedlar and will by and by stew in our own juice.



A gleaner that saves an army of "hands" and many hours in one season

obligation upon every American who owns a tillable acre, and who can somehow command labor for the work, to grow foodstuff. I have plowed up every tillable acre on my estate at Lake Forest, and on the remainder I shall graze cattle and sheep. I know of many men who will do likewise. I am getting word from all over the

are seeking to preserve our people from slavery and the world from stagnation.

There is only one attitude that any honest man can adopt in these times and that is one of forgetfulness to all else outside of his own preservation that does not do something to cheer and support those men who are taking

