

was submitted and generally approved by them, respecting greater production of cereals and meats in Canada.

Later the Food Board, which is composed of Mr. H. B. Thomson, Hon. C. A. Dunning, and Mr. J. D. McGregor, and which is supervising the work of greater production in Canada had a conference with representatives of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture of Eastern Canada. After discussion it was concluded that the most effective method of attaining the end desired would be secured through having the work in each province carried on and supervised by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, since this would provide the most effective means of adapting methods to the particular needs of the individual provinces. The Canada Food Board through general newspaper publicity, poster advertising in a limited way, and in bulletins and publications sent out in connection with food conservation, is attracting attention to the need of greater production throughout the Dominion. With the approval of Council, cash assistance has been promised to the various provinces as follows: Ontario \$60,000, Quebec \$60,000, Nova Scotia \$30,000, New Brunswick \$25,000, Prince Edward Island \$5,000, British Columbia \$15,000, Manitoba \$25,000, Saskatchewan \$35,000, and Alberta \$25,000.

This money is to be expended, in a general way, in accordance with the memorandum submitted and agreed to by the Premiers. I shall read that memorandum in a moment.

The services of Dr. J. W. Robertson were secured to represent the Food Board in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Dr. Robertson has been in consultation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture in these provinces as to the most effective methods of attaining the ends desired.

The Hon. Chas. Dunning personally took charge of the work in the Western provinces. While the Minister of Agriculture has not had an opportunity to consult with either of these gentlemen since their meeting with the Provincial authorities, from the information available their work may be summarized as follows: Ontario aims to secure organization down to county and municipal committees, particularly to assist in labour supply and distribution, and to bring home directly to the individual farmer the need of the greatest possible effort. Quebec aims to secure similar organization and produce enough wheat to feed herself, and to greatly increase meat animals.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have the same objective; also in each of these provinces to produce enough coarse grains to meet their own requirements for animal feed. The Minister has no definite report from Dr. Robertson as to what extent organization is being proceeded with.

#### WESTERN CANADA.

Alberta is divided into sixteen districts, each district under the supervision of a greater production agent, and these again centrally supervised. Steps are being taken—

1. To insure supplies of seed.
2. To find out help that is necessary.
3. To secure tenants for unoccupied land.
4. To arrange definitely with farmers for the breaking of new areas of their holdings for 1919 crop.

A Provincial Labour Bureau has been established and generally, work is being assisted by public meetings.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Saskatchewan.—Over two hundred meetings arranged throughout the province. Many of them have already been held. Steps taken to secure all available labour from towns and cities that might be of use on the farms and distribute it through a Provincial Labour Bureau.

Manitoba.—Practically the same.

British Columbia.—No reports received as yet, except in a general way that every one is alive to the need and putting forth as great an effort as possible.

#### GENERAL.

The Dominion has further assisted by the purchase of a thousand Ford tractors, which will be distributed in the next two months; by securing seed supplies and distributing them to the provinces; by taking the necessary steps to ensure a supply of garden and root seeds, and by making the necessary arrangements with the United States authorities for the securing of the supplies of corn suitable for seed.

Reports to hand indicate that the acreage in Western Canada this season will be the largest ever planted, and plans are being considered and worked out now with a view to having as much new land as possible broken up during the present year for crop in 1919. In a general way, the aim is to concentrate on cereals and meats.

#### LABOUR.

The movement for the enlistment of 25,000 boys throughout Canada under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. and Soldiers of the Soil is now definitely under way. This includes boys from the age of 15 to 19. Methods to secure, by voluntary enlistment, men from towns and cities for work on farms will be worked out.

Now the memorandum which was presented to and approved by the provincial governments, to which I alluded a moment ago, reads:

The Provincial Government in each province to constitute itself a War Committee for production, to work in co-operation with the Canada Food Board.

#### Aims.

- 1.—a. To plant this Spring every acre possible of wheat, oats, barley and rye.
- b. To bring into cultivation every acre possible of new land for crop in 1919.
- c. To increase cattle, hogs and sheep to the greatest possible extent.
- 2.—a. To secure cultivation of gardens and vacant lots in towns and cities with a view to raising the maximum amount of vegetables.

This should be accomplished through the municipal or existing organizations in such manner as will ensure proper supervision.

- b. By encouraging every householder in small towns and villages to secure and raise one pig through the season, with a view to utilizing all garbage for food.

#### Methods.

1. Provincial Governments to see that the proper quantity of seed is available and distributed in their Provinces.

2. Provincial Governments to undertake the work of ascertaining the form of assistance which may be required by their farmers in order to secure the breaking, in 1918, of a definite increased acreage of new land more