

PATRIOTISM and PRODUCTION

Complete Your Plans Now

The important thing now is to complete at once your plan for the year's work—for increased production. By planning well in advance, each month's operations can be carried through more effectively when the time comes. Delays later on, through neglect of this, will mean loss to you and to the Empire.

Use the Best Seed

This year, for the sake of the Empire, farmers should be exceptionally careful in the selection of seed. Cheap seed is often the dearest. If every Canadian farmer would use only the best varieties, and sow on properly cultivated soil, the grain output of Canadian farms would be doubled. Deal only with reliable seedsmen. Write at once to Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and to your Provincial Agricultural Department for information as to the best varieties of seed to be used in your particular locality, and use no others.

ATTEND YOUR CONFERENCE

Clean Your Seed

All grain intended for seed should be thoroughly cleaned and selected to retain only the strong kernels. You can reap only what you sow. It does not pay to sow weeds. Clean seed means larger crops and helps to keep the land clean. When you have your seed grain ready, put it through the cleaner once more.

Test Your Seed

Test your seed for vitality, too. Seed is not always as good as it looks. For example, oats, quite normal in appearance and weight, may be so badly damaged by frost that their value for seed is completely destroyed. If you have any doubt as to the quality of your seed a sample may be sent free to the seed laboratory at Ottawa, or Calgary, for test. But in most cases this simple test will prove sufficient.

Take a saucer and two pieces of blotting paper. Place seed between blotting papers. Keep moist and in a warm place. In a few days, you will be able to see whether the vitality is there. Neglect to test your seed may mean the loss of crop.

Increase Your Live Stock

Breeding stock are today Canada's most valuable asset. The one outstanding feature of the world's farming is that there will soon be a great shortage of meat supplies. Save your breeding stock. Plan to increase your live stock. Europe and the United States as well as Canada will pay higher prices for beef, mutton and bacon in the very near future. Do not sacrifice now. Remember that live stock is the only basis for prosperous agriculture. You are farming not speculating.

The Farm Labour Problem

The Government suggests the forming of an active committee in every town and city, composed of town and country men and women. This committee would find out the sort of help the farmers of their locality need, and get a list of the unemployed in their town or city, who are suitable for farm labour. With this information, the committee would be in a good position to get the right man for the right place. Councils, both rural and urban, Boards of Trade and other organizations could advantageously finance such work. Every unemployed man in the town or city who is placed on the farm becomes immediately a producer, instead of a mere consumer and a civic expense.

Canadian
Department of
Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada

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Publications Branch, Canadian Department of Agriculture,
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Please send me Bulletins relating to Seed.

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OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

BRITISH

The enemy has displayed considerable activity during the past few days south-east of Ypres. The fighting on this part of the line has at times been severe. At one or two points the enemy succeeded in occupying some of our trenches but they were driven out by counter-attacks. One of the enemy's trenches was blown up and a number of prisoners were taken. Our troops delivered their counter-attacks with great gallantry, in spite of the difficulties entailed by the water-logged condition of the ground around the trenches and the bad weather.

"On the night of Feb. 15-16 an attack

was made on our line north of the Ypres Canal, and on the following night a similar attack was made near Neuve Chapelle. Both were easily driven off with loss to the enemy. All the ground recently gained by us has been strengthened and held without difficulty.

"South of the River Lys our guns dealt effectively with the enemy's artillery, the fire of which has increased somewhat of late.

"Our air craft have carried out valuable reconnaissance and they have also successfully engaged aeroplanes of the enemy. One of our aviators recently attacked two German machines in succession. He drove off the first and left the second to our artillery, which brought it to the ground in hostile lines."

"The night was calm. There were artillery combats of some

vigilance in the valley of the Aisne and in the sector of Rheims.

"In the region of Perthes all the positions conquered by us remain in our hands.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse, Peronne-Quatre-Étoiles, we captured a bomb thrower.

"In the Vosges we repulsed two infantry attacks to the north of Wissembach, in the region of Bonhomme. In addition we strengthened and organized our positions, proceeding methodically to the north and to the south of the Sudel Farm."

AUSTRIAN

"On the Carpathian front the situation generally is unchanged, although there was heavy fighting yesterday in that sector. Numerous attacks of the Russians were repulsed with heavy losses to them, and 320 Russians were taken prisoners.

"By our occupation of Kolomoia, the Russians lost an important point in east Galicia, south of the Dniester River.

"From the direction of Stanislaw the reinforcements led to new and important fighting north of Nadworna and northwest of Kolomoia, which still is proceeding.

"In Bukovina the enemy has been driven beyond the Pruth, and Czernowitz has been occupied by our troops. Wednesday afternoon the Russians retreated in the direction of Nowosiltza.

"In Russian Poland and west Galicia there have been lively artillery encounters and skirmishes."

GERMAN

"On the road to Arras and Lille the French have been thrown out of the sector."

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FOREIGN FLAG RUSE TO BE CONTINUED

Great Britain Says U.S. Vessels Flew British Flag in and Crew.

GERMAN ORDER PIRACY

Lusitania Used American Colors to Save Passengers and Crew.

(Continued From Page 1.)

and a fortiori (stronger reason) before sinking and destroying it has been universally recognized. If that obligation is fulfilled the hoisting of a neutral flag on board a British vessel cannot possibly endanger neutral shipping, and the British Government holds that it is its duty to neutralize the full responsibility for injury to neutrals ought to rest.

The following is the text of the reply of Great Britain to the American note as handed to Walter H. Page, the American ambassador, today.

"The memorandum, communicated on the 11th of February calls attention in courteous and friendly terms to the action of the captain of the British steamship Lusitania in raising the flag of the United States of America when approaching British waters and says that the government of the United States feels a certain anxiety in considering the possibility of any general use of the flag of the United States by British vessels traversing those waters since the effect of such a policy might be to bring about a menace to the lives and vessels of United States citizens.

Raised U.S. Flag Owing to Threat.

"It was understood that the German Government announced their intention of sinking British merchant vessels at sight by torpedoes, without giving any opportunity of making any provision for the saving of lives of non-combatants, crews and passengers. It was in consequence of this threat that the Lusitania raised the United States flag on her inward voyage.

"On her subsequent outward voyage a request was made by United States passengers who were embarking on board her that the United States flag should be hoisted presumably to ensure their safety. Meanwhile the memo from your excellency had been received. His Majesty's government did not give any advice to the company as to how that the Lusitania left Liverpool under the British flag.

"It seems unnecessary to say more as regards the Lusitania in particular. Permitted in War Time.

"In regard to the use of foreign flags by merchant vessels, the British Merchant Shipping Act makes it clear that the use of the British flag by foreign merchant vessels is permitted in time of war for the purpose of escaping capture. It is believed that in case of some other nations there is similar recognition of the same practice with regard to their flag and that none of them has forbidden it.

"It would, therefore, be unreasonable to expect his Majesty's government to pass legislation forbidding the use of foreign flags by British merchant vessels to avoid capture by the enemy. The German Government have announced their intention to 'sink merchant vessels at sight with their explosives, a proceeding hitherto regarded by the opinion of the world not as war, but piracy. It is felt that the United States Government could not fairly ask the British Government to order British merchant vessels to forego a means always hitherto permitted of means always hitherto permitted, but the escaping not only capture, but the much worse fate of sinking and destruction.

U.S. Ships Allowed to Do So.

"Great Britain has always, when a neutral, accorded to vessels of other states at war the liberty to use the British flag as a means of protection against capture, and instances are on record when United States vessels availed themselves of this facility during the American civil war. It would be contrary to fair expectation if now when conditions are reversed, the United States and neutral nations were to grudge to British ships the liberty to take similar action.

"The British Government have no intention of advising their merchant shipping to use foreign flags as a general practice or to resort to them otherwise than for escaping capture or destruction. The obligation upon a belligerent warship to ascertain definitely for itself the nationality and character of a merchant vessel before capturing it and a fortiori before sinking and destroying it has been universally recognized. If that obligation is fulfilled the hoisting of a neutral flag on board a British vessel cannot possibly endanger neutral shipping, and the British Government holds that it is its duty to neutralize the full responsibility for injury to neutrals ought to rest.

tion of the German trench which was occupied by them on Feb. 18.

"In the Champagne district renewed attacks made by strong French forces broke down completely under German fire. One hundred additional prisoners fell into German hands. Short sections of the German trenches, which were taken by the French on Feb. 18, were partly reconquered.

In the reported French attack of Bourguilles and Vauquois, five officers and 470 uninjured men were captured.

"To the east of Verdun, near Combes, the French, after a short-lived success under heavy losses, were repulsed.

"In the Vosges, the Germans stormed 'Height 600,' to the south of Luse, and took two machine guns."

DEALERS IN ABSINTHE TO BE INDEMNIFIED

Canadian Press Despatch.

PARIS, Feb. 19, 5:35 p.m.—Debate on the bill limiting the number of liquor saloons in France was resumed today by the members of the French chamber of deputies. A measure was passed allowing the sum of 1,500,000 francs (approximately \$2,250,000) as reimbursement for taxes paid by liquor dealers on absinthe in their possession and for the purchase of their stocks of absinthe.

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