

# WAR-TIME PRODUCTION.

## Some Considerations Which Should be Taken Into Account.

The acute shortage of wheat is causing people to realize that those grains ordinarily used only for cattle feed are readily convertible directly into human food when the necessity occurs. So great is the demand today for all grains to be converted into flour and meal for human food that it has become evident that the most effective way in which Canada can save for export is by an absolute reduction in the consumption of grain of all kinds. Human beings and livestock are now competing directly for the grain crop. An increased human consumption of barley, oats or rye necessarily means that the supplies of these cereals available for feeding livestock must be reduced to a corresponding extent. Only increased production of grain can alleviate the situation.

Canadians should aim during the current year to produce not less than 400,000,000 bushels of wheat. On areas where wheat will not produce the maximum of food and barley and oats can be grown to advantage, the latter should be sown. Barley and oats are in strong demand for shipment overseas for use directly for human food. On some areas spring rye and buckwheat will produce the maximum results and there is certain to be a profitable market for these grains. In corn-growing areas, probably more food can be obtained by concentrating on this crop in so far as soil and labour conditions will permit than by growing other cereals.

Every effort should be made to produce all the beans possible. At present Canada does not produce nearly enough for its own requirements.

### Urban Production Needed.

Potatoes, roots, vegetables and fruits are not exportable except when dessicated. Every possible effort should be made, however, to encourage production of potatoes and other vegetables in urban municipalities for the following reasons:

1. Every pound of these foods produced in the urban districts releases farm lands for other purposes;

2. These crops lend themselves admirably for production on small areas;

3. The labour employed in the production of these foods could not otherwise be secured for food production. It is, in fact, the free labour of the cities and towns which may be turned into actual productive work only in this way.

Over-production of potatoes or garden vegetables should not be encouraged by market gardeners or farmers, but a part of the land usually used for this purpose should be devoted to grain, beans, root and corn production.

Fruit-growing should be encouraged wherever labour is available but efforts should be directed above all else towards the production of bread grains.

### Livestock and Feeds.

The keen competition being developed, as a result of the food shortage, between farm stock and human beings for the same crops is certain to become more intense. It is well to remember that consumption of cereals by livestock is not the most efficient way to convert cereal crops into food, except in so far as meat, milk and fats are essential in the ration. But as pasturage, hay, roots, and ensilage cannot be eaten directly by human beings, every pound of meat produced from these feeds is gain, except in so far as such crops interfere with the production of cereals. A war policy, in so far as beef cattle is concerned, should encourage production of beef only in such quantities as to make the best use of all pastures and roughage with the minimum use of cereals. Moreover, the cattle should be marketed as young as will give the best results from the above method of production.

About twelve pounds of dry feed are required to produce one pound of dry human food in the form of milk and veal. This is an efficient use of feed. We can afford, therefore, to add cereals to pasturage and roughage so as to obtain the greatest efficiency in dairy production. The demand for all dairy products is unlimited at the present time.

### Pigs are Efficient Converters.

Pigs are an excellent means of salvaging the wasted grain after the fields have been stripped and can also be fed with advantage on house and hotel garbage and to some extent on roots and other vegetables. The efficiency of their production and their rapidity in reproduction, early maturity and the ideal character of the meat for export make them the most economical animals for production and justifies the saving of cereals for hog feed.