

More Food Wanted

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More and more plainly the stern need for more food in the world is coming to be realized by Canadians. There was no difficulty from the first in getting our people to understand that shells and high explosives were part of war. But food? The thing does not appeal so directly, it would seem. The very newness of the thing we have learned to know somewhat as Food Control had in it something disconcerting. New terms, new ideas, new strings of ideas even, unthought of as the German military system in our peaceful Anglo-Saxonism, have turned up unexpectedly until the public has been justified in semi-stupefaction.

But it is time the dream effect passed. Food measures all over Canada, in the little village as in the greater cities, if possible, must be undertaken. It is the only thing that will at once help the fight in Europe and cut down once and for all the almost intolerable burden of the cost of living at home.

This double concept has been clearly in the design of the Canada Food Board in its appeal to the municipalities, and every organization in every municipal area, to grow more foodstuffs in Canada this year and then again to grow more. In fact, there is no limit to which resources should be used. It is not a fad. It is a grim essential towards the victory that seems at times to recede with the passing months.

A growing realization, it must be repeated, of the urgency is becoming apparent. From all over the Dominion the Vacant Lot and Home Garden section of the Food Board, under the advice of Mr. Frederick Abraham, of Montreal, is receiving information that tends to encourage. An estimate before the close of March is naturally a little premature, but it is evident that the area and number of lots

under cultivation, counting also the home gardens, would be double that of 1917.

The municipality of Galt, for instance, will comprise 600 lots so worked this year as compared with 200 last year. Windsor reports "double the old area." Fort William is another striking case of fresh enthusiasm.

So far as the Food Board is concerned it must obviously devote its attention in a Dominion-wide plan to general promotion, leaving it to the local organizations to carry out detail. The Board especially commends the vacant lot associations to work in cordial co-operation with the provincial departments of Agriculture. So, too, the individual is advised to join a local association. If an affiliation of associations can be effected, so much the better.

The junior section of the work is among the most promising. By encouragement of the Provincial Ministers of Education school children will be doing much more this year than ever actually to grow things that can be eaten. No seed can be supplied: that would be outside the scope of even a municipality possibly, but some of the municipalities are arranging to do the ploughing of the lots for applicants. Most, however, charge a small fee.

It is particularly the endeavor of the Canada Food Board to work in close unison with provincial bodies. Associations or individuals should immediately get into touch with these. But again and again it should be pressed home to the heart of the people: the need for more food as a strict war provision as much as big guns and shells are war, is more urgent in 1918 than it was in the three war years that have gone by. It is the last word of the Canada Food Board. Can the individual be adequately roused to its tremendous import in time?

"Germany's Economic Forces"

In view of the reported amalgamation of some of the German banks, notably the Dresdner Bank, a pamphlet issued by this bank in 1913, to celebrate its fortieth anniversary, is of interest.

The various phases of the subject are taken up fully, the first section relating to population. In this, as in the other sections, comparative figures of Germany's rivals are given.

The increase in population between 1875 and 1910 is given as follows:—Germany, 52 per cent; United Kingdom, 37; France, 8. The excess of the births over the deaths is: Germany, 13.6 per cent; United Kingdom, 11.00; France, 1.8.

The horrible congestion of Berlin is shown by the figures of increased population: Berlin, 86.3 per cent; London, 19.9; Paris, 28.9.

A very significant omen is observed in the occupations of the German people, for while 42.5 per cent were engaged in agriculture in 1882, this had dropped to 28.6 in 1907.

It is pointed out that the "rapid increase of the population depends solely on the excess of births over deaths, not on immigration."

The paragraph introducing the subject of "Finances" is somewhat boastful, and calls attention to Germany having "undertaken greater economic tasks than other countries" which include "not only national defence, administration, education and health, but workmen's insurance, agricultural betterments, and other social and economic improvements."

The increase in revenue in the three countries is shown thus, in millions of marks:

	1881.	1911.
Germany	2860.4	8534.0
United Kingdom	1714.4	4166.6
France	3028.4	3555.8

The national debts, per capita, in marks, are: Germany, 316.7; United Kingdom, 330.3; France, 666.1; United States, 45.7. In this table the United States appears for the first time.

The next paragraph has an amusing title. It is, "Peace Guarantees." It reads, "Germany provides ample protection for the maintenance of her economic life. Although the expense thus entailed is weighty, the capital amount spent on army and navy is less than in the neighboring European countries."

Frankly, this statement throws doubt on the whole book,

especially when the figures are given of the expenses of the army and navy, as follows:—Germany, 21.17 marks per head; England 32.18; France 27.08; United States 12.41. Considering the vast army and large navy with which Germany commenced the great war, it seems as if this innocent paragraph in the statement of a highly respectable bank, were really so much camouflage. It seems almost likely that this was issued, like so many other public propaganda, to lull the world into a false sense of security, by showing how very little preparation Germany was making against the possibility of a war. Really, when this appeared, the reader might almost see the dove of peace resting upon the Kaiser's shoulder.

Other tables in the same paragraph show that Germany had an army establishment of 656,144 men; United Kingdom, 186,400; France, 563,596; and—perhaps to show how little the United States really counted—91,783 for that country.

In view of the threatened shortage of timber in this country, a paragraph from the section on Agriculture is of special interest: "Characteristic of Germany is its developed sylviculture, especially in mountainous districts. For decades no wood have been destroyed in Germany, but many a tract of unproductive land has been afforested. About 50 per cent of all the forests belong to the State, or to municipalities. The entire forests of Germany have a probable value of nearly 10 milliards of marks, bearing interest at about 3½ per cent."

Again: "The favorable crop returns must be attributed to the general spread of scientific methods and agricultural colleges, as well as to the increased use of chemical manures. She alone uses as much potash salts as the rest of the world together."

Another typical boast is found in the article on Education: "The people of poets and philosophers has become one of investigators and inventors. Economic production, based on exact scientific investigation, is the keynote of German industrial progress."

The progress in finance is shown in that of the Dresdner Bank itself, which, starting in 1873 with a capital of 9,600,000 marks, had a capital of 200,000,000 in 1911.

It will be very interesting to read a similar pamphlet, prepared by the Dresdner Bank, say two years after the close of the war. If it is written frankly and truthfully, there may be some widely different statements from the ones under discussion.—H. BRAGG.