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Putting on the Emergency Power in Farming, making Canada the Granary of the Empire

By H. H. BIGGERT, Hamilton, Ont

HE history of all great wars has shown that the man at home behind the plow fought shoulder to shoulder with the man at the front behind the gun. In times past, without the first the latter would have starved, and without the second the former would have been desproyed.

Such a crisis has not yet come in the present conflict, but the silent appeal of the Mother Country to all her colonies has been heard around the world - an appeal for supplies, for bread, for hay, for horses, and for moral

support. Already across the border the American farmer is fortifying himself to meet the increased demand which will be made upon him for his produce. He is increasing his acreage and everywhere is re-echoing the appeal to him to improve his methods in order that his acreage yield may be increased. The impulse which is swaying him to answer the emergency call should meet with double response from the tillers of the soil in this country, where not only the dictates of business urge them on, but where there is the added incentive of the higher consideration of patriotism. As a man doubles his strength when tightly pressed, or an engine exceeds its rated capacity when forged ahead, so should the Canadian farmers multiply their energy and strive to excel their past good records as producers of

The recent appeal of Honorable Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, showed definitely the business advantage of beginning at once to prepare for a greater acreage of wheat. "The only way to get more wheat," said he, "is to properly and most carefully handle the stubble land. Let it be the determination of every farmer to make his wheat acres in 1915 yield as never before. It is certain that an increase of many millions of bushels can be insured if every farmer on the prairies will carefully consider the following suggestions and put them into practice immediately

the world's bread.

### Summer Fallow

"Get the summer-fallow into good shape; let it be ready for the seeder the moment the snow goes, and put it into such shape as to be free from weeds ready to absorb moisture, and as far as possible from evaporation

### Stubble Land

"Every acre of stubble land in good enough shape to be fairly wheat should be for plowed right now; plow not than seven inches deep, and deeper if the character of the soil and moisture content will permit; deep soils should be plowed deeply, shallow or light soils with a more shallow furrow; do the plowing well; every acre should be harrowed within two days after plowing and pack the land if possible after harrowing.

#### Spring Work

"Early seeding is the next consideration; make every pre-paration now and this com-ing winter, to lose no time when the spring opens; be sure the seed saved is clean, and of high germinating quality; get the best variety possible; do the work well at seeding time, cultivating or disking before seeding always means bigger and better crops, and in districts where the crops were a failure this year, the methods outlined above are particularly necessary.'

We would emphasize especially the necessity of frequent disking, and the almost essential use of the land packer as a safeguard against drought. Many thousands of farmers, for the first time, last year staked their crops on the land packer, and owing to the unseasonable dryness which prevailed this season, it is estimated by many authorities that the use of this machine, wherever used, made a difference of 6 to 12 bushels per acre. At the price at which they are disposing of their wheat this year, the packer has proved an investment worth several hundred per cent to them the first year of its use.

### Preparing the Seed Bed

In those parts of the country which do fall plowing and fall seeding, the way the seed bed is made and the way the sowing is done this fall will determine the crop per acre next year more than next year's rainfall, hot winds or frosts. In an experiment not long ago described by F. L. Peterson of the University Farm at Davis. California, he says:

"As the pressure for supplies becomes greater, it becomes more evident that the world cannot afford large farms skimmed over with careless culture. In an actual experiment a gain of 200 per cent which was made in the productiveness of a certain area, 100 per cent was found to be due

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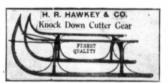
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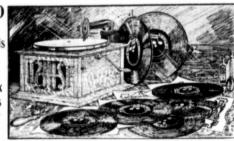
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