

A great harvest this year alone will give life to trade. Nothing short of this will do it. Every energy should be strained at wheat growing. Only by more extensive and intensive wheat culture can we possibly do anything considerable to restore our adverse balance of trade, though side by side with that the promotion of better and mixed farming should go on. But care should be taken that we do not meanwhile too hopefully use up the next harvest before it is grown. It is to the interest of every business man and every owner of real estate, whether occupied or not, in town or country, to use every effort to procure an increase in the productiveness of the farm and to promote local industries as a market for farm products. Therein lies the solution of all our financial troubles.

Every acre of new land available this year should be put into wheat or oats as the readiest saleable crop. A sufficient acreage of arable land having been made available, every idle man in the three provinces should be set preparing in some way to increase our grain products. This for our own sake; and above that, while there is such fearful destruction going on in Europe, entailing misery and famine on millions—a condition that may last for years, it should be ardently felt as an imperative duty to use our privileged position as well to the utmost to produce foodstuffs to alleviate that misery and want. It is true, if we go on growing wheat on our old lands as we do now we shall do a little more to complete their impoverishment, bringing them the sooner to the ruined state of the Dakota lands; still, the wheat had better be grown for a year or two more, even at that cost.

III.

Our present agricultural methods bring us now a production that might easily be doubled. But to accomplish this, instead of a farmer holding as now a quarter section of land—the least they ever think of holding—an extent of area which no beginner is able to cultivate properly to the best advantage, he should perhaps hold but some fourth part of this, which would be a slightly larger farm than that deemed sufficient for each family of Israel by the Divine Lawgiver when the land was divided up among them. If every farmer held about forty acres of land, which he cultivated thoroughly well, with some part under glass, his produce could be made much to exceed the average produce of a 160 acre farm as now cultivated, and would be