



AND RURAL HOME

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Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land—Lord Chatham.

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Britain's Cupboard No Longer Bare

How the Women of Britain and the American Made Tractor Have Combined to Defeat the German Threat of Starving Out the Island Kingdom.—By "Motor"

THE women of Britain plus the farm tractors of America have just about solved the food problem of the British Islands for all time. And this means that they have made probable victory in the war against the Hun moral certainty.

To point the moral of this little tale it will be necessary to go back a bit to the end of 1915, when Germany definitely abandoned all the restraints of civilization and embarked on her career of submarine piracy. The British Islands have always drawn a generous share of their foodstuffs from other countries, meat, wheat and other comestibles from the United States, from the colonies, from South America, dairy products from Scandinavia, etc., etc. The Huns' announced campaign against merchant shipping at once produced a situation not of immediate food crisis, but certainly of catastrophe impending, if the German boasts proved to be well founded.

The submarine campaign proceeded with its career of destruction as accomplished, not all that its noisy Hunnish advocates claimed for it, but enough to make evident the fact that unless steps were taken to meet it, eventual disaster was certain. There were a number of interdependent methods of fighting the submarine and all of them were at once put into practice. Merchant ships were armed for self-protection and later were convoyed as a further measure of defense. Finally, it was determined to make the country as nearly self-supporting as its comparatively small area would allow. It is in this last phase of the struggle that American tractors and British women have proved their essential worth.

Magnitude of the Task.

It was no mean problem that was handed to the agricultural authorities of Great Britain, when they were asked to increase the production of foodstuffs at a time when the country had been drained of its man power almost to the last effective unit in behalf of the fighting forces, the munition industry, the shipyards and other enterprises contributing directly to military effort. The solution was found in the employment of women in agricultural labor, assisted by machines that would more than make up for the decreased quantity of manual labor available. The women of Britain nobly answered the call, from the war's daughter to the no less eager little sister of the slavers, America, the home of the one great tractor industry in the world to-day, was called upon to furnish the labor conserving machines.

Recruiting women for agricultural work started nearly three years ago. The authorities built on broad foundations. They established schools where the women were systematically trained for the work and were paid during their period of tuition. Last year 91,000 women were reported engaged in farm work in Great Britain and this year 300,000 of them are helping to raise the greatest crops in the history of the country. Next year there will probably be 500,000 technically trained women farm laborers actually making the little island kingdom of Great Britain self-supporting in the vital matter of farm produce.

The records show that to date 8,100 American farm tractors have been shipped to England and that nearly 6,000 more have been ordered and are going forward as fast as deep space allows. Henry Ford alone has shipped 6,000 Fordson tractors from his Detroit plant and many of these have already begun breaking the British soil.

How Acreage Increased.

Just what this has meant to British agriculture may be judged from the fact that the 1918 acreage

devoted to wheat, barley, oats, rye and other grains amounts to more than 7,500,000. This is an increase of over 1,800,000 acres over the figures for 1917. Also there are this year 645,000 acres devoted to the raising of potatoes, a gain of nearly fifty per cent over the 1917 acreage. These figures cover only England and Wales, those for Scotland and Ireland not being yet available, although there have been heavy agricultural gains in those sections of the United Kingdom.

For hundreds of years Great Britain has had a disproportionately large area of grass lands, given up not only to grazing, but to lawns, the fame of which is world-wide. The need for home production of foodstuffs has altered this immemorial condition in England and Wales not less than 2,500,000 acres of grass land, some of which has never felt the plow within historic times, have been broken up and of grass land has been turned under and in Ireland 1,500,000 acres more. The total addition throughout the country to tilled areas will be well over 4,000,000 acres. Practically all this has been made

possible by the use of tractors. The manual labor available in Britain at the present time would not have been adequate to bring one-tenth of this additional land into cultivation.

The Proof the Pudding.

Of course the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof and here is how the British pudding eats. In the happy, carefree days before the war, Great Britain imported two-thirds of its agricultural foodstuffs. In 1918 the country will produce all but scant quarter of these essentials. By 1919 it is expected, and barring crop failures, will undoubtedly be the fact, that the kingdom will be entirely self-supporting as far as agricultural products go. This amounts to an agricultural miracle.

Just consider for a moment the concrete effect of this situation on the general condition of the civilized allies in this war. The home production of Britain's food supply relieves the United States of the necessity of providing for this item. It releases an immense tonnage of ships for use in carrying abroad and later supplying the great armies that we are raising in this country. It also relieves the already apparent shortage of agricultural labor in the United States, permitting the recruiting of a greater number of sturdy, country-bred boys into our forces for service abroad. It has been estimated that the increased British food production over that of last year has released 1,000,000 tons of shipping, which would otherwise have had to be employed simply for carrying supplies from this country to England. All honor to the British women and American tractors, which have made it possible.



Britain's War Lesson

IN the spring of 1915, when I was on my way to France, there seemed to be farm labor enough and to spare in England. Farm field methods were gaged accordingly. I have seen as many as three men running a single furrow down the field—two men leading the horses, hitched one in front of the other, and one man holding the plow handles. A great deal of cultivating was done by hand, a large part of the harvesting in the same way. Labor was cheap and plentiful, so farmers stuck to the old methods.

"When on my way back in the summer of 1917—with a game leg as a souvenir—I saw that farm methods in England had become completely revolutionized. An advance, which under ordinary circumstances would probably have taken 25 years to come about, had under war conditions, been accomplished in two, England's man-power had been drained and no longer could she afford to have three men in plowing a single furrow, no longer could she afford sickles and scythes. The old wasteful methods had gone by the board and in their place had come POWER FARMING.

"Tractors were everywhere, many of them working day and night—one man doing what half a dozen had done before. Under the force of war conditions, English farming had learned the man-economy and the money-economy of Power. It is a lesson which she will never forget. England will never go back to the old, antiquated methods of agriculture, for she has learned the cheaper, better way.—G. C. Trett, in "Tractor News."

A Revolution in Agriculture

THAT the tractor will cause a greater revolution in farming in Ontario than was caused by the introduction of the self-binder may be taken as assured. Either under individual or cooperative ownership this new means of providing power for the farm will, before we realize it, be found in all those parts of the province in which the land is comparatively level and reasonably free of stony. The immediate effect will be to render possible the application of speed to, and the elimination of drudgery from, the one operation on the farm that has remained unchanged for generations—that of plowing. The tractor will do more than this. It will make plowing possible under conditions when such work is impossible now; it will, applied not only to plowing, but to disking, seeding, harrowing, and rolling, greatly shorten the time required in seeding; and, in plowing, time is frequently the first essential to success.

The use of the tractor will not be, is not now, confined to the cultivation and seeding of the land. It has already been used in operating the mower in the hay field, the binder in the grain field, and in hauling the finished crop to the barn. The same power used for these purposes can also be utilized for threshing grain, filling silos, sawing wood, and crushing grain.

Demonstrations such as those held at Cobourg last week and at Brantford last fall, by showing what the tractor can do, have hastened the revolution that is coming. In one particular, however, these demonstrations have fallen short. They have not shown the fuel consumption, for a given amount of work, of each machine in the demonstrations. The deficiency should be made good at the Provincial plowing match to be held at the Dominion Experimental Farm next month.—Toronto Globe.