

In the winter of 1916-17, following the very adverse weather and consequent short crop of 1916, and the loss of shipments by reason of Germany's policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, a further campaign was carried on consisting of meetings, literature, distribution of special bulletins, and publicity work generally. In February, 1917, a special campaign was launched with a view to encouraging backyard gardening and \$20,000 was spent for this purpose with very excellent results.

The crop shortage had also a serious effect on the supply of staple needs in many lines. The Department, therefore, undertook to secure a supply of seed potatoes, oats, beans, and other lines, which it distributed to the farmers at cost. It was found, however, that many farmers were unable to pay cash for their seed, even if it was obtainable, and here the Government again provided a remedy. An arrangement was made with the Canadian Bankers Association and the Organization of Resources Committee, whereby the banks throughout the country would advance to farmers a sum of money up to \$200 to assist them in the purchase of seed and thus insure a maximum production.

The sum of \$296,915 was utilized for this purpose rendering very practical help in hundreds of cases.

Tractor Service

In 1917 the Department undertook to assist the farmers by supplying tractors and in this way relieve the labor shortage as far as possible and demonstrate the usefulness of the farm tractor. This work was continued throughout the seasons of 1917 and 1918 in accordance with the demand. In all the Department purchased 129 tractors and these were distributed in almost every county in the Province, being placed at the disposal of the farmers on a basis approximating the cost of operation. In all between 40,000 and 50,000 acres were ploughed and between 6,000 and 7,000 acres were cultivated as a result of this service.

In addition the Department in co-operation with the Federal authorities, distributed at cost 200 popular priced tractors, thus saving to the farmers of the Province a total of \$40,000. The result has not only been a very substantial addition to the food production of the Province but great interest in the whole question of farm power on the part of the farmers of the Province. This interest has been further developed by the holding of Short Courses in Farm Power.

To mention only the work of last winter it might be stated that 225 students attended the two weeks' short course at the Ontario Agricultural College, being the largest number in any