

Famine and World-Hunger Are On Our Threshold



"
in the nation's honour, heed!
Acquit yourselves like men.
As workers on the land, do your
duty with all your strength!"

—Lloyd George.

THE CRISIS

France, England and Italy in peace times did not depend upon America but on Russia, Roumania and Bulgaria for most of their breadstuffs. With these sources closed the crisis of the hour demands that we see that our soldiers and the Motherland are fed.

Everyone in Great Britain has been put on limited rations: meat is prohibited one day a week and the making of cakes and pastry has been stopped. Further restrictions are anticipated.

Bread has gone to 28c per four-pound loaf in England, for the first time since the Crimean War.

Lord Devonport, British Food Comptroller, proposes taking authority to search the houses of Great Britain to prevent food hoarding.

Forty million men, less the casualties, are now on active service.

Twenty million men and women are supporting them by service in other war activities.

In the last analysis, the land is bearing this burden.

One million tons of food-carrying ships have been torpedoed since February 1st, 1917.

Germany's hope for victory is in the starvation of Britain through the submarine.

Canada's sons will have died in vain if hunger compels the Motherland's surrender.

The land is waiting—the plough is ready—will we make the plough mightier than the sword?

Will we help the acres to save the flag?

World-Hunger Stares Us in the Face

David Lubin, representative of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture—maintained by forty Governments—reports officially to Washington that the food grains of the world on March 31st, 1917, showed a shortage of 150,000,000 bushels below the amount necessary to feed the world until August, 1917. He declares it is beyond question that unless a greater acreage is put to work in 1917

GERMANS PUSHED BACK IN CHAMPAGNE POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY FRENCH

Hindenburg Forced to Use His Offensive Reserves For Defence—
Only 10 of His 43 Divisions Now Remain Intact.

Paris, April 30.—The expected battle in the Champagne region of France, following days of acute gun preparation by the French forces, at last has broken. Gen. Nivelle's troops today eastward from Rheims launched an attack over a front of about four miles from the south of Beine to the east of Mont Carnillet and captured several fortified German trenches. Delivered at midday the offensive was swift and sharp, and at its conclusion the French line had been driven forward into territory previously occupied by the enemy to depths ranging relatively from 500 to 1,000 yards. Dames, north-east of Soissons.

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HAIG BENDS NEW GERMAN LINE 'TRIUMPH NORTH OF SCARPE'

Turns Oppy Line and Threatens Oppy Village Itself—Prisoners Total 976—Strong Trench System Taken.

London, April 29.—The British have broken the deadlock at Arras, and despite a German resistance still stubborn and reckless have advanced practically every point on a wide front north of the Scarpe. The attack began yesterday morning, and heavy fighting is continuing, with every prospect of more success for the British before it ends.

After two days of fighting Field Marshal Haig's troops have turned the position lies south of Oppy, and runs almost to the outskirts of Gavrelle. Since Saturday morning the British have taken 976 prisoners, including 16 officers.

JOFFRE ASKS UNITED STATES TO SEND ARMY TO BATTLEFIELD

French War Mission Exchanges Views With American Government Officials.

A despatch from Washington says: —Conferences between members of the French war mission and American Government officials for exchange of views regarding the conduct of the war against Germany began here on Thursday after the leading commissioners had paid official calls upon President Wilson, Vice-President Marshall and Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels.

Of foremost importance was a long talk between Marshall Joffre and Baker, Gen. Scott, chief of staff, and several other American army officers. It is known to desire, the French

People are starving to-day in Belgium, in Serbia, in Poland, in Armenia, in many quarters of the globe. Famine conditions are becoming more wide-spread every day.

On these alarming food conditions becoming known, President Wilson immediately appointed a Food Comptroller for the United States. He selected Herbert C. Hoover, to whom the world is indebted as Chairman of the International Belgium Relief Commission for his personal direction of the distribution of food among the starving Belgians.

Mr. Hoover is already urging sacrifice and food restrictions, for, as he states, "The war will probably last another year and we shall have all we can do to supply the necessary food to carry our Allies through with their full fighting stamina."

The Problem for Ontario

The land under cultivation in Ontario in 1916 was 365,000 acres less than in 1915.

Consider how much LESS Ontario produced in 1916 than she raised in 1915:

| | Year | Acres | Bushels | 1916 DECREASE |
|----------------------------|------|---------|------------|---------------|
| | | | | Acres |
| Fall Wheat | 1916 | 704,867 | 44,922,050 | 105,315 |
| | 1915 | 811,185 | 24,737,011 | 9,794,961 |
| Barley and Oats | 1916 | 529,886 | 42,388,969 | 24,432 |
| | 1915 | 553,318 | 49,883,129 | 7,504,160 |
| Peas and Beans | 1916 | 95,542 | 4,243,979 | 31,401 |
| | 1915 | 126,943 | 2,043,049 | 799,070 |
| Corn | 1916 | 258,332 | 42,747,072 | 51,441 |
| | 1915 | 309,773 | 21,760,496 | 9,043,424 |
| Potatoes and Carrots | 1916 | 139,523 | 7,408,429 | 34,411 |
| | 1915 | 173,934 | 43,267,023 | 5,858,594 |
| Mangel-Wurzels and Turnips | 1916 | 42,733 | 9,756,045 | 8,006 |
| | 1915 | 50,799 | 25,366,323 | 15,600,308 |

Other crops show as critical decline.

Reports from Ontario on the condition of fall wheat for 1917 are decidedly discouraging.

As there is an average of not more than one man on each hundred acres of farm land in Ontario, the prospects indicate even a still smaller acreage under cultivation in 1917 unless extra labor is supplied.



The Second-Line Trenches

—McCay in The New York American.



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The farmers know that they are the last reserve, and that the soil on which crops are grown is the strategic ground on which wars are decided. To their care is entrusted the base of supplies.

To enable the farm to do the work two factors are essential. The first is Time. Whatever we are to do must be done at once. Nature waits for no man. The second is Labor. Many farmers cannot plant the acres they would because they cannot get the necessary help. Many are afraid to increase their acreage because they fear they would not be able to cultivate and harvest an unusual crop after they have raised it. If they are to do the work that is essential for them to do, the last man in each city, town and village must be mobilized at once.

Every man not on Active Service can help. In every city, town and village are men who, by their training on the farm, or by their present occupation, can readily adapt themselves to farm work. These can render no greater service to the Empire at the present time than by answering the call of the farm. Capable men and boys willing to learn should not allow their lack of farm experience to stand in the way.

Can the employer render a more signal service in this crisis than by encouraging these men to help the farmer to cultivate every available acre, and by making it easy for them to go?

Ontario's farm lands are waiting—the implements are ready—the equipment is complete—the farmer is willing—all he needs is labor.

So short is the world's food supply that without increased production many in Canada must go hungry, and even with enormously increased production we cannot expect cheap food. The world is waiting for our harvest.