Lack of Food—threatens the Battle Line

ONTARIO

"The food wanted by mankind does not exist.
The word 'shortage' is not strong enough.
The whole world is up against a nasty thing, familiar to the people of India, called 'famine.'"

—Lord Rhondda,
Britain's Food Controller.

One year ago, only the enemy was on rations.

To-day, Great Britain, France and Italy are on rations.

To-day, Germany controls the wheat lands of Roumania, Russia, Poland and Ukrania.

To-day, the shadows of hunger, famine, disease and death hang over the Allies.

Upon the 1918 crop from Canada and the United States depends the fate of the democratic peoples of the world.

If that crop is sufficient the Allies can be fed.

If that crop is not sufficient the Allies may have to accept a German peace.

That Battle-Line in France and Flanders Must Not Want

Do you realize what a German peace would mean to Canada?

Germany covets our natural resources—our agricultural and mineral wealth, our forests, our fisheries, everything that is Canada's.

Germany won't be satisfied with European territory, with teeming masses, wrangling factions and depleted natural resources. She wants colonies—big, thinly-populated countries in temperate zones for her sons and daughters to go to propagate their kind.

The Kaiser would sacrifice millions of Germans to-morrow if he thought that by so doing he could set foot on Canada's shores as Conqueror.

And what's more, the Germans would offer themselves for the sacrifice, so great is their subjection to the military ideal.

The only thing that balks German ambition is that battle line from the North Sea to Switzerland—and the British Navy.

The Only Thing That Sustains Our Men on Land and Sea—is Food

What are we, each one of us, prepared to do to insure that Food supply?

Germany, by her submarine campaign, has seen that great Armada, the British Mercantile Marine, shrink in volume.

Germany has seen South America, Australia, New Zealand, India and far away outposts of the Empire practically cut off from supplying food to the Motherland because of the lack of ships.

Forty million Allied men and women having been put on warwork, food production has dangerously decreased in Europe.

These forty million consume more food than when they were in ordinary occupations, and there are fewer men for farming. Hence an increased demand and decreased supplies.

The harvest of France was one-third less in 1917 than 1916, and this year must be smaller still, owing to lack of fertilizers, which cannot be supplied through shortage of shipping.

The world's decrease in live stock, as compared to 1913, is approximately 115,000,000 head.

Herbert Hoover Says:

"Our European Allies are dependent upon us for greater quantities of food than we have ever before exported. They are the first line of our defence. Our money, our ships, our life blood, and not least of all, OUR FOOD supply, must be of a common stock.

"In pre-war times, Britain, France, Italy and Belgium yearly imported more than 750,000,000 bushels of grain, plus vast quantities of meats and fats.

"The submarine destruction of shipping has made it necessary to abandon the hope of bringing food from South America, Australasia and India.

"Food must, therefore, be shipped from Canada and the United States—the nearest and safest route.

"Canadian and United States supplies are normally 350,000,000 bushels short of the Allied needs. By greater production and conservation Canada and the United States must combine to increase the export of grain by 150,000,000 bushels.

"The remaining shortage of 200,000,000 bushels must be overcome by greater reduction in consumption in the allied countries. And this is being done by Britain, France and Italy rationing her people.

"From two and a half years of contact with the German Army I have come out of the horror with the complete conviction that autocracy is a political faith and a system that directly endangers and jeopardizes the future of our race—that threatens our very independence. It has, however, been able to command complete inspiration of devotion and self-sacrifice in its people to the interest of their nation. The German farmer, in the name of the Fatherland, supports a nation two-thirds as large as the United States and threatens to subject the world from an area one-half the size of Ontario.

"My vision of War is not of an academic problem to be solved by discussion. To me it is a vision of brave, dying men and suffering women and children, for service on whose behalf the greater exertion of the Allies' farmers comes in a direct necessity and a direct plea. The Canadian and the United States citizen who sees war as I see it needs no inducement and no inspiration but the thought that every spade full of earth turned and every animal reared is lessening human suffering and guaranteeing the liberty of the world."

Lloyd George's Warning

"I fear the disciplined people behind the German Army, the rationed family and the determination of wife and sister and daughter and mother to stand and starve—so that their fighting men may be fed—I fear it more than the Imperial German Army itself."

Britain is now on Food Rations.

France is now on Food Rations.

Italy is on the verge of starvation. Only continuous support from us can enable us to hold out.

Only with a disciplined people behind can we hope to win. The rationed British Nation, blood of our blood, bone of our bone, are proudly paying the price and sharing with France and Italy their limited stock of food. For in this there is mighty pride, a conscious measuring of their glory with the best traditions of ancient Sparta, and of Imperial Rome, for Britons know that upon them rests the burden of saving humanity. The story of their service shall ring and echo forever along the hilltops of history.

The heart of this problem is labour.

Without more farm labour more food cannot be produced.

If you really want to serve your Country in a big, practical way, register now for farm labour, or urge and assist your male employees to do so.

To Send More Food to Our Allies is Not Charity

It is war. The Allies have a right to demand it. They have a right to resent the offer of only what is "left over." Those who are fighting the common battle for civilization and for our protection have a higher claim than had Lazarus, to only the "crumbs that fall from the rich man's table."

The Canadian people must recognize that our Allies have the first claim on our food supplies.

As the shipping situation makes the Allies dependent upon the North American continent for food, it is vitally necessary that Canada should increase her production of food in order to take a larger part in providing for the Allies' requirements. This is especially urgent as the maintenance of a large United States Army in the European field will cause a very heavy drain on that country's resources.

There must be no peace without victory.

For nearly four years Germany has been struggling against the powers of law and order. She has failed so far to make good her escape with her booty by superior strength and skill. And now she is attempting by intrigue, suggestion, device and propaganda to divert the attention of her antagonists from the struggle itself, and thus to gain her ends by relaxing the strength and skill of her antagonists.

What she can gain from these tactics is plain to all the world in the sorrowful experience of Russia.

Germany's most dangerous weapon is not her Zeppelin—that is obsolete. Not her submarine—that can be overcome. Not her machine-like army—that has been repeatedly hurled back by the living armies of freemen. Her most dangerous weapon is her propaganda of peace.

While with her hands she murders and despoils, with her voice she invites to parleys.

When Liberty is in Peril There is Threat of Lasting Disaster in the Very Word "Peace"

Lord Leverhulme, long known in Canada as Sir William Lever, who knows well the German mind, in a recent interview stated:

"You will never be able to dictate terms to Germany till she is beaten. The argument you mention is founded on the dangerous fallacy that because Germany is sick of this war she is sick of war in general. She isn't. I doubt if her Government is even sick of this war. You've read the speech of that old brigand, Hertling. Is there any sign of repentance in that speech? Is it a chastened speech? Is it the speech of a statesman who wants disarmament and a league of nations? No! Germany is back in her mood of 1914. She believes she is winning the war. She believes she has won now. And if we talk of peace to her she HAS won it. Why, it would be better a thousand times that every man in England should be dead than that Germany should issue from this war with the feeling of a conqueror. You hear people use the phrase, 'to the last man, and the last shilling,' and you think it is only a bit of rhetoric, but to my mind it's the most solemn and absolute truth. I mean when I say it that it would in very truth be a million times better for the people of these islands to be dead, every one of them, rather than live on as the serfs of a triumphant Prussia."

How can any lover of liberty remain insensible to this peril?

Food means Victory and the world made safe for democracy—

Lack of food means disaster and subjugation to Germany.

The Citizens of Ontario Must Lead This Mighty Crusade for Greater Food Production

They did it last year and will do it again.

As the greatest food producing Province, Ontario must maintain her leadership in America. Great are our opportunities—our responsibility is tremendous.

Upon every man and woman, boy and girl, rests a personal obligation to serve. Every pound of food produced, in whatever form, is a contribution to the Cause of Freedom.

Ontario farmers should sow 500,000 acres of spring wheat.

Every Ontario farmer whose land is at all suitable should put an extra five acres into wheat, even at the expense of another crop.

What YOU Can Do To Help

At all costs production must be maintained.

That's why farmers and farmers' sons are being exempted from military service. Working on a farm is equivalent to service in the Second Line Trenches.

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 had raised it.

The burden is not one to be placed solely upon the farmer. Neither can it be placed upon the townsman. It is a personal obligation upon every man, woman, boy and girl, in every farm, town and city home in the Province of Ontario.

AWAY WITH CRITICISM—CO-OPERATE! Mr. City Man, don't say that the farmer should do so-and-so, and thus allow criticism in this hour of our Nation's peril to cripple your effort.

Mr. Farmer, don't hastily underestimate the value the city man can be to you.

GET TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT FOR LIBERTY

Let us not lament what MIGHT be, but earnestly face what MUST be.

Fifteen thousand boys between the ages of fifteen and nineteen must be organized as "Soldiers of the Soil" to work on Ontario farms this season.

Farmers can get one or more of these boys by applying to the District Representatives or to the Public Employment Bureaux at Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton or London.

Unmarried men, exempted from military service, are urged to take up farm work. Married men who have had previous experience on a farm are urged to resume farm work for a season. Employers of labor are asked to assist men to take up farm work.

We urge the farmer and the townsmen to get together for greater production in the interests of a free people and democracy.

Let the Organization of Resources Committee, your District Representatives of the Public Employment Bureaux act as your intermediaries.

When we have done our best, the cry for food cannot be wholly met.

For the rest—our Allies are tightening their belts.

Organization of Resources Committee

Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

CHAIRMAN: His Honor Sir John S. Hendrie, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. VICE-CHAIRMEN: Honorable Sir William H. Hearst, K.C.M.G., Prime Minister of Ontario; William Proudfoot, Esq., K.C., Leader of the Opposition. SECRETARY: Albert H. Abbott, Esq., Ph.D.

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