

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—we will 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 crop in 1917 there will be WORLD-HUNGER before the 1918 crop is harvested.

The failure of the grain crop in the Argentine Republic, which is ordinarily a great grain-exporting nation, resulted in an embargo being placed, in March, 1917, upon the export of grains from that country to avert local famine.

The United States Department of Agriculture, in its official report, announces the condition of the fall wheat crop (which is two-thirds of their total wheat crop) on April 1st, 1917, to be the poorest ever recorded and predicts a yield of 244,000,000 bushels below the crop of 1915. The 1916 crop was poor. Even with favorable weather, the wheat crop of the United States is likely to be the smallest in thirty-five years, not more than 64% of the normal crop.

Under date of April 10th, Ogen Armour, executive head of Armour & Company, one of the world's largest dealers in food products, stated that unless the United States wishes to walk deliberately into a catastrophe, the best brains of the country, under Government supervision, must immediately devise means of increasing and conserving food supplies. Armour urged the cultivation of every available acre. The food shortage, he said, is world-wide. European production is cut in half, the Argentine Republic has suffered droughts. Canada and the United States must wake up!



Hunger Tightening His Grip
—New York Evening Mail

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	1915
Fall Wheat	1916	704,867	14,942,050	105,315	9,794,961
	1915	811,185	21,337,011		
Barley and Oats	1916	529,886	12,388,969	24,432	7,504,160
	1915	552,318	19,893,129		
Peas and Beans	1916	95,542	4,243,979	31,401	798,070
	1915	126,943	2,043,049		
Corn	1916	258,332	12,717,072	51,441	9,043,424
	1915	309,773	21,760,496		
Potatoes and Carrots	1916	139,523	7,408,429	34,411	5,858,584
	1915	173,934	13,267,023		
Mangel-Wurzels and Turnips	1916	42,799	9,756,015	8,006	15,600,308
	1915	50,799	25,355,323		

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.



—Photo from London (Eng.) Bystander.

A 15-year Old Girl at Work

Miss Alexandra Smith, one of the thousands of British women workers on the land. She recently won an All-Comers' Championship prize for plowing.

Food Production is the Greatest Problem the World Faces To-day

Owing to destruction by submarines, ocean ships are scarce.

It is much easier to protect shipping between Canada and England than on the longer voyages from India or Australia.

One vessel can make twice as many trips from Canada to Britain as from India, and four times as many as from Australia.

Therefore, every ton of food stuffs grown in Canada is worth to the Motherland two tons grown in India or four tons grown in Australia.

Why the Call to Canada is So Urgent

If this country does not raise a big crop this year, not only will the people of Canada suffer but the Motherland and her Allies will suffer and their military power will be weakened if not paralyzed. Therefore, the right solution of the present war problem comes back to the farm, as to a foundation upon which our whole national and international structure must be built and maintained.



The Second-Line Trenches

—McCay in The New York American.

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.

If peace should be declared within a year, the food conditions will be no better, for the accumulated hunger of the Central Empires must be met. This will absorb a large part of the world's supply.

We do not know when this war shall cease. It is endless—its lengthening out has paralyzed the thought and conception of men who thought about it and its possible time of conclusion. Three months—six months, we said; nine months, a year, we said; and yet two years and eight months have passed their long dreary and sanguinary length and there is no man who can tell how long this gigantic struggle may yet last.

Lloyd George, in a letter addressed to farmers throughout the Empire, said:

"The one which the British Empire holds against the Germans is held by those who WORK ON THE LAND as well as by those who fight on land and sea. If it breaks at any point it breaks everywhere. In the face of the enemy the 'seaman of our Royal navy and mercantile marine' and the 'soilers gathered from every part of our Empire to do our fire freely' You work on land must do your part of our line as strongly. Every 'land boy's' labor you do helps to shorten the struggle and brings us nearer victory. Every idle day, 'all loitering, lengthens the struggle and makes defeat more possible. Therefore, in the nation's honour, heed! Acquit yourselves like men, and as workers on land do your duty with all your strength!"

So, for the honor of Canada's soldiers in France—and for the glory of our New-born Nationhood—let it be said of Ontario's citizens that, in the hour of our greatest need, their response was worthy of their sons.

We owe a great debt to those who are fighting for us.

Organization of Resources Committee, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Chairman: His Honour, Sir John S. Hendrie, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Vice-Chairman: Honourable Sir William H. Hearst, K.C.M.G., Prime Minister of Ontario. Secretary: Hon. E. J. Esq., K.C., Leader of the Opposition, Secretary. A.B.C.

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