

SPLENDID ADDRESS BY DR. J. W. ROBERTSON

(Continued from page one.)

doubtless many others which were loaded solely with food products. Of the food supplies which were still available after these great losses, it cannot be said that they had been husbanded to the best advantage. The temporary prosperity of munition workers, many of whom are receiving higher wages than ever before, has resulted in extravagant buying and living. Taking all these factors into consideration it is no exaggeration to say that the world at present faces a food situation that is nothing short of appalling.

THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES ON US.

Since the war began the farmers of the Maritime Provinces have risen to the great occasion nobly. Some of the best of them have sealed their devotion by the supreme sacrifice of service unto death in Belgium and France. Those at home have spared sons and brothers for the army until the farms are stripped almost bare of necessary labor. I honor the men and women who have toiled bravely, early and late to the last ounce of their strength. It has been for a great cause. Now, as ever, he that endureth to the end shall be saved. So we must not now slacken our efforts. The logical sequence to the work that has been done for greater production is to follow it by a further effort for still greater production. We should use all the experience we have thus far gained in planning and carrying forward a campaign for larger acreages and higher yields in 1918 and the years that are to follow. We can better meet the needs of the Allies by the production of food than by any other service. The farmers of North America are in a better position than those of any other grain producing section of the globe to contribute to the food needs of the armies in Europe. A given tonnage of shipping can carry over twice as much grain from America as from Argentina and three times as much as from Australia or New Zealand. It is vital at this juncture and will continue vital until the end of the war that shipping be employed on the routes where it can be used to greatest advantage. One of the most effective ways to conserve shipping is to provide as large a proportion as possible of the food requirements of the Allies from Canada.

Bear this in mind: When a ship is sent to Australia for foods for the Allies it means one less ship on the Atlantic route. In the time consumed to make one trip from Australia, the ship could make three trips across the Atlantic—equal to one cargo of foods and two other cargoes such as men and equipment of the new American Army.

SINGLE PLANTS AND SINGLE BITES.

The personal effort of individuals is the only way whereby the supply of food can be increased. Under modern conditions one cannot expect the earth to receive a miraculous shower of manna; a Niagara of wheat to fill the empty granaries and elevators is not to be expected; food comes from single plants produced by nature in co-operation with the intelligent labor of individuals. It is necessary to be diligent and fervent in conserving what has been produced, in preventing all waste and in shifting our own consumption from flour and bacon, which the armies and civilian populations need from us, to other foods which cannot be sent overseas.

A careful computation of the reduction in the consumption of beef, bacon and flour, by means of the compulsory regulations of public eating places and voluntary co-operation of the women, shows that the amounts saved are sufficient to provide those foods for an army of 600,000 men. The operation of both methods is being continuously improved.

WAR PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN FOR 1918.

Now the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are leading and directing the farmers towards an immensely increased production in 1918. A war production campaign is in progress which will reach every township from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In the towns vacant lots will become war gardens. Canada recognizes her responsibility in partnership with the United States to answer the prayer of their needy Allies: Give us our daily bread.

The farmers of Eastern Canada are called upon, by the grave emergency which our Allies face, to produce in 1918 two millions of acres additional of cereals and cultivated crops. That amounts to about five acres per farm. In the plans for increased production which have been agreed upon between the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the Ontario Department of Agriculture, one million additional acres has been accepted as the objective for Ontario. The Department of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec believes the farmers of that province will go a good long way beyond their objective of six hundred thousand acres additional to the acreage of last year. The 80,000 odd farmers of the three Maritime provinces are depended upon to provide four hundred thousand additional acres of cereals and other cultivated crops.

New Brunswick has set one hundred and fifty thousand additional acres as her objective for this year. Nova Scotia proposes that her farmers shall grow a number of additional acres of cultivated crops on every farm and on all of the best equipped farms from five to ten and over additional acres. I hope and believe that the farmers of Prince Edward Island will make an equally good effort and response. When they understand the unspeakable gravity of the situation, I am sure, notwithstanding the difficulties which they have to overcome, they will put in an average of at least five additional acres per farm of cultivated crops. The total should amount to nearly 75,000 additional acres of cultivated crops. It is a great deal to expect, but its achievement will be a great contribution by the farmers.

OUTLINE OF PLANS FOR PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

In the plans which have now been agreed upon between the Dominion Minister of Agriculture and the Canada Food Board on the one hand, and the Province of Prince Edward Island, provision is made for the formation of a Greater Production Committee of farmers in every school district. It is proposed that every farmer will be visited personally by a member of one of the Greater Production Committees. The object is to help him to understand the gravity of the situation and to enlist his earnest determination to do his best notwithstanding the greater difficulties he has to face in respect to seeds, fertilizers and labor because of the war. War means hardship and service by all and sacrifice to the uttermost by some, otherwise we cannot win. The following will appear on the back of a bulletin of information to be left at every farm house:—

FAMINE THREATENS OUR ALLIES.

The Farmers of Canada are Called upon to Save the Situation.

This Farm is Dedicated to the Greatest Possible Production of Foods in 1918.

To this end I will reconsider my plans for crops for this season and will endeavour to sow the largest acreage I can manage of wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, rye, peas, beans, fodders, potatoes, roots and other food producing crops; and I pray that the blessing of God may rest upon our labors.

Name
Address
County

Prince Edward Island in co-operation with the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the Canada Food Board.

These Departments earnestly request every farmer to co-operate heartily in the means adopted and with the local Greater Production or other Committees that may be organized for the purpose of promoting Agricultural production and to do his part to increase his acreage of cultivated crops by at least five acres on the average.

WEEK DEDICATED TO PREPARATION.

The Lieutenant-Governor will be advised to proclaim the third week of April a week dedicated to preparation for increased production. During that week the people of the Province will be asked to consider and again consider how each one can help. The farmers will be requested to reconsider the areas for crops in 1918, in order that as many additional acres as possible may be sown or planted. Seeds will be got ready. Machinery, tools and harness will be put in order. Spare parts will be provided to avoid delays in the busy season. A lost half day may affect the harvest.

SUGGEST ADJOURNMENT OF LEGISLATURE.

In this connection because of the unspeakable gravity of the situation and my confidence in the invaluable services which the members of the Legislature could render in their several constituencies in this time of crisis I venture to suggest that the Legislature should adjourn during at least the week dedicated to preparation. The members would then be free to devote their time and their ability to this most pressing and necessary of all patriotic work on the Island at the present time. They are the recognized leaders and directors of public opinion and effort in their communities. I believe they could mightily support and strengthen the movement for the constitution of the Greater Production Committees and advance the work which these committees will be able to do. I do not know of any other form of disinterested public service, at the present time, which would be so helpful to our united efforts to keep the situation safe on the side of the Allies and thereby to help to win the war.

PROVISIONS TO ENSURE SUPPLIES OF SUITABLE SEED GRAIN.

Further action is being taken to make sure that every farmer who has the land ready, or can make it ready will be able to purchase suitable seed. While wheat is wanted by the Allies, other grains for food are also urgently needed. And in view of the risks to wheat growing from some as yet uncontrolled diseases, the farmers of the Island might greatly increase the acreage sown to barley. Barley flour is almost as welcome as wheat flour. In case of a late spring it can be sown without detriment from ten days to a fortnight later than wheat. Oats are also in great demand. Buckwheat becomes a nutritious food. Beans thrive on the Island and give a very large amount of food values per acre. Moreover all these grains are staple products which can be shipped without danger from frost and can be carried over if need be into the next season. They are free from the risks which are inseparable from a surplus crop of potatoes. The outlook is such as to assure war time prices for food grains for at least three years. Every one who does his best from the highest of motives, to avert famine and to help the Allies, at the same time follows a course which will be exceedingly profitable.

OTHER PARTS OF THE PLANS.

Assistance is to be given in the organization of means to secure and place on farms all available supplementary part time labor for hoeing haying and harvesting. This will include the enrolment, placing and supervision of boys in their teens from the schools and colleges as Soldiers of the Soil. Each will receive a Dominion National Service Badge. The Department of Education, the churches and the Y.M.C.A., are co-operating heartily in this undertaking.

Provision has been made for the further extension improvement and supervision of vacant lots and war gardens in the towns and villages.

FARMERS WILL DO THEIR PART.

No one has the right to stand apart, or stand aloof, and merely urge a duty upon farmers. They are willing to do their best, even to the very uttermost. What they need, what they want and what they are entitled to receive, are information and guidance and assistance towards the formation of their own Greater Production Committees in every township and parish. They also need assistance which will enable them to obtain seeds, fertilizers as far as these are obtainable and supplementary labor for hoeing, haying and harvesting seasons. Everything that can be done is being undertaken to meet these needs. When the farmers understand the gravity of the situation they will meet it so far as flesh and blood and unflinching spirit can do so.

All this is war service, and because it is war service it must be done with diligence, intelligence and determination. It is not romantic or dramatic; it does not appeal to the emotions. But, because it is necessary war work, it requires all the more intensity and continuity of determination on the part of those doing it. By the blessing of God a sustaining army of 400,000 farmers in Eastern Canada can save the situation. I pray that the Almighty may give the farmers and their families health and strength of body, mind and soul for their heavy, heavy tasks and that He may crown their labour by the blessing of a saving harvest.

At the close of speeches were made by Hon. Justice Fitzgerald, Hon. Justice Haszard, Hon. Premier Arsenault, Mr. J. H. Bell, Hon. Murdoch McKinnon, Mr. J. W. Bentley, Mr. John A. Devar and Mr. Walter M. Lea.

The Premier stated amidst loud applause that the government would act upon the suggestion of Dr. Robertson and today move the adjournment of the House for a week in order that the members might visit their districts and immediately undertake the organization of the province for the great purpose of providing necessary foodstuffs for the Allies.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

SEEDING SIX WEEKS AHEAD IN PRAIRIES

WINNIPEG, April 2.—Six weeks ahead of last year, the Manitoba Free Press this morning publishes its first crop report of the season. Seeding will be general in Manitoba on Monday, in Saskatchewan about April 10, while in Alberta it will be general in the south next week and in the north a week later.

The condition of the soil is reported as satisfactory throughout the Canadian prairie west, and considerable seeding already has been done. A few spots in Southern Manitoba report fallow blowing but rain Wednesday helped the situation, generally the soil is reported moist and mellow. In reply to the query as to whether the labor supply is sufficient for seeding and domestic work, the reports summarized by the Free Press are to the effect that "early seeding apparently helping the labor shortage to some extent but the situation is pretty acute in some districts while the general report is that domestic help is almost unobtainable."

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CASTLE LEFT ALL TO WIFE.

The will of Vernon Castle, former dancer and instructor in the British Flying Corps, killed recently in Texas, gives his entire estate to his wife, Mrs. Irene Castle, to whom he refers in terms of deep affection. The will has been made public by William Klein, attorney for Mrs. Castle with her approval, but will not be offered for probate until her return from Havana, where she went immediately after her husband's funeral.

Easter Footwear

All the newest spring styles are here. "GIRL MILITARY" The new medium height heel is shown in all shades of Browns and many styles in Black. GREY BOOTS—Our lines this year are prettier than ever. See Our Window.

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QUEEN ST.

Lieut. J. W. Bell Safe in France

Mr. Arthur F. Bell, of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, City, received yesterday a letter from his son Flight Lieutenant J. W. Bell, Royal Flying Corps who was recently reported wounded and missing.

His many friends throughout the province will be glad to know that the lieutenant is now safe in a French Hospital.

Following is the text of his letter:

France
12. 3. 1918
Dear Father:—By this time expect you will have received word saying I have been wounded yesterday at about 12.30 p. m. was in a fight with Hun about 10 miles over in enemy country. I engaged one of about 1600 feet another got a burst of machine gun into him when another Hun got on my tail and shot through my main petrol tank and also radiator. I was hit twice in left foot. I did not dare use my engine in case of catching fire, petrol being flowing all over the place. My left leg went paralysed so I had to spin to get away from him.

He followed me down but I got away in the mist and steered for our lines. I was beginning to feel a bit faint by this time, losing considerable blood, but managed to make a good landing at an aerodrome close to our own and near a hospital. Went under an operation last night and feel rather sick from chloroform but I have a lot to be thankful for, one bullet entered underneath and one behind the little toe, between the two to them they mangled my foot rather horribly and I won't be flying for a long, long time. Am applying as soon as I get over to spend my convalescence in Canada which will no doubt be easily arranged.

I would have liked to finish my time but am very lucky as it is, and cannot complain. You may still address my letters to No. 64 as they will know where I am and forward my mail to me.

I am very well, suffering a lot of pain but do not complain on that score.

Trust you are all very well.

Love to all
Affixon
J. W. B.

PERSONALS

Major Schurman, Summerside, leaves this morning for Winnipeg.

Mr. Edward Blake, city, leaves this morning for Calgary.

Mr. Jas. C. Tuplin, wife and daughter, Summerside, are visiting in the City.

Major Sterns, Souris, leaves this morning for Halifax en route for Overseas.

Misses Annie Howatt and Gertrude Simcott returned to the City after spending their Easter Holidays in Picton.

Messrs. R. J. McDonald, and Eugene Kelly, City returned Wednesday after spending a very pleasant Easter in Kinkora.

Mrs. Kenneth McFadyen and little daughter arrived in Tignish from England Thursday night, to spend a month or two with Mr. and Mrs. A. J. McFadyen, Tignish.

Mr. R. W. McEwen, St. Peter's, who is in the R. C. N. service, has been promoted to the charge of the Naval Stores at Sydney. This is an important position, for which Mr. McEwen's previous business experience amply qualifies him to occupy. Mr. McEwen takes over his new duties on May 15.

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