

FARMERS' DUTY IN PRESENT WAR

Mr. I. F. Metcalfe Urges the Growing of Feed and Fur- nishing of Cattle.

Mr. I. F. Metcalfe, of Gore Bay, representative of the Department of Agriculture for Manitoulin Island, has sent the following circular letter to the farmers of the Island:

Dear Sir:—We are at a crisis in our history as a colony of the Great British Empire due to the present European war. While we should be as optimistic as possible, yet the fact remains that Germany and Austria-Hungaria are fighting stubbornly and will not give in until it is absolutely necessary. This means that there is likely to be a long campaign ahead. With the great waste that has already taken place in the European harvest fields and the small chance of their being able to produce much for some time to come, we, as a dependency of Great Britain, should exert ourselves to the utmost to assist in raising the foodstuffs—grain, meat etc.—which are certain to be urgently required. We can assist quite as much this way as by actually seeing service at the front.

Bearing our local conditions in mind, I wish to impress the following facts on yourself and other Manitoulin farmers:

(1) There is a great waste every year from leaving meadows down for a term of years instead of breaking them up and re-seeding. These old meadows do not produce nearly as much hay per acre as new meadows and are the first to suffer from lack of moisture. They should all be broken up this fall if possible or, failing that, first thing next spring. A special effort should be put forth to have that work done this fall as there may not be sufficient time in the spring.

(2) The seeding need not be done to wheat as other foodstuffs are likely to be quite as much in demand. It has been the practise here only to grass feed cattle and then ship them off to other places to be finished, but so much land is going in to wheat in Old Ontario that it may be better to raise the coarser grains here and finish our own cattle next year. Besides, a lot of coarse grain can be profitably fed to hogs. Seed what wheat you can but please bear in mind that other foodstuffs are required as well. The main point just now is to get all those old meadows in shape for some kind of crop next spring.

(3) Do not part with any immature stock if you can possibly help it. These should be kept on and finished, as the finished stock will be more urgently required in the future than the immature stock is now. Do not sell hay or other coarse feed if you can possibly use it to advantage in feeding stock this winter.

(4) Please bear in mind Mayor Smith's appeal in The Recorder of Oct. 8 for supplies, such as oats, potatoes and butter, to be sent to the front. The oats and potatoes should be securely bagged and the butter securely boxed. These supplies are badly needed now, and it is not too much to expect of the Manitoulin farmers that they should give something out of their abundance. These supplies cannot be sent away in any haphazard fashion, but provision for collection and shipment must be made for each locality interested and they must be shipped this month. That means that if anything is done by your locality "A start must be made at once." The shipments are to be made to The Department of Trade and Commerce, Montreal. You will not have any transportation charges to pay from point of shipment.

(5) This advice is not only for yourself but also for your whole neighborhood and I hope that you will do your best to help and will also do what you can to get others to help.

Very truly yours,

I. F. Metcalf,

District Representative