

January to 290·9 in November, the month of the Armistice; December showed a slight decline to 288·8. The weekly family budget for food, fuel and lighting and rent reached an average of \$20·63 for the year, rising from \$19·61 in January to \$21·61 in December. Food cost in December, 1918, was \$13·63 as compared with an average food cost of \$7·337 in 1913. Though food costs again increased during 1919 and the early part of 1920, the starving-out process which was a part of the German campaign had been finally defeated.

To sum up, the result of the four years' campaign for increased food production was the extension of the officially estimated area of farm crops from 33,427,190 acres in 1914 to 51,427,190 acres in 1918, an increase of 53·8 p.c. While improvements made during the period in the collection of agricultural statistics are no doubt partly responsible for this showing, the actual increase attributable to the efforts of the Canadian farmer with his depleted labour force, of the town and city men who gave up their holidays to engage in exhausting physical labour, and of the 11,952 young "Soldiers of the Soil" who left school for the farm during the crop season of 1918, was a remarkable achievement.

THE MUNITIONS INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

Iron and steel are the principal ingredients in the munitions required in modern warfare. Before the war Germany had, by bounties on production and export, so stimulated her iron and steel industry that she had far surpassed the United Kingdom in this field, producing 19 million tons of pig iron in 1913 as against Britain's 10½ million. Immediately on the outbreak of war, German armies occupied the chief iron and steel producing regions of France and Belgium, thus increasing their available resources and diminishing those of the allies. It was absolutely necessary, therefore, that Great Britain should call a new world into existence to redress the balance of the old, and enlist the assistance of the rising Canadian iron and steel industry in the struggle. As a result of overtures from the Imperial War Office, the Minister of Militia appointed a Shell Committee in September, 1914, to undertake the task of organizing the supply of shrapnel to the British Government. The first shipments were made in December, 1914, and by May 31, 1915, about 400 establishments were engaged in the manufacture of shells. In November, 1915, the work of the Shell Committee was transferred to the Imperial Munitions Board, which was directly responsible to the Imperial Ministry of Munitions. The Chairman of this Board possessed full administrative and executive authority over the various departments, each of which was in charge of an expert. Among the departments were the Purchasing and Steel Departments, the Shipbuilding Department, the Aviation Department, the Fuse Department, the Engineering and the Inspection Departments. Industries new to Canada were established under the direction of the Board; its shipbuilding contracts amounted to some \$70,000,000; more than 2,500 aeroplanes were produced in its factories, some of