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The Staff of Life in War

To Americans food conservation means bread, and bread means wheat. For the first time in history the United States Government has taken a hand in directing the planting of definite crop areas. The programme, purely a war measure, calls for the planting of nearly fifty million acres in winter wheat. This is an increase of 18 per cent. over last year, and will result in the production of more than a billion bushels. But with a deficit of 200,000,000 bushels to make up in the granaries of our allies and European neutrals, the problem of feeding our own army of two million still remains a serious one.

Harvesting is going on right now in the great western wheat fields, such as the above in Gallatin Valley, Montana. Canada, too, is straining her wheat producing energies. The illustration below shows a thresher at work on C. F. Noble's farm at Nobleford, Alberta, Canada. This farm holds the world's record for number of bushels per thousand acres.

Bread is a big article of diet in the army, and Uncle Sam's bakers turn out loaves that delight the soldiers. On the left is a ten-pound loaf of war bread baked at the training camp at Gettysburg, Pa. This monster loaf will keep in good condition for three weeks. The field bakery on the right is also stationed on the famous battlefield.

Photos by Brown & Dawson and Underwood & Underwood.