

ADDENDA.

Calgary, 30th April, 1916.

My Dear E.,—

It would appear that a few words are necessary to a completion of these letters, as they go to press some two years after the penning of our last communication. You will agree, I am sure, that some little explanation of the present condition of affairs in the world of farming is both timely and not likely to be looked upon as an imposition. You will not, therefore, greet with impatience these few lines.

The outbreak of the great war has shown with shocking clarity the fallacy of that method of thought known as economic fatalism, that peculiar product of a machine age, mechanical progression of exhibition or degradation with deadly mathematical precision. In letter 5, you will remember we tried to show that given certain conditions the robbery of the farm slave could only be accomplished by the direct wages system; that the masters were only able to exploit through interest-bearing notes, mortgages, and farm machinery, because of the progressive downward thrust of value and price. Given then a violent contradiction of normal conditions, such as a war of sufficient duration a famine of sufficient importance or, in some miraculous manner, let prices be suspended above value for any length of time and a speedy alteration in the status of our slave would occur. The present developments would seem to bear this contention out, and at the same time effectually dispose of the one-time prosperous "crystallization of labor power" theory.

The "Patriotism and Production" propaganda, which we spoke of in our last, coupled with the exceeding high prices of 1914, produced the desired effect. As the fall of 1915 approached it was realized that, not only was the acreage under crop far in excess of normal times, but that the yield was to be stupendous, not only in Canada, but all over the wheat raising