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EDITORIAL

It is "high living" that is proving costly.

Which should be encouraged agriculture or armaments?

All the extra winter work should be completed this month.

Parcels Post is bringing producer and consumer closer together in the United States, and it will soon be doing so in Canada.

We sometimes look askance at the cost of a silo, but in what other way could so much valuable food be so well and more cheaply housed?

Production carried beyond the point of profit does not appeal to the man on the land as the most promising solution of Canada's vexed question.

It may be and it is quite practicable to increase production, but it is not always equally feasible to increase net returns. Most producers would readily make an effort to double the output of their farms if they saw in it larger net profits.

While the farmer is evolving a plan by which he can profitably produce more abundantly, the consumer might busy himself in battering down a few of the walls which now separate him from his daily supply of farm produce.

There is a difference of opinion as to who works the longer day, the farmer or the hired man. If they are both good men, it is more than likely that each works long enough hours in comparison with what he gets out of it.

Failing concerted intervention by the United States and leading European Powers, it is surely a humiliating spectacle for the early years of the Twentieth Century that Christendom must stand by helpless while Mexico commits national suicide.

A few figures are given in this issue on the cost of production in the Province of Prince Edward Island. They will bear a little study. The man who holds that it costs nothing to grow crops—that they are produced while the owner sleepeth, would receive a rude jolt if he digested these figures.

With a commission detailed to find it, and the House of Parliament with little else to do but discuss it, the real cause of our having to pay out more money to live than formerly should be discovered, and after the lengthy investigation is over we shall expect a ponderous blue volume with the cause in detail. We hope the farmer is not at the bottom of it.

If the yearly outlay of the urban home is higher in 1914 than it was in 1913, of course, the farmer will be blamed. If the books were carefully analyzed the increased expenditure would not be found to have settled in the farmer's old leather pocket-book, but more likely in the vaults of the automobile manufacturer, the wallets of the moving picture promoters, and the banks of the designers and manufacturers of "the latest" direct from Paris. It is not what we eat that makes us poor, but what we ride in, see and wear.

1. Militarism in High Places.

George Washington's old maxim to be prepared for war as a means of preserving peace has been made the catchword of politicians, and a slogan for greedy makers of ugly weapons with which their dupes, who pay the bills, can kill each other. The militarism of Europe has been described as "organized insanity," and it has put a soldier on the back of every toiler in the land. The Mail and Empire the other day depicted Germany groaning under the most crushing war tax with which it has been burdened for a century, voted in the "dark" by the Reichstag under a bogus war scare "engineered by the Government", and "inspired most probably by the armament trust." The hellish fruitage of militarism lately hankrupted the Balkan states, destroyed the best of their population and ruined their agriculture for half a century. Greece is pleading with America to send back her sons to replace those butchered in the war. "The Farmer's Advocate" finds within its wide constituency a growing apprehension of Canada's military program, and without regard to political affiliations strong disapproval should be plainly expressed to those on Parliament Hill. Strange to say Ottawa is not always the spot to learn public opinion at its best. "For that," said one high in official life, "I must get away from the capital to some rural district and talk with common men in their candid moments." Officialdom concerns itself with the mere humdrum of the duties or talks and thinks as "the bosses" would like, and "the boss" may be no true friend of the common people. "Keep your eye on Churchill" wrote the author of "Pillars of Society," a famous English book of last year. "He is soldier first, last and always. He will write his name big on our future. Let us take care he does not write it in blood."

2. Militarism vs. Agriculture.

A Churchill may not have arrived in Canada, but we are getting on nevertheless. Under the sword and bayonet heading in this year's Canadian Almanac, 31 pages are absorbed in recounting the militia officialdom, war service officers, royal military schools, colleges and camps that are dotting this young land in all directions. We see noble armories rising like mushrooms in wavering constituencies to the delight of the political candidates, contractors and heelers. A whole volume would hardly describe the paraphernalia, fuss and feathers of our official soldiering. The public accounts in the expenditure column recount the cost, a great deal of which might better be devoted to clearing the pathway of agriculture or by elimination lessen its burdens. Militarism diverts attention from agriculture, and has ever been an enemy of farming interests. Our 1906-07 (nine months) militia bill from the Consolidated Fund was \$3,347,037.87 with no item for navy service, but these had swollen for the year 1912-13 to \$9,114,533.09 for militia and \$2,086,049.45 for several years in which, by the way, the Canadian youth is loath to serve, and the navy is yet mostly on paper. With this big increase what better are we off? We are paying more to live. There is nothing feathery about the \$11,200,582.54, however, as the tax payers ought to know. In the same statement the outlay for "arts, agriculture and statistics" is only \$2,647,878.53, less than one-quarter that spent on the militia and naval service. The expenditure for agriculture is not nearly as large as it looks, for it covers a lot of outlay on patents, copyrights, trade marks,

and public health service not properly related to agriculture at all. The inclusion of the \$1,000,000 from the new Burrell Fund ought to improve this year's comparative showing.

3. War Phantom and Peace Reality.

We submit that there is no legitimate warrant for these enormous increases in militia outlay. The military policing necessities of this country do not call for them. The Greenlanders will not descend upon us from the north, and the one country from which a land invasion might come is the United States, our neighbor, akin, to the south, with whom we are joining in celebrating one hundred years of peace. If we have lived in peace for one hundred years we can perpetuate peace for a century or two to come. The possible causes of international disagreement are not likely to be more serious in the future than in the past, but less, and the conditions for peaceful settlement are daily growing better. When European nations are struggling to get loose from the grip of the war lords, why should Canada put her neck in the noose? Why repeat their follies? The notion that armed conflict is only to be averted by maintaining huge armaments is unwarranted and foolish. It cultivates the war spirit and rather promotes the likelihood of war. A high, gold-laced functionary once proposed that our three thousand miles of international boundary line should be lined with forts, armed and ready to fight. Saner counsels prevailed, but every now and then some misguided enthusiast or "scare monger" looms up for whom there seems to be need for one more official the military fool killer.

4. The Lesson of the Veldt.

If it ever came to actual fighting, probably a lot of our architectural and professional militarism would go into the scrap heap as did that of the British army in South Africa a few years ago. A handful of Boer farmers, who had not been supported in public idleness, but who could shoot and take advantage of cover, put "the flower" of the British army in deadly humiliation, and it was not till her greatest and most seasoned generals were hustled to the front and the Boers outnumbered two to one that they succumbed. Their achievement was the wonder of the world. Whatever it has taught our war lords, it cost Great Britain the sum of £222,974,000 to find out that a lot of their fancy war togger was worse than useless, and the life bill was nearly 10,000 deaths, about 30,000 invalided and an untold tale of horrors.

5. On the Wrong Trail.

After all the tumult and shouting and a fair perusal of the press and public deliverances, pro and con, "The Farmer's Advocate" can reach no other conclusion than that outside the immediate beneficiaries, there is no call for the big military propaganda, into which the schools are being drawn, that is going on in Canada, nor do the naval proposals awaken anything like enthusiasm, though there is an acknowledgement that Canada should assume obligations in relation to the care of its own shores as part of the Empire.

6. A Constructive Program.

This country has better use for men and money. The real program for the Canadian Government is not military but relates to the conditions of agriculture, production, transportation, a workable plan of aiding rural highway improvement and the more equitable distribution of rural and town populations. Indeed when we consider