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Joint Growth of Agriculture and Manufactures is Quite Feasible—Our Need for More Population, and the Possibility of Getting it—Relative War Burdens—Soldier Settlements in the West—Treatment of Uncultivated Agricultural Lands

By W. W. SWANSON

WHATEVER one's predilections may be in politics, all who are informed with respect to the facts must have the conviction that in the Hon. James Calder Canada has found an able, aggressive and brilliant director of the Department of Colonization and Immigration. Some may believe that there is room for a difference of opinion as to whether Canada may expect, after the signing of peace, the pre-war volume of immigration again to develop. To Mr. Calder the problem may present difficulties, but no doubts whatsoever. Those who have recently heard him in the West, have caught something of his enthusiasm and have been steeled by his resolution, to work together with the rest of the country in making Canada a land of opportunity after the war. In discussing the problems of reconstruction a week or two since in Regina, Saskatoon and other Western cities, Mr. Calder, among other things, said:

"The biggest job which Canada must accomplish within the next ten years is to get people into the country to develop the wonderful natural resources which are ours. Taxes are bound to be heavier after this war; and unless we develop our natural resources and secure new settlers to carry part of the burden, people will be moving out, instead of coming in. Do not think we are facing bankruptcy—for we are not. Do not imagine that the burdens of the future will be so staggering that we will be unable to bear them. At the same time we are confronted with the vital necessity of developing our natural resources if the country is to achieve permanent prosperity."

We are well aware that some clear-headed observers are inclined to believe that the war burden will deflect prospective settlers from Canada to the Argentine and other South American countries. Let it not be forgotten, however, that national debts, however large in sum total they may appear, are really light or heavy according to ability to pay—according to the capacity of the average citizen to carry his share of the burden. The Dominion in proportion to population has a magnificent economic equipment as well as marvellous natural resources. In large measure the securing of population after the war depends upon the degree to which this equipment and the nation's resources are put to productive use, and the level of living thereby achieved by the people. Notwithstanding heavy taxes and the burden of the war debt, we venture to say that the average Canadian family never, in the course of the country's history, has enjoyed greater pros-

perity nor a higher level of well-being than right here and now. The forebodings of pessimists, therefore, need not and should not obscure the main issue. If Canada is made a prosperous country, if its democratic ideals are safeguarded, the tide of immigration will once more sweep toward our shores. This does not lose sight of the fact, moreover, that European nations will make strenuous efforts to keep their nationals at home, in view of the heavy disabilities imposed upon them by this destructive war.

Mr. Calder further stated that it was his conviction that the Dominion can sustain in comfort, and with a high standard of living, at least 50,000,000 persons, instead of the present population of somewhat less than eight million. To be sure, there are whole brigades of doubters in the country who pose the question as to where this increase of population is to be secured. The losses in Europe occasioned by the war are indeed sufficient "to stagger humanity." Nevertheless, even accepting the estimates of dead and wounded as running between twenty or twenty-five millions, they are comparatively insignificant in contrast with the huge natural increase of population in Eastern, South-eastern and Southern Europe, from year to year. The population of European Russia alone, before the war, increased at the rate of 3,000,000 per annum; while swarms of men and women left Italy, Galicia, Poland and the Balkans owing to overcrowded conditions in these countries. Since the Napoleonic period the population of Europe has more than doubled, standing at 450,000,000 at the outbreak of hostilities. Add to that the pressure of population upon the available land supply in the United States, and one may not need to become unduly pessimistic concerning the immigration outlook, in the immediate future, for Canada. All this despite the fact that for two or three years labor will probably find full employment in reconstruction in Europe.

When all is said and done, natural resources as well as population considered, the taxation problem should not be nearly as difficult in Canada as in the Old World. Few appear to realize that up to the beginning of August, 1918, the United Kingdom's war credits stood at the amazing total of over \$40,000,000,000, with proportionate debts in every belligerent country on the Continent. True, Great Britain can face its responsibilities with courage and with the assurance that the nation, in view of its