

Quebec Farmers Organizing

Things are beginning to stir in the old Province

THE following letter has been received by E. McKenzie secretary, Canadian Council of Agriculture, from Vincent T. Doherty, Buckingham, Quebec. It shows that Quebec is lining up with the other provinces:—

Your favor received; also your Farmers' Platforms. I think it would be a good idea to have some of these in French, for there is a great number who cannot read English. I have to attend two meetings Sunday, one in Mulgrove, 22 miles north, and one in Mayo, nine miles north, Mulgrove at 11 o'clock, Mayo at 7 p.m. I was trying to arrange it in this manner,—There will be eight clubs formed in the near future. Under our charter I am going to have the president of each club a director, and our main board in Buckingham. In doing it that way I intend to throw out

our good works in every corner and at every meeting we will know just where we stand. I have the charter for our co-operative association with head place of business at town of Buckingham. Our shares are \$10 each; outside of that I am asking every farmer to put at least \$1.00 per year to raise a fund independent of our stock company for company work. I was expecting to go to Toronto next week to see Mr. Morrison, also to Montreal to see Mr. Masson, to arrange some matters with them. Will be very glad to have Mr. Morrison come to us again or any other man you can send, as everything is red-hot for organizing now. I was taking things up with Lachute and some other clubs east of here with the view of applying for a provincial charter U.F.O.Q. Don't you think it would be a good idea?"

Protection's Ideal State

Before the war Germany was the ideal protectionist state. High tariff advocates were never weary of telling their auditors that Germany had arisen from a state of industrial chaos to the foremost manufacturing country in the world, all things considered, through the beneficent operation of the tariff on imported goods. During the so-called tariff reform movement in Britain the protectionist element pointed solemnly to Germany as the great menace to free trade and as the national exponent of the fiscal policy which was to dominate the world unless Britain took similar steps to protect herself from foreign competition. Even in our own parliament a prominent member of the administration was neither ashamed nor afraid, shortly before the war broke out, to laud Germany's system to the skies and to call upon Canadians to adhere to our sister system rather than adopt the British plan or take any steps which might lead to modifications in our tariff. Shortly before that a great election campaign had been waged on the same issue; we decided at that time to have neither truck nor trade on equal terms with neighboring nations. And it comes to The Citizen's mind that this journal on several occasions indulged in controversies with a local contemporary of opposite fiscal tendencies respecting this same subject, our neighbor holding that German agriculture and industry had flourished and gone forward with leaps and bounds since the abolition of free trade in the German states and the adoption of the present protective tariff in 1879.

But it seems that our Canadian defenders of the tariff knew all the time that they were backing the wrong horse. Just why they went to pains to dig up statistics in which they themselves had no confidence and the reasons why they indulged in insincere rhetoric of this sort must remain a mystery. But finally the light has penetrated dark spots. Our contemporary, which once defended the Teutonic fruits of protectionism, now has this to say of the dangers of a German victory:—

"But the mere economic reason for the defeat of Germany should be hardly less impelling to labor. The worst labor slavery in the civilized world has been in Germany. A German triumph would react throughout the world in the direction of lower wages and longer hours for labor, if the conditions which prevailed in Germany before the war furnish any criterion."

Yet the conditions which prevailed in Germany before the war were the conditions which our economists defended and which they pointed to as proofs of progress industrially as well as agriculturally. Our contemporary which, even during the present war, took the side of Germany against The Citizen in a discussion in which it maintained that the free trade policy of Britain made it possible for the enemy to starve out Britain, thus treats the subject now:—

"Conditions both on the farms and among the skilled laborers of German cities before the war were cruel as com-

pared with conditions in others of the great nations, excepting perhaps Russia. The majority of the German working classes worked like beasts of burden, poorly paid and poorly housed. . . The German government and the government-controlled press promulgated the idea that the German working classes were well off, and a certain amount of old-age pensioning and similar grand-fatherly legislation supported the pretence. But up to the beginning of the war, the average work day in Germany for even skilled labor averaged nearly ten hours a day, and for unskilled labor twelve hours, while on the other hand the wages were usually lower than in France or England. The progress of German manufacturers was due in part to over-worked and under-paid labor."

Our neighbor does not say how the German manufacturers were enabled to pay starvation wages. A review of economic arrangements in Germany will reveal, however, the intimate part played by the protectionist tariff and its German hof-fellow—the kartel. The kartel was a Teutonic counterpart of our trust, but much more scientifically developed as an institution. But, like the trust, it depended absolutely for its existence and operation on a tariff system. Its results on the German workers may be understood from the following excerpt from our contemporary's article:—

"In 1905, according to an investigation made by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, there were more than 100,000 sweatshops in Berlin alone, employing women at from 75 cents to \$1.50 a week. That young girls worked in canning factories from 13 to 18 hours a day, and on Sundays for ten or more hours, was brought out by an investigation made by the German Factory Workers Union in 1905. Their wages were three to four and one-half cents an hour."

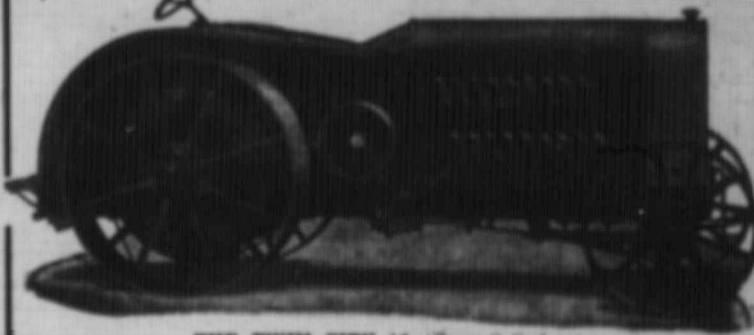
These are but incidents in the complete story of Germany's great industrial and agricultural "advance" under protectionism—the model which a prominent member of the Canadian parliament held up to us a short time ago as worthy of emulation.

Yet this is not all the story. It is becoming clear to even hide-bound tariffists that protectionism is the prolific mother of war. As our neighbor says: "A draw in this war will mean that the German working classes will continue to be slaves under the will of the junkers, and that the junkers will simply prepare for another war."

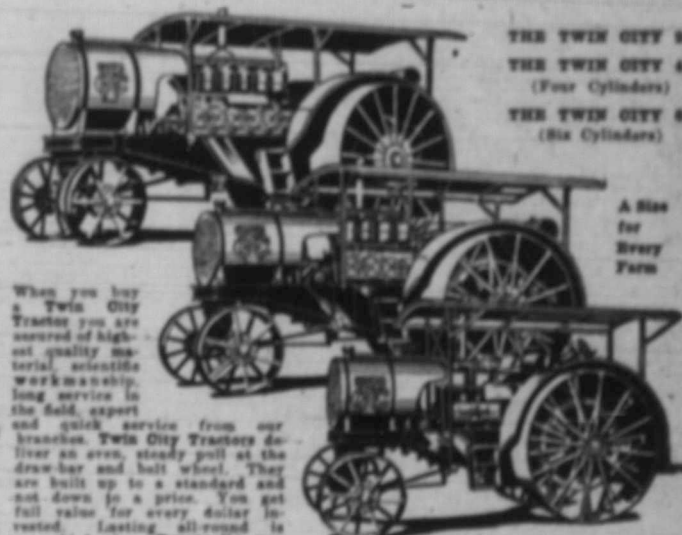
The great conflict is causing many sincere leaders of thought and many who were not so sincere, to change their former positions and to look the facts fully in the face in all departments of administration and enlightened government. After the struggle is over the process of elimination will begin and old, dangerous and hampering theories and systems will be thrown away for good. The war will, let us hope, prove to be, if not an economic necessity, at least an economic benefit to the world at large.—Ottawa Citizen.

Twin City Kerosene Tractors

Quality--Service--Satisfaction



THE TWIN CITY 16 (Four Cylinders)



THE TWIN CITY 34

THE TWIN CITY 42

(Four Cylinders)

THE TWIN CITY 54

(Six Cylinders)

A Size
for
Every
Farm

When you buy a Twin City Tractor you are assured of high quality material, scientific workmanship, long service in the field, expert and quick service from our branches. Twin City Tractors deliver an even, steady pull at the draw-bar and built wheel. They are built up to a standard and not down to a price. You get full value for every dollar invested. Lasting all-round is our chief aim. Eventually you will want to know all about the durable Twin City Tractors. Why not now? Write Winnipeg today.

Minneapolis Steel & Machinery Co.
of Canada, Limited

REGINA

WINNIPEG

CALGARY

If you do not see what you want advertised in this issue, write us, and we will put you in touch with the makers

Buy Your Piano or Graphophone on Easy Terms

AT LOWEST PRICES FROM
WESTERN CANADA'S
GREATEST MUSIC STORE



Select from our extensive catalogue of most prominent makes (see list below). Pay a small cash deposit and arrange for the balance on quarterly, half-yearly or full payments, as you desire. A postal enquiry will bring you illustrated catalogue and song book, together with full particulars, free of charge.

WINNIPEG PIANO CO

333
PORTAGE AVE.
WINNIPEG.

DIRECT FACTORY REPRESENTATIVES
STEINWAY, UPRIGHT HEYMAN, HONHEIMER, CHICKERING, KAHN, ETC.
BROOKLYN - MANNING, DOWERY, CANADA AND LESAGE PIANO
EDISON, COLUMBIA, DISHONOLIAN AND PIEROLA PHONOGRAPHS