

No "Back to the Land" movement, however, could have any valuable effect on our farm production for a year or two; it would take that time to get the new farmers at productive work. Meanwhile, with our exclusive wheat growing there would be little else but this preparatory tuition for them, though in mixed and diversified farming later on there would be much even in the winter, with the additional work of root-houses and live stock to attend to. Let them however start now preparing as apprentices for the work of diversified farming, but let us at present grow wheat for ready money and for food. What we want now above all things is to get more produce out of our land though it be but wheat. The present high range of prices for grain may last only for a year or so. Production everywhere outside the war zone will be stimulated by the extraordinary demand, but this will tend to lower prices, while a collapse may be counted on when the war ends. Until then, however, this coming year war prices will remain sufficiently high to stimulate wheat growing in the Canadian West, so affording farmers the needful means with the opportunity to improve their farming methods throughout. But side by side with this extension of wheat growing, we should be establishing a better system of diversified and intensive farming on smaller and more manageable holdings. And then the greater productiveness of our lands may inspire a renewed confidence in investors with surplus funds on hand, and attract such funds to farm mortgages preferably to less secure western town property.

When our soldiers return, another economic difficulty will arise. Many of them will be maimed or rendered unfit by habit to settle again to the humdrum course of ordinary civic life; and there may be here a necessity for such new congenial openings for them as farm life would offer. Outdoor life in some form these returned men of the camp and field must have. They or their families should be (as before in Canada) recompensed with grants of land, and it should be our patriotic duty in gratitude to afford them every feasible inducement to settle on their land instead of selling it. We have by all means to increase the productiveness of the farm, and we ought not to allow the lands we grant these soldier-settlers to fall into the hands of idle speculators, but must instead effectually help the grantees to gain a livelihood from them.