



# FARM AND DAIRY

## & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Exponent of Daily Life in Canada

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Ch. Thom

VOL. XXXVI

TORONTO, ONT., DECEMBER 27, 1917

No. 52

## A Strong Appeal to the Farmers of Ontario

President Hilbert, in His Annual Address at the U.F.O. Convention, Deplores the Present Political Helplessness of the Farmer, and Points the Way to Power Through Organization. Some of Our National Problems Discussed From the Farmer's Viewpoint

WHILE the year has been a very laborious and trying one owing to the scarcity of farm help, yet we are all thankful for the bountiful harvest that we may be able to assist in keeping the food basket of the Empire replenished, that the boys who are so nobly fighting our battles in this terrible war may have enough and to spare. While we feel that we have been handicapped in a great many ways in our struggle to do our best for the Empire in this, her time of need, and while things look dark at present, still we know that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. For untold generations we have followed sublimely in the ways marked out for us. Such privileges as we have received have been ours only by courtesy and not as our right.

The farmers of Canada possess, though I am sorry to say they do not control, the biggest business asset of the Dominion, yet we have sat in the back seats until we have become isolated while transportation, finance, manufacture and food distribution have become so thoroughly organized that they now represent one of the most powerful commercial factors in present day commerce. Against such an organization how may the individual farmer expect to successfully compete? It is not generally understood that our agricultural export trade exceeds in value that of all other industries combined. Agriculture is the hope of the nations. It is the hope of war-torn Europe. It is the hope of humanity, of civilization of all that we as Anglo-Saxons have learned to cherish. It is the hope of human liberty.

### Farmers the Peace Makers.

Farmers are the peace makers of humanity. They are the great peace-makers who will heal the scars of war. The very existence of mankind is in their keeping. They bear the art of civilization when they gathered the seeds of the earth, guarded them through the long winter season, cleared the fields for the planting and harvesting again. Future civilization is also in their hands. The knowledge of the art of agriculture is not only the most valuable possession for the future as it has been in the past, but it is undoubtedly so for the present.

The day is not far distant when the men who command the earth will receive the recognition which they deserve. In this monstrous war, greater than any the world has ever witnessed, more disastrous in its waste of human life and wealth, and more loathsome in its disregard of truth, virtue and the cherished monuments of Christianity, in this ungodly sacrifice of struggling humanity towards which nations from the four quar-

ters of the globe have been drawn with irresistible force, the ultimate decision, the final blow that will make this world safe for democracy rests with the farmers, the producers of the world's food.

### Contrary Calls to Duty.

For three long years millions of men have been engaged with guns and ammunition fighting in this war. Thousands of men from the farms of Canada have heard the call from Europe and have gone with the gun and bayonet. Other thousands have remained at home and worked as they have never done before that the Allies may have something with which to pursue the ghost of famine. One day we are exhorted to prosecute for the sake of the starving women and children of Belgium and the next we are told that we will have to give our sons to fight in the trenches in France. We are between the devil and the deep sea. There is no business that calls for such varied knowledge and skill as the work on the farm, and while it may be true that a man owes everything to his country, it is very discouraging and well nigh criminal to see the farms depleted day by day of their experienced workmen with no compensating returns to the land where we are told the war is to be fought out. If ever there

was a time for the farmers to put forth strong action it is now. The farmers will not get fair play from any Government until they unite at the polls. United we can control, divided we are helpless.

### Our Organization Ignored.

Our organization has, during the past year, been outrageously ignored by the powers that be. As your President, I have felt very keenly, and no doubt you all have, some of the slaps in the face which our organization has received, especially when we are told by some of the men who are enjoying a fat living on our money that we, 15,000 members of our organization, are too small and insignificant to be recognized. Still a few millionaires in this city can name the men and have them appointed to the Cabinet. Government by the people has become a myth. The real rulers of Canada and the Canadian Parliaments are the lords and the knighted members of combines, manufacturers, associations and transportation companies.

Through their system of ruling there has grown up a band of autocrats who bend parliaments and legislations to their own despotic will and in their own selfish interests. The result is that to-day we are loaded down with a whole menagerie of white elephants causing a loss of millions annually in the operation of our basic industry of agriculture for the benefit of the combines. The farmers are the only class that will not break the chains of party bondage for their own benefit, and they compose the only class whose industry is taxed for the benefit of the special privileged interests. So long as we remain so the interests will control.

### Paying Our War Debts.

The making of Governments is a serious business, especially for the farmer, and should be taken seriously by every farmer. The tremendous burden of additional taxation which will be required to carry our war debts should compel every farmer to vote in his own interests. But just as soon as the farmers make a move to escape from the party slave-pens, the politicians get busy and wave the party flag and shout patriotism. As long as they can keep us from thinking and acting for ourselves, it does not make much difference which pen we are kept in.

Suppose the Government of Canada made an appeal to the manufacturers in the following terms: The fate of the Empire depends on the supply of munitions, we want you to make an abundant supply, work longer hours and harder, get your women and children to help you, put forth every effort to make the output as large as

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### Do Commercial Fertilizers Pay?

THE easiest way to increase production of farm crops is to grow more bushels or tons to the acre by the use of commercial fertilizers. No farmer intelligently will question this statement. The question that the farm manager has to answer, however, is not, will commercial fertilizers increase production? but, will the increased yields make their use profitable?

The answer to this question is best given by the farmer who has used commercial fertilizers on such farm crops as wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, potatoes and mangels. Many of Our Folks have had experience along this line. For the best letters dealing with the use of commercial fertilizers on general farm crops, see the *Farm and Dairy* between now and January 15, we will pay regular contributors' rates. These letters must be based on the writer's experience with commercial fertilizers or his observations on their use among neighbors. What we want are practical opinions on the subject whether favorable or unfavorable to their use. All letters used will be paid for.