

# The Grain Growers' Guide

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## Titles Hanging in Balance

One of the most encouraging signs of the spirit of the new parliament is its determination to put a crimp in the title business. Already a number of members of parliament, both Liberal and Conservative, have brought resolutions before the House aiming to restrict or prohibit the bestowal of titles in Canada. It appears from newspaper reports that a brand new batch of titles had been prepared either by the British government or by the King for distribution throughout the Empire. Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the Empire accepted their titles the first of this year, but it seems that the Canadian government asked the British government to hold up these titles until after the war so far as Canada is concerned. This is one of the best and most sensible things that the Union government has done.

It is difficult to ascertain the inner details of the system by which these titles are distributed. Apparently, however, there are men in the British government and possibly the King himself, who sincerely believe that the distribution of these titles in Canada will knit the Empire closer together. This is a most dangerous fallacy. The distribution of titles in Canada has been one of the few unpopular features of our relations with Great Britain. In theory these titles came directly from the throne and are conferred on individuals in recognition of distinct service to the Empire. In looking over the title holders of Canada it is not difficult to see that this distribution scheme has been largely a joke and a ghastly joke. We have in Canada some title holders whose services to their country have merited recognition, but we have a large number of title holders who were not entitled to any special honor because of their public services.

On the whole the most of the Canadian titles have been given to men who have succeeded in building up large fortunes either by fair means or foul, and to politicians. Titles have been looked upon in Canada as a sort of political blunder. The whole system in Canada has brought titles into disrepute among the rank and file of the citizens. No man is entitled to public honor simply because he has corralled a lot of money. No politician is entitled to public honor simply because he is a politician. As a matter of fact these tin pot titles have no place in a democratic country and the sooner they are abolished the better it will be for our relations with Great Britain. Canadian support to Great Britain does not need to be purchased by any such trumpery. We are no longer children seeking gaudy playthings. If the title system is abolished the bond of sympathy between Canada and Great Britain will be vastly strengthened. Its place might well be taken by a purely Canadian Order of Merit to give public recognition to those of our citizens whose public services are recognized by their fellow men. Parliament will be making a popular move if they inform Great Britain that no more titles will be accepted in Canada.

## The Challenge to Humanity

No organization presents such an appeal as the Red Cross to every man, woman and child. On the battlefield the Red Cross brings comfort and cheer to the wounded and the stricken. At the present time, with the greatest battle in all history in progress, the demands upon the Red Cross are almost beyond the imagination. Thousands and thou-

sands of our own Canadian boys have paid their tribute to the work of the Red Cross and every day more of them are being cared for by the same organization. The Red Cross knows no kindred, nation or tongue. It cares for all, friend or foe, black or white. It is the greatest agency for the relief of suffering that the world has ever known.

This work depends largely upon voluntary contributions. Already the Canadian people have donated millions of dollars which has been supplemented by many millions from the United States, Great Britain, France and other Allied countries. But still the need increases and the great battle will increase it vastly more. Farmers in this country who have had good crops and enjoyed the high prices caused by the war should give and give generously to the Red Cross organization. There are thousands of farmers in this country who could give splendid donations without hurting them in the least, and really it is the donation that hurts that is the best one.

Many people in Canada today are donating out of their small funds splendid contributions to the Red Cross work. Already many contributions have come to The Grain Growers' Guide office. We have no hesitation whatever in making the strongest possible appeal to our readers to give to the utmost to the Red Cross organization. Our women are doing magnificent work in preparing clothing for the Red Cross, but there is other work that only money will provide for. We urge generous contributions to the Red Cross everywhere.

Those who have not made their contribution already may send them to The Grain Growers' Guide and they will be forwarded promptly to the headquarters where every cent will be wisely expended. Make all checks payable to The Grain Growers' Guide. Acknowledgements of all contributions will be made in The Guide columns. Every person who makes a contribution of \$25 or more will be made a life member of the Red Cross Society and will receive from the Canadian headquarters in Toronto a beautiful Red Cross pin and life membership certificate worth framing and a source of pride to every possessor.

## Girding for the Struggle

Many special privileges are being thrown on the scrap heap by the war. Particularly is this true in Great Britain. The franchise bill recently passed by the British Parliament gives the vote to the working people of England and to a large proportion of the women. That franchise bill alone sounds the death knell of aristocratic rule in the United Kingdom. In that country ten per cent. of the people own ninety per cent. of the land. As Lloyd-George once said, most of the British people are "trespassers in the land of their birth." Other privileges in Britain are also being swept away year by year. It will be a new England and a vastly more democratic England that will emerge from the baptism of blood. In Canada, despite our more democratic form of government, special privilege has acquired a stranglehold grip on the country. We have developed huge corporations and multi-millionaires faster than in any country on earth under similar conditions. The corporations are desirable if properly regulated and there is no objection to men acquiring fortunes unless by so doing they rob their fellow men of their just rights.

But special privileges in Canada have caused our great uneven distribution of wealth in a very large measure. The realization of this fact is becoming clearer and clearer to the general public. It was this realization which has formed such a powerful public opinion for the nationalization of our railways. This same public opinion has demanded the tariff readjustments to reduce the cost of living and encourage production. The tariff recently was removed from farm tractors and the result is a big increase in the use of the tractors, which will bring a consequent increase in farm production. Recently the manufacturers waited on the government at Ottawa to demand the meaning of this violation of the tariff. They found the temper of things at Ottawa has changed. No longer is the government simply an organization to register the decrees of any organized body. The tariff is no longer regarded as sacred. Adjustments to our economic system must be made and agricultural production must be stimulated. The cost of living to the working people in the cities and towns must be held down. The tariff will be regarded from the angle at which it affects these problems.

It is reported, however, that the manufacturers have determined to maintain the tariff just where it at present stands. We hear that the manufacturers are organizing themselves as they have never done before to exert their political and financial strength in support of the present tariff. This is only what might naturally be expected, but it brings with it the necessity that other organizations interested in the tariff should be equally as well organized and equally ready to use their power when the time is necessary. The organized farmers should make more preparation than ever for the mobilization of their forces, the education of their members and the preparation of their program to put the tariff on an equitable basis. The manufacturers' organization is a powerful one and the farmers' organization is no weakling. It is not desirable that a question such as the tariff should be settled by a struggle between these two great forces, but if the manufacturers are determined to maintain the tariff intact and inviolate, there seems no other course to pursue.

## The Great Drive

Last week the long expected happened. Germany unloosed her hordes, equipped with the greatest man-killing devices the world has ever known. With almost irresistible force they attacked the British and French lines for hundreds of miles. So great was the force of the attack that the Allied lines were forced backward and the Germans recaptured almost all of the territory which they held two years ago. Later reports indicate that the Allies' lines have not been broken, but merely bent. The greatest force of the German drive has subsided and the enemy held in check. The counter attack from the Allies has begun and the greatest struggle of all times is in progress. The Kaiser laid his plans to break through to Paris and the British Channel from whence he would direct his attack on England. But like Napoleon of old he has been foiled again. While the issue is not yet decided the Kaiser and his hordes have been held in check.

In all the annals of war nothing has been more superb than the record of our own and the Allied soldiers in the present crisis. The leaders of the Allied armies speak with con-