

porting them. They will invest the plutocrats, whom modern conditions already tend to evolve, with a spurious aristocracy. They can seldom fall to those upon whom a democratic people most wishes to confer its honors. The tradition which has, until recently, kept the Dominions free from false and arbitrary social distinctions—a tradition having much in common with the spirit which prevented Mr. Gladstone, among others, from accepting an oft-offered peerage—ought to be sedulously preserved and religiously observed. Orders of knighthood have, in the circumstances of a new and growing country like Canada, none of the feudal significance which survives in them in Europe, and the Canadian people desire that no such foreign sentiment shall be incorporated in their institutions, no matter how praiseworthy the motive may be.

Resources in Farm Labor

From every farming district in Canada the cry is going up for more help in the fields next year. The labor supply is totally inadequate to the needs of production on the scale already established. Much of the help that is available is of the most unskilled and unsatisfactory kind. But skilled farm help exists. Canada has not begun to utilize to its full effectiveness the trained farm help available within her borders. There are tens of thousands of men with skill in farm work who are not at work on the farms. The woods may not be full of them, but the cities are. There is not a city or town in Canada in which you can throw a brick without hitting someone who scarcely ever saw outside the line fences of his father's farm until he was a grown man. For 25 years there has been a steady stream of youths, trained from the cradle in farm work, pouring into our towns and cities. Many of them are now engaged in employment that does not compare in importance with food production. No organized effort has ever been made to make this labor available to the farmers with the exception of a few spasmodic and mostly ineffectual voluntary attempts on the part of urban dwellers to assist the farmers in a pinch. If the war keeps on for another year or two, as it has every prospect of doing, something will have to be done to mobilize this labor and make it available on the farms. Why should it not be done next spring? It is as easy to mobilize for the farm as for the trenches. The mobilization need not be on a basis of \$1.10 a day. Farmers are willing to pay men what they are worth. The times demand the reorganization and readjustment of the labor supply so that more men will be available for agriculture, now as never before Canada's paramount industry in importance.

Some of the organized trainmen pay \$48 per year in dues to their organization; the barbers pay \$12 in dues to their union, and the boot-blacks pay \$5.00 per year to keep up their organization. The farmers pay \$1.00 per year in dues to their organization and then some of them wonder why they don't get better results.

Cause of Food Shortage

The vicious fiscal policies of Canada and the United States are now bearing bitter fruit. Agriculture is the great basic industry of both these countries. Had it received fair treatment at the hands of past governments, it would have been equal to any emergency that could be thrust upon it. But it received no such treatment. For the last fifty years the policies of the two countries have been directed almost entirely to the building up of urban interests. By means of iniquitous tariff laws the farmers have seen the reward of their labors divested from their pockets to the coffers of financial magnates. While agriculture languished, the greatest and most insolent plutocracies in history were being built up. And so in the last twenty years we have seen the development of the rural problem. While great cities were springing up everywhere, country-sides were becoming depopulated. Even before the war broke out, population in the United States had almost overtaken food production, while in Canada agriculture, which should have distanced all other industries in development, was making comparatively feeble growth. The outbreak of the war found the farms undermanned and altogether unprepared for the tremendous burden that was soon to be thrown upon them. The first three years of war accelerated the rush from the farm. Mushroom war industries making huge profits were able to out-bid the farmers for help, and the labor problem became increasingly acute. The enlistment of farmers' sons and farm laborers swelled the stream of men whose footsteps were directed away from the farm. The German submarine policy has created a shipping situation which has cut off agricultural supplies from distant agricultural countries, and now the farmers of Canada and the United States are faced with the burden of supplying the Allied nations with all their food importations. The situation is such as to cause the gravest concern.

Farmers are being urged to re-double their efforts to produce surplus food products. They will do all that is humanly possible, but it may be humanly impossible to fully meet the tremendous demands that have been thrust upon them. The lesson of the present food crisis is that agriculture cannot be systematically exploited with impunity. We hear a great deal about making the world safe for democracy. It will never be safe for democracy until the great class of food producers are unburdened from the impositions that tariffs have placed upon them during the last fifty years.

Public Ownership Progressing

In the United States there has recently been a great growth of public opinion in favor of the nationalization of railways. When America went into the war and the railways of the nation were brought into the war organization the transportation problem was partially solved by this method. It has been announced however by those close to the railway organizations, that the very best and most satisfactory service cannot be secured even under the war organization so long as the railways remain in private hands. The realization of these facts is forcing many people to favor the taking over of the railways by the state as a war measure. The undertaking would be a tremendous one, but it would not equal in magnitude the nationalization of the railways in Canada in proportion to population. Great Britain today has practically the same as public ownership of railways. In the United States private ownership is supreme. If America adopts public ownership of railways it will be but a few years until the railways of the world are operated by the state the same as the postal system. Such an achievement would forward the progress of democracy immensely.

While all the authorities are telling us of the great shortage of food, Canada still permits the destruction of food in the breweries. Huge quantities of sugar are manufactured into confectionery and large quantities of cream are manufactured into ice cream. Here is a chance for the food controller to conserve food in a very practical manner.

When making your Christmas gifts don't forget the starving women and children of Belgium. While we are comparatively comfortable they are suffering as only people in a war devastated country can suffer. Any contributions for the Belgian Relief Fund may be forwarded to The Grain Growers' Guide and they will be promptly turned over to the proper authorities.

The tanks have again demonstrated their usefulness in clearing the way for an infantry advance. A whole fleet of them were used in the great British drive on Cambria. The war will yet be won by the side which can put the most war machinery into action on the front.



TRAPPED AT LAST