

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, September 5, 1917

HELP FOR THE FRENCH FARMERS

On no class of people has the devastating hand of war fallen more heavily than upon the farmers in the French territory now being wrested back from the Germans. On the first outbreak of the war able-bodied peasants of military age were, of course, called to the colors. When the German hosts broke through and swept over northern and western France those who remained were forced to submit to the heartless conqueror. When the invaders were hurled back from the Marne and took up the line which has since been designated as the western front, the devastation began in earnest. The industries of the great industrial countries of the world have been strained to capacity in producing shells, in the use of which farms and villages have been literally blown to atoms. In addition the energies of millions of troops were absorbed in building vast and intricate systems of trenches in what were once fertile, well tilled fields. Wherever the Germans have been pressed back they have exhausted their ingenuity in destroying what little had been spared from the devastation of war. Towns and villages have been sacked and leveled, orchards ruthlessly cut down and every semblance of agricultural improvement heartlessly obliterated. Back to the utter ruin of what was once their homes have flocked the French peasants. So near have they kept to the allied armies that the work of reconstruction is being carried on in districts where the enemies shells are still falling. The handicaps under which they are working are appalling. Previous to the war their condition was far from enviable. Now rendered destitute by its ravages, it is hard to realize the conditions under which they labor. To help these people to again establish themselves in their homes and on their land is one of the objects of the French Wounded Emergency Fund. Through it the farmers of the Canadian West have an opportunity of assisting their fellow farmers of France to re-establish themselves in the devastated and shell torn districts. The calls upon the farmers of the West for war funds have been varied and urgent. We venture to say, however, that there has been no fund established for a more worthy cause than the French Wounded Emergency Fund. Contributions to this fund will be received by The Guide and forwarded to the proper authorities. Let us do what we can to assist our fellow farmers in France to again establish their homes on the land.

THE FARMERS' PLATFORM

The new pamphlet issued by the Canadian Council of Agriculture on the Farmers' Platform will be of great value not only to members of farmers' organizations, but to progressives in general during the coming fall and winter. The 60 pages of the pamphlet are replete with valuable information to any person interested in the important national problems dealt with in the platform. It really amounts to a study hand book on the farmers' platform. Contrary to the ordinary platform hand book put out by the political parties, this one contains nothing of a partisan nature. It is devoted entirely to authoritative information which will help people to study the platform more intelligently. The subject of the tariff is treated at considerable length, as well as the taxation of land values, income tax, corporation tax and inheritance tax. Another section is devoted to the nationalization of railways, telegraphs and express companies, while further sections deal with the control of natural resources, direct legislation, publicity of campaign funds, the patronage system, prohibition and woman suffrage. Undoubtedly this pam-

phlet will be a subject of study in each of the two thousand local associations in the three prairie provinces as well as to thousands of others who are not yet affiliated with the farmers' organizations.

AGRICULTURISTS EXEMPT

The military service bill has become law and the drafting of the regulations under which the act will be administered is under way. These have not yet been announced, but it is expected that they will be given out some time this week. It is understood that they make provision for the exemption of men working in certain essential industries, including agriculture. It is a wise provision that the conscription law will be applied so as not to still further reduce the number of men engaged in agriculture. The soldiers must be fed. The allied nations are working too close to the hunger line. Agriculture has been heavily drained of its men to supply the fighting forces. In Russia, France and the British dominions millions of men have been withdrawn from food production with the result that the world's food supply has been reduced until a slight mishap might cause disaster. The work of providing food is devolving more and more upon Canada and the United States. The shipping losses have been so great that it has been found necessary in order to utilize what remains to the best advantage, to divert most of it from the long routes to the shorter voyages between this continent and Europe. There is no telling when the war will end and there is little possibility that the shipping situation will soon be relieved. Upon the agriculture of North America the pressure of production will remain until after peace is declared. It is essential, therefore, to leave the men on the land. The effect of the voluntary system of enlistment in Canada has been to drain agriculture of its men. Large numbers responded to the call for volunteers, and high wages paid in the flourishing war industries attracted still further numbers away from the land. With agriculture exempted under the conscription act this movement will be checked. There is not likely to be a movement from the exempted industries to the non-exempted. The application of the law may be expected to have the opposite effect and should assist in bringing up the man power of agriculture to a point where it will be efficient in producing the required amount of food stuffs for the allies.

AMERICAN WHEAT PRICES FIXED

The American Wheat Price Committee has fixed prices for the 1917 crop on the basis of \$2.20 per bushel for No. 1 Northern spring wheat at Chicago, which will mean \$2.17 at Minneapolis. The despatch from Washington containing the news as it appeared in press reports is as follows:

Washington, Aug. 30. The price of No. 1 Northern spring wheat was fixed at \$2.20 a bushel at Chicago for the 1917 crop today by the Wheat Price Committee, headed by H. A. Garfield, whose findings, reached after three days deliberation, were submitted to and approved by the President.

Labor representatives on the committee voted first for \$1.84 and the farmers for \$2.50. After long discussion the compromise at \$2.20 was approved unanimously.

The price differentials worked out by the food administration tonight are:

No. 1 dark hard winter, \$2.24; hard winter basic, \$2.20; red winter basic, \$2.20; yellow hard winter, \$2.16; soft red winter, \$2.18; dark northern spring, \$2.24; red spring, \$2.18; hump-back, \$2.10; amber durum, \$2.24; durum basic, \$2.20; red durum, \$2.15; red walls, \$2.13; hard white basic, \$2.20; soft white, \$2.18; white club, \$2.16. No. 2 of each grade is 3 cents less; No. 3, 6 cents less; No. 4, 10 cents less.

Relative market bases—Chicago, Galveston, New Orleans, basic; Kansas City and Omaha, 5 cents less than basic; Duluth and Minneapolis, 3 cents less; St. Louis, 2 cents less; New York, 10 cents more than basic; Baltimore and Philadelphia, 9 cents more; Buffalo, 5 cents more.

The basic grades are No. 1 hard winter, red winter and northern spring.

These prices will prevail during the sale of the 1917 crop. It will now be possible for the Canadian Board of Grain Supervisors to fix prices for the Canadian wheat crop immediately. These prices will, undoubtedly be announced within a few days. The price of \$2.17 for No. 1 Northern at Minneapolis as fixed for the United States would compare favorably with the same price on the same quality of wheat at Winnipeg. Owing to differences in the cost of production the Canadian prices will no doubt be somewhat higher than the American.

HELP FROM THE CITIES

An honest endeavor is being made by many city people to help the farmers with their harvest. Several thousand men, it is reported, have been booked from the cities and towns of the West to country points. A large number of these are from non-agricultural employments and are destined for the harvest fields. In addition, the majority of cities and towns have been doing something toward assisting the farmers in their immediate localities. Stooking parties have been organized and taken out to the farms in automobiles, in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons. A dozen or more men working with energy can account for a considerable acreage of stooking in a few hours. This form of help, though not well distributed over the country, is going a long way toward helping the farmers situated near the centres of population in getting their crops off. The meeting of city and country in the harvest field cannot fail of having good results aside from the immediate one of helping to overcome a serious labor shortage. It will result in a better understanding between the men on the farms and the urban dwellers. It will give the men from the stores and offices a keener appreciation of some of the difficulties under which the farmers labor, and the timely assistance will do much to remove any antagonism which the farmer has cherished regarding the men from the city. A better understanding all around will be not the least of the good results arising from this timely endeavor on the part of urban people to assist the farmer in his time of need.

CONSERVING CANNED VEGETABLES

In order to conserve the supply of canned vegetables in Canada and encourage the use of the green crop, Food Controller Hon. W. J. Hanna on August 24 issued an order prohibiting the sale to consumers of canned peas, beans, tomatoes, beets, celery, corn, spinach, rhubarb and pumpkin. The reason announced for this order is that there is a considerable shortage of canned vegetables and that the supply for the coming winter is not likely to equal the demand. This order has the same force of an act of parliament and penalties are provided for any violation of the order. Any retail merchant who sells any of these canned goods, or has sold them since the 24th day of August, is liable to be heavily fined. The order makes an exemption in the case of such canned vegetables where they are to be consumed in lumber camps, mining camps and dining cars. It is realized that the necessary supply of green vegetables for such camps and dining cars could not be secured and hence they are permitted to buy the canned goods. The food controller under the order also has power to issue special licenses per-