



MR PEPYS IN THE WEST

As to German War Loan Methods---Co-operation for Farmers---A Suggested Land Policy

prices. All persons of fixed income, or practically inflexible income, including the whole wage-earning class, would find their command of the necessities, to say nothing of the comforts of life, very severely reduced, indeed—to state it mildly. Those of our citizens who, as things are, find themselves heavily burdened by the increased cost of living would find themselves staggering under burdens which would be intolerable. That is why our Government, like the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, is pursuing the sound, secure, honest method of raising the necessary war loans by direct appeal to hold up, like a highwayman, putting in the national bonds of their country.

Children at Play

This evening I had lighted my pipe and settled myself to read the latest issues to hand of the Co-operative News, from Manchester, which is the English newspaper organ of co-operation, the Scottish Co-operator, from Glasgow, and the Irish Homestead, edited by George W. Russell, which is published in Dublin and is devoted to promoting co-operation in the agricultural industry in Ireland, when Mistress Pepys came into my den, and told me how the children, together with the neighbors' children had been playing soldiers in the afternoon, with some croquet mallets. The older ones, shouldering the mallets with the maul ends down, and holding themselves very rigid, marched as a guard to the smaller ones, namely one little boy and two little girls, who took the part of wounded men, each of them having two mallets, which were just long enough for them to use as crutches, with the maul ends under their armpits, and so they hobbled along with every seeming of distress and pain, the whole thing being done with that intense

something she had read therein, which was this:—

MAIZE COBS

To the Editor of the Irish Homestead.

Dear Sir: Maize cobs are the most delicious and substantial vegetable, but many people do not realize that they can be ripened in England and Ireland.

Sown under cover, and put out 18 inches apart when danger of frost is past, they should be fit to pick about the end of September.

I have grown them in Kerry as a garden crop, and if in a bad summer the cobs did not ripen, the plants were greedily eaten by the cows.

The dwarf variety is best for the garden. Pick when the grains begin to get firm and yellow, strip the husk, and boil the cobs till soft.

Dish with butter, salt and pepper, and gnaw them while very hot.

It is very unbecoming, but well worth while.

Yours faithfully,

ZERO.

Cobs are at their best for fable purposes when the grains have attained their full size but before they get "firm and yellow," the idea being to use them before the sugar turns into starch. It is for the same reason that garden peas are more palatable and digestible in an unripe condition.

On cooking, it will be found much better to follow the American method, namely, to boil the cob enveloped in the "husk" and only to remove the leaves before serving.—EDITOR.

Mistress Pepys thought the name, "Maize cobs," odd; and she made merry over the idea of the editor of the Irish Homestead that the proper way to boil corn is with all the "silk" and wrappings of leaves left about each ear, just as it is when it is taken from the stalk. But what amused me, as I told her, was the thought of the dignified Mistress Pepys "gnawing" an ear of corn.

Co-operation for Farmers

And with that came Snagsby, who joined in our laughing. "The next time I eat corn," quoth he, "I shall think of myself as being, in the mind's eye of

special privilege to none. The thing for them to do is to get together and pull together for the common cause—all putting their shoulders to the harness, and none of them leaning their weight against the breeching!

An Indignant Land Speculator

From that our talk turned to the land settlement problem, about which there has of late been much mention in the newspapers. Speaking of the conferences held here in Winnipeg recently between Mr. Calder, Dominion Minister of Colonization and Immigration and representative owners of large areas of idle lands, Snagsby said that he had been talking with one of the latter, who had waxed highly indignant when Snagsby said that no land policy which would afford an opportunity for real estate speculators to resume their pernicious game could result otherwise than in enduring injury to the country.

"And what would you propose?" asked that indignant gentleman. "I dare say you would like to see confiscation of the lands which investors, like myself, with faith in the immense and magnificent possibilities of this country and its incalculable future development have bought and are holding until we can realize the just reward of our staunch faith in this great country?"

"Faith in the Country's Future"

"Just reward!" exclaimed Snagsby. "What sort of conception of justice have you, if you imagine you have any moral title to take the money of any man to whom you do not give in return a just equivalent in money or in service? What service will you have rendered to the settlers whom you hope with the maul ends under their armpits, a pistol to their heads, and making them pay you prices exorbitantly higher than you paid for the land?"

The indignant yeoman for another land boom asked Snagsby again if he wanted to see confiscation introduced in this country.

"No," said Snagsby, "but safeguards should be provided against the possibility of prices going ballooning again in another land boom orgy of speculation."

"That is," said the aggrieved advocate of land speculation, "you would have men like myself, who have given practical proof of our faith in the country penalized for having done so, and prevented from realizing the full measure of our just reward!"

A Suggested Solution

I told Snagsby he should have said that the just thing to do is to have it made the law of the land that the owner of each and every parcel of idle agricultural land should have to fix a selling price for it, and that in the event of his failing to do, the price should be fixed by the provincial government, through provincial, or municipal assessors, or in any other equitable manner, and that such price should also be the assessment valuation. Any purchaser, including the provincial, or Dominion government, should have the right to acquire the land by paying down the price fixed, or, say, ten per cent. of that price, and the remainder within, say, 60 days. A fully worked-out scheme for the operation of this system has been prepared by the Canadian Problems Club of Winnipeg; it was published in The Guide several months ago.

Snagsby knew something of that scheme, but was not familiar with its details, and so I promised to obtain for him a copy of the report of the Problems Club, setting forth that suggested scheme. And we agreed to go over it, and discuss it next Tuesday night, when we meet for our regular smoke and talk.

W.J.H.

WINNIPEG, October 28.—It so befell this afternoon that as I was walking along Main street I overtook Mr. Bingle, the banker, and our talk turned upon the coming Victory Loan, and thereafter upon the finances of Germany, where the process of raising the ninth war loan was begun last month. As to how the process is succeeding we can only conjecture.

Mr. Bingle told me that the sum total of the preceding eight war loans raised in Germany is not less than 87,957,425,000 marks. (In time of peace a German mark was worth about 23 cents; it is worth so little now that I should hate to give a dollar for a handful of marks—not that I would take any of the money of the Huns on any terms!)

The eighth German loan (so Mr. Bingle told me further) was floated in March last, when General Ludendorff was launching on the western front the most tremendous of all the offensives made by the German military might, which, the German people were loudly promised, would smash through the Allied lines, and on to the Channel ports and to Paris, and so bring about a speedy peace on the terms laid down by the Kaiser and his war lords, with the payment of prodigious sums of money which would be exacted from the conquered nations.

I asked Mr. Bingle, how it was that the German government has proceeded hitherto in the work of raising war loans from the German people.

The German Method

"The procedure, as I understand it," said Mr. Bingle, "has been that, in the first place, the German Government, in floating any war loans, has compelled all the banks, trust companies and other financial institutions, to take large amounts, on the understanding that no actual money is required, but only credits, involving no special reserve, against which the Government could draw in payment for goods and labor. In the second place, they have exacted subscriptions from all the munitions makers, steel manufacturers and other producers directly or indirectly interested in Government contracts, with the understanding that such subscriptions would not be paid before equivalent sums fell due on the contracts. All these concerns have also had a further understanding that the bonds taken by them would be treated by the banks as good collateral for bank loans, bearing interest not greater than that borne by the bonds. If similar methods were resorted to in this country, billions could quickly be raised—on paper! But we do not employ in Canada such methods of ruinous inflation."

The Canadian Way

"When we in Canada buy Victory bonds," Mr. Bingle went on, "we furnish real money saved out of incomes. We lend that money to our Government, to be expended for war purposes. We make ourselves able to turn over that money—real money!—by refraining from spending it on our own individual purposes. But when the Germans subscribe to a war loan what they place in the hands of their government is a collection of I.O.U.'s, which the Government realizes upon in the purchase of supplies as best it can. In this country the German plan of raising a war loan would produce an astounding rise in



CANADA'S BOND IS GOOD WHILE GRASS GROWS AND WATER RUNS

seriousness which children have in their make-believe play, especially when they do not know at all that they are being observed. The which is pretty—and pathetic, too—to consider.

As to "Gnawing 'Maize Cobs'"

And before going out and leaving me in my den to await the coming of Snagsby to smoke a pipe of tobacco with me, as is our wont, Mistress Pepys picked up the Irish Homestead from the table and turned over its pages; and presently she was laughing over

the writer of that letter to the Irish Homestead, like a dog gnawing a bone.

After he had lighted his pipe, Snagsby began to speak of the immense value, to farmers above all others, of co-operation. And in that he spoke the truth.

Truly, all that farmers, as a class, need to do to become far stronger than the biggest trust could ever hope to be is to get together and work for economic and social justice, for equal rights to every class in the state and