

Farming as a Business

By AUGUSTUS BRIDLE, in the Canadian Courier.

JUST to prove that farming is not a business—put the Hon. Finance Minister on a common farm and ask him to operate it at a profit. Or the President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Or the President of the C. P. R. Let us not be misled by the fact that hundreds of big - business experts and professional men are operating farms; men like Sir Edmund Walker, Sir Henry Pellatt, R. J. Fleming, Sir William Mulock and dozens of others. These men are not farming for profit, but for pleasure. And as a rule the two don't go together.

On the other hand, why is a Minister of Agriculture usually a farmer? What has practical farming to do with a ministry of Agriculture at all? We all know that Ministers are politicians, and the average farmer, if he is successful in the calling he has had thrust upon him by inheritance, has no time for politics. Hon. T. A. Crerar is a farmer; he was also a good organizing head of the Grain Growers' Association before he joined the Union Government. Mr. G. S. Henry, Provincial Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, is a farmer and a man of education. But

none of our Ministers of Agriculture will succeed or fail in this portfolio because they are practical farmers. To operate a farm is one thing; to operate a Government department is

quite something else. And unless the farmer who wants to be a Minister of Agriculture has a great deal better qualification for the post than being a successful farmer he will be a first-class failure — not because he is an ignoramus at politics, but because his experience as a successful farmer has nothing whatever to do with the operation of a big Department in a Gov-

ernment.

Farming, as we know it in Canada up to the present, is not a business. The average farmer is not a business man. He has no time for business. He is too busy farming. But until farming becomes a business it will never occupy the place it should in the trade and the life and the overseas credit of this country. Modern business has outgrown the average farmer. In spite of that the amount of capital invested in farms and farming exceeds by several million the amount invested in any other industry. Farming is one of the big interests. It is the

We are so accustomed to reading the grandstand bosh that the majority of city editors court their urban readers with that it is a real pleasure to read the above article from the Canadian Courier.

Farming as a Business! Think what it means. Factory hours, factory wages, factory profits. In other words, a revolution so drastic that a great many of our all-wise city brethren who are more, much more, content to pay the piratic prices the avaricious farmer demands and holler, rather than live the quiet, hard-working farm existence, might possibly consider agriculture as a means of obtaining their living. Education and organization will make this Utopian dream a reality.