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:: Mobilizing Machinery ::

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OUR GUARANTEE

No advertisement is allowed in our Columns until we are satisfied that the advertiser is absolutely reliable and that any subscriber can safely do business with him. If any subscriber is defrauded E. H. Heath Co., Ltd., will make good the loss resulting therefrom. If the event takes place within 30 days of date advertisement appeared, and complaint be made to us in writing with proofs, not later than ten days after its occurring, and provided, also, the subscriber in writing to the advertiser, stated that his advertisement was seen in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer." Be careful when writing an advertiser to say that you saw the advertisement in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer."

NEVER in our national life has a crisis been reached in which, with due reverence it is said, "the Lord" did not call up from the ranks the man who could deal with it. We think of all kinds of men in the history of the English-speaking people who, in their turn, became "the man of the hour." Not to go too far back in our own history, there was Drake and Cromwell, for example, and a host of lesser lights from Washington to Wilson, from Wellington to Lloyd George. When the hour struck for the appearance of these men of destiny, things had reached a point at which conventionalities and drill books were flung into the furnace. They no longer served any useful purpose, but became a menace to the commonweal. Something had to "get a move on," and just at the right moment, up bobbed **The Man**—"light as a cork, swift as a swallow, prompt as a tax-collector."

Industrial affairs in Canada have come to a point at which something stronger than any political party and of swifter volition than the "concerted action" of

any organization we know of in the State to-day will have to step in and not only start things, but keep them going with the constancy of the course of Nature. Something like **A Man** is wanted. He need not be a soldier, but if he has spent his life amid the machinery of war, that will be no disqualification providing he is otherwise fit. What seems to be wanted is a Superintendent of Inventions; one who can instinctively and swiftly see the good and the no good in any device, particularly in our basic industry of agriculture, that is designed to replace human labor, and in doing so do more and better work in less time than it can be done by human hands or brute strength.

Some time ago in this page the idea of an Inventions Board was ventilated, but the war came on and, very properly, everything had to stand aside that did not definitely and swiftly contribute towards the winning of the war. Briefly, our proposal was exactly what has been established under the iron heel of necessity for the conduct of the war—an organization of character and brains—to the single end, that everything human brains can devise in killing-machinery to replace or supplement man power shall be encouraged, tried out, and where successful become a permanent arm of the service. Witness the "Tank" and other things we may not yet write about. Why should not something of this feverish energy be imported into our domestic policy, which above all things is concerned with the growing of cereals and the breeding of live stock? The present state of the labor market

—its inadequacy to start with and its prohibitive price demands where available—points to the fact that **something has got to be done.**

* * *

Even on what are considered well-equipped farms can it be said that the method of handling the crop (especially in harvesting it) is entitled to high praise in point of efficiency and economy? It is not, and the fact that so much of the crop of the last two years remained in the stook on the fields all winter is conclusive proof of the fact that we are but wallowing in our opportunities. The wastage in much of present day methods is incalculable when it is considered how much of the process of cutting, stooking, stacking or threshing grain is of a purely mechanical nature, and how serious is the item of high-priced human labor and horse flesh that enter into this process. Skepticism will say: "Yes, but where can you replace human hands in those departments of the work in which machinery is not now employed?" The same whine was heard before the binder was finally delivered to the farmer, and just where would agriculture have been to-day if the binder (or its equivalent) had not been thought of?

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Machinery is to be the key to all success in the future of agriculture in Western Canada. There's a slumbering power here that has hardly been paralleled by anything of the kind in the past. Private enterprise and genuine competitive effort have done it all so far, and may be found to be the one royal road in the long run. But we have a hunch that a very great deal could be done in the way of encouragement to meritorious private enterprise that is not now extended to it. Men are slow, desperately slow to give a sympathetic hearing to any man who comes along with any "new" thing. That has been the experience of every inventor or promoter of an invention since the first "new idea" in a garden spade was offered to Adam.

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Instead of resurrecting the memory of those "dead 'uns" who pooh-poohed the binder long after it came, we earnestly beg of the living men of the West to study what is ready to their hand in mechanical help that can save them so much in toil, worry and treasure. Every agricultural journal is full of it. They have ideas of their own—trot them out. We can now say that irrespective of the new "Farm Credit" scheme no man who merits assistance need any longer fall down on his invention or have to go without a piece of farm machinery he sorely needs because he cannot finance it at the moment.

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