

The Conference Report

Continued from Page 7

rection of increasing our wealth only provided those who engage in this work were able to farm the land at a profit to themselves. Moreover, that profit would need to rest on a stable basis, so that its existence, its continuity, would be assured for the normal times that will be resumed when the war is over.

Reaction Feared

"Any 'back to the land' movement that has for its object that taking of temporary profits made possible by the present era of high prices must be followed by a reaction as soon as the opportunity for unusual profits disappear. The net result to Canada of such a movement would seem to be questionable unless those who were recruited to its ranks were men of experience and ascertained competency in agricultural methods. Evidence is not lacking that many who have spent their lives in agriculture are failing to receive a fair return from their labor, due to the prevalence of conditions which should be, and can be, but which have not yet been rectified. Such being the case, we believe it to be the part of wisdom, to concentrate our efforts towards the formulation of a plan that will provide a solid and permanent foundation for agricultural prosperity, rather than run any risk of settling a larger number of people in an occupation that may soon be found unprofitable or at least unattractive.

Possible Attainments

"In our opinion, however, there are results, possible of immediate attainment, towards which we should strive. Without attempting in any way to deal exhaustively with this aspect of the problem, we would point out two things only for the purpose of illustration. In portions of our western provinces, today there are thousands of immature hogs whose owners have lost or largely lost the crops that were to have provided the feed needed to prepare those hogs for market. Local prices have advanced to a point where it will not pay to purchase it. Unless something is done, and done at once, a valuable asset will be lost to Canada at the very time when other parts of the country, where feed is more plentiful, are complaining of a shortage of hogs. The obvious solution of bringing feed to the hogs, or hogs to the feed, are inoperative because of freight rates and the lack of a proper system of distribution. What is to be done?

The Apple Question

"In the province of Ontario to-day there are thousands of barrels of first class apples that may never be harvested because, it is alleged, it will not pay the farmers to pick them. Yet the Canadian west is crying out for apples it would be glad to buy in carloads at prices that should be remunerative to the producer. Again, it may be pertinently asked, cannot something be done?

"A complete survey of the situation would disclose many instances pointing to a threatened extinguishment of agricultural assets, which under proper organization might easily be conserved. The minimizing of economic waste should be the particular care of our governments. Especially at a time like the present, when all our resources should be utilized to the fullest extent in strengthening us for the world struggle in which we are engaged, should such problems be given close and careful study by those who could provide the necessary relief. We gladly record our appreciation of what has been done in this direction, both by our federal and provincial authorities, but we should most strongly urge that they immediately co-operate, in redoubled efforts, to conserve and to bring to early fruition in all parts of the Dominion any potential asset which an exhaustive survey of the field may show to be in need of assistance.

"Dealing with the question of a permanent policy, we are unanimously of the opinion that something should, something must be done, to make life upon the farm more attractive in all its aspects. If, as is generally admitted,



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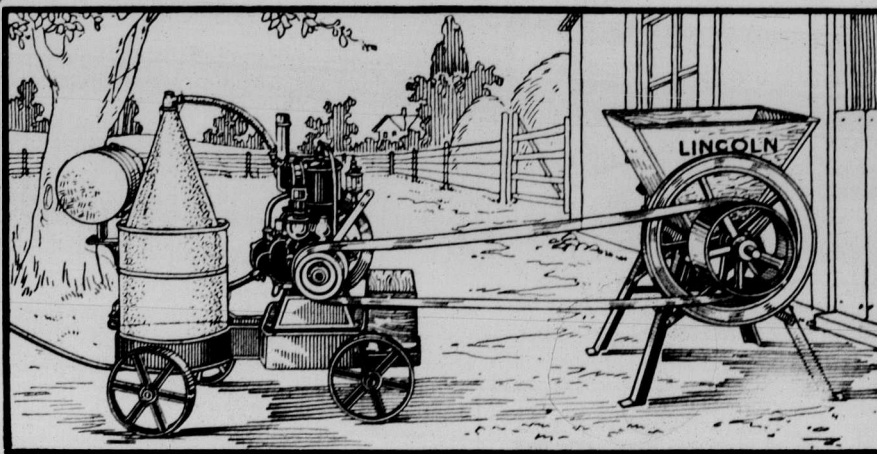
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