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with our long winters, it is highly desirable that domestic manufacturing be fostered to supplement the outdoor and seasonal activities of agriculture. These matters are all related to each other very closely. Credit and co-operation are inseparable. Modern industry, even in the home, calls for power laid on, and co-operative purchasing and selling. One feels that in the possibilities suggested in this chapter lie some of the best hopes for a future Canada. If we are ever to support a large population, living in wholesome conditions, it must come about in some such way. Otherwise all our efforts will but increase the isolation and disappointment of the people on the land, and swell the fetid slum areas of overcrowded cities. An illustration of the successful development of rural domestic manufacturing, under modern conditions, is taken from several of the country districts of France. Another phase of the question is that of the country village or town, which is a genuine rural community and identified with the farming interests, and is, moreover, capable of considerable development as an industrial and social centre.

Improve the Land Before Settlement

Here is a vital sentence, "If the government confine its attention to assisting settlers with capital, to subsidizing railways, to affording facilities for the farmer to borrow cheap capital and to promoting co-operation, the effect may be to help the speculator rather than the farmer." The argument is that the government should do all it can to improve the land before it sells it, rather than after. Once the government has disposed of the land all additional value it gains accrues to the owner. Thus well-considered schemes for planning it, for providing transportation, rural credit and similar aids to intending settlers should be put into operation before and not after settlement. It is even possible that much of the land which has gone into private ownership may be reclaimed for the public. This was done in New Zealand and in Australia. Why should it not be done in Canada?

This brings us up against the inherent difficulties in our system of government. Mr. Adams quotes from Sir George Murray who wrote a report on "Organization of the Public Service in Canada" in 1912. According to that British expert in governmental administration our system imposes an intolerable burden on ministers. Therefore it has been proposed that a new federal department be founded to deal with settlement and immigration. If this were done, or something like this, a sane, progressive and stable policy for building up rural life and industry might result.

Settlement of Returned Soldiers

The problem of settling returned soldiers on the land is discussed fully. It is viewed not as a special and emergent problem, but as part of the whole problem of land settlement. This is palpably the right method of dealing with it, for no plan can be permanently successful which would not set the returned soldier on his own feet and make him one of the regular farmers of the country. It would be folly, and he himself would resent it, if the people of Canada made him a dependent rather than a self-supporting citizen. The returned soldier is only temporarily a soldier, he is permanently a man, and requires to be treated like a man. So some of the schemes which have been brought forward for putting these veterans on farms may be set aside at once. Their problem is just a part of the larger problem of settling any sort of men on the land, and is to be studied as such.

I have thus tried to give some outline of the topics treated in the book. But I have not been able to show the wealth of knowledge, the soundness of judgment, and the spirit of hopefulness which runs through it all. To do it justice you must read it yourself.



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