

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 14th, 1914

## THANKSGIVING DAY

There is much at this time for which the people of Canada can make sincere thanksgiving. While the fields of Europe have been stained with the blood of brave men and trampled by contending armies, we have been enabled to reap in peace a bountiful if not a record harvest. We can give thanks that while the homes and all the worldly goods of thousands of innocent people in Europe have been ruthlessly destroyed, and men, women and children have been put to the slaughter, we in Canada have been able to follow our ordinary vocations unmolested and unafraid. We can give thanks that while the commerce of other nations is at a standstill and starvation is threatening millions of people, Canada is able to send her ships across the oceans and is making gifts of food to those who are in need. We can give thanks, too, that the young men of Canada, without the compulsion of conscription, are doing their part nobly in offering their lives in defence of the Empire in this her hour of need.

## INFORMATION URGENTLY NEEDED

We have received several letters from farmers whose mortgages are falling due on November 1 and in each and every case the mortgage companies are demanding higher rates of interest for renewal, even tho the farms have been greatly improved upon and are, therefore, better security than when the mortgage was first placed. It looks as tho the mortgage companies are going to take advantage of this war to place a heavier burden upon the farmers of this country. This is a type of patriotism which the directors of these companies certainly are not preaching in their private capacities. We are anxious to hear from every farmer in the Prairie Provinces who is being treated in this manner by the loan companies. When sending us this information we should like our readers to give us:

1—The letter you have received from the mortgage company demanding a higher rate of interest. This will be returned promptly when we have finished with it.

2—The condition of your farm in regard to improvements when the present mortgage was first placed on it.

3—The present condition of your farm in regard to improvements. By comparison these two statements will show whether the security is more or less than when the mortgage was first placed.

4—The result of your crop for the past two years and your financial ability to take care of your family and purchase seed for next season.

5—How long have you been in this country and from what country did you come to Western Canada? If you have come from a foreign country, what induced you to come to Canada?

We shall not publish the name of any farmer, but if we receive this information from several hundred farmers we shall be able to present a case which will force public action to prevent the mortgage companies from driving the farmers of this country out of business. Please let us have this information immediately because the need is urgent.

## WHERE BOTH SIDES LOSE

If there is one thing that has been clearly demonstrated by the European war, it is the economic futility of conquest and the absolute impossibility of one civilized nation profiting by making war upon another. Whoever wins this war, both sides have already lost. As Norman Angell predicted in "The Great Illusion," the first result of the war

was to destroy credit, not only in the belligerent countries, but thruout the civilized world, and to bring to ruin thousands of hitherto prosperous commercial houses. It is also clear that economically the victors in this war will gain nothing by their conquest. Taking it for granted that Great Britain and her allies will emerge victorious from the struggle, it is obvious now, as Norman Angell insisted, that the British, French, Belgian, Russian and Servian people will be immensely poorer, not richer, as a result of the war. David Lloyd George, who should know something about such things, has said that Britain may win the war "with a silver bullet," by which he meant that Britain's wealth would enable her to continue the conflict until Germany was ruined and unable to finance her army. But if Germany is brought to utter ruin before she is defeated, and there is little doubt that such will be the case, Britain will be bringing her own best European customer to bankruptcy. In 1913, Great Britain exported to Germany goods of British production to the value of over \$200,000,000 and goods of foreign and colonial production to the value of another \$100,000,000. The only country to which Great Britain sent exports of greater value was India, whose 250,000,000 of people bought in that year \$350,000,000 worth of British made goods. This immense trade with Germany is, of course, entirely stopped during the war and the plight of the industries whose products were finding a market in that and other combatant countries can be readily understood. A brave effort is being made by British manufacturers to keep their factories going, but with markets closed, many of them will find it an impossible task. And when the war is over the situation will be very little better, for a nation that has been ruined and which has lost the flower of its manhood on the field of battle cannot possibly be a good customer, no matter how great its need of British products may be. On the other hand, if things were otherwise and Germany should be victorious, could Britain, a ruined, destroyed Britain, purchase \$400,000,000 worth of German merchandise as she did in 1913? The idea that a country can gain anything economically by the annexation of conquered territory was long ago exploded, the South African war being a notable example. Britain, in fact, has made it clear that she seeks no new territory as a result of the war, and if the map of Europe is redrawn, as it no doubt will be, that process will only be successful if it takes away from some of the powers, notably Germany and Russia, territory which has been won in previous wars and has been held only by force of arms and at the expense of ceaseless discontent.

## A KITCHENER OF AGRICULTURE

The Western platform apologist of our banking system, who believes in the divine rights of the banks and has been very prominent in the "mixed farming" campaign, has recently found a happy solution of the rural problems of the West. He says we need a "Kitchener of Agriculture." The idea of this orator, and, by the way, it is approved of by a great many armchair farmers, is that an agricultural expert with the ability of Lord Kitchener would soon reform our lazy farmers and would have them working with the precision and method of a military regiment, resulting in general rural prosperity. Being familiar with the history of Lord Kitchener's work, we believe that every farmer in the West would welcome the appointment of a "Kitchener of Agriculture." Judging by the records of Lord Kitchener, a "Kitchener of Agriculture" would be a man who knows agriculture

from the beginning to the end, knows the reforms that are needed and has the power and authority to bring them about. He would educate the farmers of this country to care for their land properly, to produce the most profitable crops, to reduce the cost of production to the lowest possible mark and to sell their products in the best markets of the world with the least possible expenditure. Lord Kitchener in the British army has cut out red tape and all kinds of ridiculous and unjust regulations which hampered the efficiency of his soldiers. A "Kitchener of Agriculture" would undoubtedly do the same for the agricultural industry. He would remodel the Canadian banking system from top to bottom and we would never again hear of farmers paying 10 and 12 per cent. on money they borrowed from the banks. He would break the grip of the mortgage and loan companies and give farmers cheap and satisfactory credit with which to carry on their business. He would abolish the protective tariff in order to reduce the farmer's cost of living and thereby reduce his cost of production. He would nationalize our railway system, cut out the waste and destruction and reduce freight rates to a minimum. He would abolish land speculation and give the vacant land to farmers for productive purposes. He would put a stop to the system of credit which forces farmers to throw their wheat upon the market immediately after harvest, by which means the prices are reduced to less than cost of production. Yes, by all means let us have a "Kitchener of Agriculture," and let us give him a free hand to place the agricultural industry of Canada upon a permanent and prosperous footing. We fear, however, that his life would not be a pleasant one. Before he had been engaged in his work for more than six months all the leading financiers, magnates, plutocrats and barons, who are now urging his appointment, would be gunning for his scalp, and the silver-tongued orator who has been sounding his praises would be referring to him in real naughty language.

## DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

The world will never know the full extent of the destruction of life and limb and property caused by the present war. It is estimated that over 1,000,000 have already been killed or wounded, and almost everyone agrees that the war is as yet only in its early stages. The damage to property is appalling. Think of Louvain, Namur, Dinant, Malines, Liege and Rheims. Cathedrals, universities, hospitals, libraries, houses, factories and schools have been destroyed by cannon and torch, sometimes in disregard of the recognized rules of "civilized warfare" and sometimes by strictly fair and proper means. The work of centuries, the stately buildings in which the people of Belgium and France have worshipped and learned generation after generation, have been reduced in a few days to piles of jumbled stones. As we write the ancient city of Antwerp is being bombarded and shells from airships and cannon are falling in its streets, wrecking its buildings and killing not only its military defenders, but peaceable men, women and children as well. German and Austrian cities which have been attacked by the Russian hosts are no doubt suffering in the same way, and if the allies carry out their purpose of marching on Berlin there is no doubt that their path will be marked by ruined cities and desolated homes. Crops trampled under foot by horses and men, forests destroyed by shell and fire, bridges wrecked by dynamite, whole districts flooded to hinder the march of enemy, beautiful countrysides scarred and pitted by shrapnel and made hideous by mangled corpses show