The Mail Bag

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other natural resources; in other words, making the land pay all the taxes, including city lots and natural resources, which includes land which will come down in price. By this means we can tax the owners of idle land out of the business of holding land idle, until the people who work create a value in that idle land which the owner did not help to create. He will be forced to let go and will be glad to let go his idle land when he sees the price coming down and the taxes going up. Then, and not until then, we will see the people from the towns and cities flocking back to the land, for the very plain reason that the overhead expense will be reduced to a point where it will be possible to work land, including idle land and receive a fair wage for labor expended thereon and a fair interest on the investment.

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In conclusion, I believe that the Free Trade League that has recently come into existence, and is steadily growing, will be the organization to bring the great reform about. It is surely abundantly evident that neither of the present political parties will touch such a necessary reform. They recognize that the protected interests, controlling nearly all capital, are more powerful than that of the great plain people, and that is the guiding star of these old political parties, taking past history for the fact. But surely the day has come when there is abundance of evidence to show the great plain people that in order to get justice we must help ourselves. We surely do not expect an angel to come down from heaven and do the work that we are capable of doing ourselves, and we owe it to our families and we owe it to our country. If we were only to act we would abolish this insane method of capable of doing ourselves, and we owe it to our families and we owe it to our country. If we were only to act we would abolish this insane method of taxation, for, after all, is not the question of taxation the paramount question of all questions? From the taxing of our country we must get the revenue necessary to meet the legitimate demands of our country, but surely let it be a visible and direct means of taxation; and remove the burden of paying toll to protected interests, and let us no longer be robbed by an invisible means; and when we bring this about we will be living in the land of liberty. Let us establish the moral right based on justice, that is, of equality in natural opportunity. For, as it is today, the more man works and the more he produces the more taxes will he pay. The simple plan that they shall take whe have the power and they shall keep who can, simply means that the present plan takes from the producer and wage carner far too great a portion of their honestly earned reward.

JOHN KENNEDY.

Winnipeg.

RURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

RURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
On August 7 to 11 the Extension Department of the Alberta University at Edmonton held a Rural Leadership Conference which was highly gratifying to everyone who attended it. There were gathered tiogether about 100 representatives of farmers and other workers interested in the improvement of social welfare; probably 60 per cent. were rural ministers.

Addresses were given by President Wood of the United Farmers of Alberta on the Economic and Social side of the farmer's movement in Western Canada. Mrs. Parlby and Mrs. Barrett of the United Farm Women of Alberta addressed the conference on the women's movement and the outlook for it in Western Canada. Mrs. Davidson of Calgary discussed the question of municipal hospitals. Rev. J. S. Woodsworth gave several addresses on Community Development and representatives of the University, including Dean Howes, discussed particular agricultural problems.

It was felt by many that this was the most profitable social service conference that has yet been held in Western Canada. Discussion was common thruout the Conference and many were the ministers who frankly stated they had never realized in any but the smallest degree the importance of the various movements going on about them. They were ready to be led and apparently went home with a much broader view of the important social problems facing the rural communities of Western Canada.



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