

The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, October 2, 1918

The Coming Victory Loan

It is of the first essential importance that the forthcoming issue of Victory Bonds shall be fully subscribed. It is highly desirable, from the point of view of helping to win the war as soon as possible, that it shall be strikingly over-subscribed. The patriotism of the Canadian people is to be depended to make this Victory Loan such a success that it will make the whole world take notice of the manner in which they are standing behind the men at the front.

Canadian patriotism and the Canadian sense of duty to the men at the front and the cause for which they are offering everything, without any counting of the cost, will ensure a success for this Victory Loan worthy of the record of Canadian manhood in the war. It is for every Canadian to figure out now how he can fulfil his duty of doing his utmost towards making it such a success.

This duty makes its appeal to the conscience and the honor of every Canadian. No Canadian worthy of the name will disregard it.

Money is necessary to the winning of the war. The men at the front in the four fighting Canadian divisions are doing their part to the utmost. There have been 25,000 Canadian casualties at the front since August 6; nevertheless every one of the four Canadian divisions is being kept up to its full numerical strength, day after day. We Canadians at home must do our part, too, to the utmost. We must come across in such strength as to make this next Victory Bond issue the greatest success of all.

Victory Bonds are the best possible investments, in every sense of the word, into which money can be put. They are securities backed by all the resources of Canada between the two oceans. They are as easily negotiable, practically, as bank notes. Investment considerations thus reinforce patriotism and the sense of duty, in prompting every Canadian to give a hand to make the over-subscription of the coming Victory Loan a landmark in Canadian history.

Manitoba Agricultural College

Negotiations are in progress for the sale of the Manitoba Agricultural College to the Dominion government, to be used as a military hospital and technical training school for returned soldiers. The price agreed upon, if the college proves suitable for the purpose, is \$3,900,000, which covers the entire cost of the college grounds and buildings. At first sight popular opinion will strongly favor the deal because it enables the province to get rid of what has been popularly known as the "white elephant." The Manitoba Agricultural College is a splendid institution and doing excellent work, but in graft and extravagance it probably cost in construction \$1,500,000 more than was necessary. The popular idea is to unload this "white elephant" upon the Dominion government and thus let the people pay for it out of the left-hand pocket, instead of the right-hand pocket. The moral side of this transaction apparently has not been considered. Almost the only important argument so far advanced is that it will improve the financial condition of Manitoba and that is certainly an important consideration. But that is not everything. There are several other vital phases to the bargain which should not be overlooked.

First.—The old Manitoba Agricultural College, at present being used by the

Dominion government as a military hospital and technical training school, must come back to the province, if the new college is transferred, and must be taken over at its entire cost, including all the additional expenditures and alterations made by the Dominion government, the latter of which will be practically wasted. Furthermore, the old college, at great cost, would need to be altered and extended before it could be used for agricultural college work. The Minister of Agriculture estimates that the old college, when put in shape for use, would cost the province not less than \$2,000,000, but even then its accommodation would not be nearly equal to the new college and not nearly sufficient for the students attending in normal times. Furthermore, the farm at the old college is not large enough to carry on the very valuable experimental work which has been conducted at the new college farm for the past three years. This work now ranks with the best being done in Canada and the transfer would mean its entire loss. Only 90 acres of the farm is available at the old college, as compared with four times the area at the new college. If the old college is taken over very much more land would need to be purchased, and in that vicinity it would be very costly. To provide the accommodation, farm land and equipment at the old college suitable for the full needs of agricultural education in Manitoba would cost not much less than the new college. The fact that both colleges were blundered does not effect the issue, because they are here, and no magic can remove them or reduce their cost.

Second.—It is suggested in the event of the sale of the new college, that agricultural education in Manitoba be practically suspended till after the war. This proposal, if carried out, will undoubtedly cost the province of Manitoba considerably more than the \$2,000,000 which apparently would be saved by the proposed deal. Agricultural education is yearly becoming of greater economic value to the agricultural industry. Never in the history of agriculture was the need of education greater than today. After the war that need will be greater still. Suspension of agricultural education would disband and scatter the splendid faculty at the college, and the institution could not be reorganized with its present efficiency in less than several years of great effort. It would be a disaster of the first magnitude to suspend agricultural education. Something more than mere dollars should be considered before such a course is decided upon.

Third.—The suggestion that small agricultural schools throughout the province could replace the agricultural college at much less cost has been advanced. These small agricultural schools are splendid institutions and probably will, in the future, become a factor in agricultural education in Manitoba, but they never can entirely replace the agricultural college. They will provide only for about two years' training, while the agricultural college, or similar institutions, must provide for the remaining three years of the course. Agriculture in Manitoba has in the past been greatly neglected and its possibilities for the future are immeasurable. But the future of agriculture in Manitoba depends in a large measure upon the efficiency of agricultural education and the work which the agricultural college is doing. It should be remembered also that it has required ten years to bring the agricultural college up to its present state of efficiency.

This great agricultural asset should not be lost nor endangered, nor should agriculture be penalized for the sins of the late government.

A Brace of Visiting Barons

Both the barons from Montreal who visited the West recently gave out utterances in regard to public ownership of railways. Baron Atholstan, the proprietor of the Montreal Star and other papers, is deeply grieved and alarmed on account of the strength of western opinion in favor of public ownership. The noble Baron made it evident that he was so grievously distressed about this because of his being absolutely sure that public ownership could not fail to infect the management of the railways with corruption.

The other visiting Canadian member of the House of Lords, Baron Shaughnessy, the president of the C.P.R., when asked here in Winnipeg, what he thought of public ownership, said: "I am in favor of the nationalization of Canadian railways, if it is possible to run them without the retarding influence of politics." The report of the interview in the Winnipeg Tribune continues:—

Was it possible to have such non-political management? The Baron wouldn't say, but he referred briefly to certain appointments, which, he said, were not political, "of course not." He accented the last three words and smiled broadly.

It is noteworthy that both these noble Barons, when they ponder over the question of public ownership, are disturbed in mind by their apprehensions of the evil effects of politics on railways. But what about the evil effects of the railways on politics? If all the misdeeds of Canadian politicians were to be investigated, would not the trails be found to lead, in four cases out of five, to railway magnates?

Baron Atholstan, by the way, mentioned in an interview printed in the Winnipeg Free Press that he was making his first visit to the West. Which reminds us that he has been guilty of a remarkable oversight in omitting to say anything at all, while he was in the West, about the spectacular offer he made in the Montreal Star in 1911, during the campaign which he helped with might and main to wage against Reciprocity.

He explained at that time to the farmers of the West that while they were very wrong to want their grain to have free access to the market to the south, they had justice with them in their demand for the removal of the customs taxation on agricultural implements. And he promised that his newspapers would help to the utmost of their ability to secure that measure of justice to the farmers, and announced in his largest and blackest type that he would donate \$10,000 to a fund to promote a campaign with that end in view.

The moment the defeat of Reciprocity was secured at the polls, that millionaire newspaper proprietor, who was plain Hugh Graham then, proceeded to forget all about that spectacular and loud-resounding pledge of his to the farmers. Evidently that pledge holds no place now in his Baronial mind.

The Heart of the Problem

In his announcement that he has prepared and laid before his colleagues at Ottawa a policy for the solution of the land settlement