

DO IT, HE MAY BE UNABLE TO BECAUSE HE LACKS THE NECESSARY CAPITAL AND CANNOT RAISE IT.

THE PORT ARTHUR PLAN

"TO MEET THIS DIFFICULTY THE PORT ARTHUR BOARD OF TRADE PROPOSES A PLAN OF ACTION. ITS PLAN IS THAT THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT SHALL LOAN, SAY, \$50,000,000 TO THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPALITIES OF CANADA ON THEIR MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES FOR FIVE YEARS WITH INTEREST AT FIVE PER CENT., REPAYABLE ANNUALLY ON CONDITION that the municipalities lend the money to ratepayers to be expended in clearing and bringing under cultivation additional land ; the loan to be a first lien against the land ; the advance to any one farmer not to exceed \$1,000 ; the loans to the municipalities to be advanced as the improvements are made.

BUSINESSLIKE SCHEME

"IT IS A BUSINESS LIKE SCHEME AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE WORKABLE IF THERE WERE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PLAN WAS BEING PROPERLY CARRIED OUT. Very probably it would produce immediate returns, and in the five years would add to the country much more wealth than the total amount of the loans.

AN OBJECTION ANSWERED

"The plan might be objected to as savoring of "paternalism," or even a state of socialism. But it is no more paternal or socialistic in principle than is the distribution of seed grain to farmers who have had hard luck, or than the Ontario Hydro-Electric project, of which Sir Robert Borden has spoken in terms of high appreciation."

Mr. Edward Kyle in the Canadian Courier stated : "Farms can be cleared in the clay belt by the unemployed and houses built for them to which their families can be removed from the towns and cities. The majority of the settlers once given a start in the way of house and machinery can be relied upon to discharge their obligations. We have to get through a difficult season to preserve the credit of Canada with working men and women no less than with capitalists and to keep as many good citizens as possible within our borders."