

Agriculture and Industry

The Industrial expansion of the East, and the Agricultural development of the West are necessary one to the other.

With the industrial expansion of the East, there has come increase in population, financial stability and diversity of occupations. What were agricultural or timber lands have been transformed into great cities offering livelihoods for hundreds of thousands, attracting artisans and workers from other countries, growing financially stronger with each decade and becoming more prosperous with the extension of old and development of new industries. The laborer has found his hire and the farmer has realised greatly on an urban expansion which has offered him a steady and growing market for his products, with increasing prices and neither long hauls nor high freight rates to add to his overhead expenses. Truck and garden farming have flourished. Fruit lands have acquired a new value and their cultivation has been richly rewarded. With trade development has come utilisation of natural resources and raw materials which once were shipped to other countries have been turned into finished products at home giving employment to more thousands and scores of thousands in the different processes of manufacture of specific articles. The opportunity of such employment in particular processes has furnished additional attraction for capital and labor.

The history of the city has been the history of the town and the village. As the city has grown into a great national industrial centre its prosperity has been reflected in surrounding communities. The impetus given to industrial activities and the increasing demand for raw materials has resulted in the establishment of primary processes of manufacture in smaller centres. Such manufacturing activities have given employment to increasing populations. The development of natural resources has added to the national wealth and increased the prosperity of communities. With the growth of the town the tradesman, the truck gardener and the farmer have found new markets. So with the village — from an inconsiderable it has grown to a considerable settlement where agriculture is not the only occupation and where there is a variety of work which gives employment to all working members of the family and which offers remuneration in the seasons when the fields can not be cultivated.

As eastern districts and provinces have grown wealthier there has been greater examination into and utilisation of natural resources. New settlements, villages and towns have grown up with the development of mining, fishing and lumbering industries. In 1915 the value of fisheries produced in Canada was over \$31,000,000 and of minerals over \$138,000,000. The development of these industries has meant millions of new wealth for the country, greater opportunities of employment, increased population. It has been the same with the pulp industry. With the increasing utilisation of the immense reserve water powers of the Eastern Provinces there has been extensive rural development. The attractions of cheap power and raw materials have led the manufacturer to erect factories and mills in rural territory thus increasing the industrial activities of the country, and in great centres the decentralisation policy of large manufacturing industries and the establishment of smaller subsidiary plants in rural communities has added further new towns or stimulated the growth of old ones.

Industry has added greatly to the wealth of the East, attracted population, encouraged the utilisation of raw materials and the manufacture of primary and finished products, and stimulated national growth. With the development of resources, the increasing wealth of the country and the influx of population, new areas have been examined and prospected, other agricultural settlements have sprung up, distant territories have been developed and the natural resources of the country have been more and more appreciated and utilised.

The West is in great need of industrial development. The movement for mixed farming gives expression to the realisation that the country cannot depend on grain alone. Neither can it depend on the products of the soil alone. To the upbuilding of a united and prosperous Canada, it is necessary that there should be a manufacturing activity in the West which will give diversity of occupation there, which will offer employment to all members of the family, which will provide remunerative work for the laborer as for

the tiller of the soil, which will make the great prairie areas less dependent on the seasons, which will expedite town and city growth, encourage immigration stimulate investigation and utilisation of natural resources, improve the markets of the farmer, and increase national wealth.

British Columbia offers manufacturing, lumbering, fishing and mineral opportunities equal to those of any State on the Continent. The industrial resources of the prairie Provinces are not so apparent but scientific research is only beginning to indicate the possibilities. The Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for instance, is devoting special attention to the utilisation of the lignites of Western Canada for domestic fuel. Discussing the plans now well advanced for demonstrating the commercial feasibility of carbonising and briquetting such lignites on an industrial scale, Dr. MacCallum, administrative chairman of the Council, says:—

"The success of this project is to be fraught with results which are to be of more importance than the immediate object of it. It will induce private capital to go into this enterprise and eventually several plants may be erected which will supply the half a million tons that will be required to replace the anthracite hitherto imported into Manitoba and Saskatchewan from Pennsylvania, thus retaining in the country about five million dollars, now annually spent abroad for the supply of this fuel. It will blaze the path to the utilisation not only of the 57 billions of tons of lignites of Saskatchewan, but also of the vastly greater quantity of the better grade of this fuel in Alberta. It will inevitably lead, eventually, to a process of utilisation of the quantities of the by-products which result, by-products which now are not highly valued but in the years to come will be the raw materials of great and flourishing industries. Finally it will constitute the first step in the systematic, scientific utilisation of the vast stores of energy locked up in the lignites of the two Provinces, which, are, unlike the other Provinces of the Dominion, scantily supplied with water power."

The value to the West and to the whole Dominion of such industrial development would be immense. It is only one illustration of the manufacturing possibilities of the prairie Provinces. In a memorandum prepared by Dr. W. W. Andrews on behalf of the Regina Board of Trade for the Dominion Royal Commission on the subject of "The Scientific Development of the Natural Resources of Saskatchewan" reference is made to the great opportunities of the western Provinces in regard to industrial development in rural areas in the future. Dr. Andrews points out that the laboratory experiments and analyses in Saskatchewan show that they have clays from which can be produced the finest of egg-shell chinaware, porcelain, pottery glasses, brick and tiles, which only need cheap fuel to enable them to be manufactured on a commercial basis.

It is natural that agriculture should be the great occupation of the prairie Provinces. But the development of industries is essential to the growth and prosperity of the West. The establishment of great manufacturing centres will attract population. The utilisation of raw materials and natural resources will increase wealth. The variety of occupations will give assurance of remunerative work for various kinds of labor throughout the year. The country will prosper in the development of the town and the town in the growth of the city. There will be more wealth for the nation and more money for the farmer and the market gardener. There will be occupation for labor and trade for the corner store. There will be capital and profitable returns for industrial undertakings and there will be the population essential to the successful operation of domestic commercial enterprises.

Surely the value to the West of industrial development cannot be questioned. Surely its industrial possibilities warrant eager and generous support of scientific research. It is strange that there has not been greater appreciation of the identity of interest between the West and the East. It is regrettable that there has not been more sympathetic co-operation and understanding between the agriculturist and the manufacturer. Fortunately there are welcome signs of a vigorous effort for the establishment of closer relations. Chief among these is the programme of the Canadian Reconstruction Association. Raising the bar to national progress that is created through the distrust and misunderstanding between the East and West, it proposes to