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R. A. N. JARVIS,
Manager.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 22nd, 1917

NO MORE HIGH PROFITS FROM BACON

The Commission, consisting of G. F. Henderson, A. B. Brodie and G. F. Clarkson, who were appointed to investigate further the business of the William Davies Company, Ltd., of which Sir Joseph Flavelle was a leading partner, and the Matthews-Blackwell Ltd., more particularly the former, having reported that those companies made exceptionally high profits from bacon, it has been arranged that no such profits can be made by any company in the future. Under the terms of the order-in-council, packers in future can make, by way of profit, a maximum of eleven per cent only. They can retain seven per cent clear and one half of their earnings on the money invested between seven and fifteen per cent. Above fifteen per cent all profits are confiscated.

This order-in-council revolutionizes the bacon business, and will be most acceptable to the public.

The Commission found: "That the profits made during the war period were exceptionally high and yielded an extraordinary return upon the capital invested. In the year 1916 the trading profits of the Davies Company were equal to eighty per cent on its investment in packing house plants and retail stores. War taxes, however, are repayable out of these profits. "That these exceptionally high profits were due to an extraordinary expansion in the volume of business done, as well as to an increase in the percentage of profits earned upon sales.

"That the increase in the volume of business done was almost entirely attributed to the export sales, principally to the British war office. These sales yielded a high percentage of profit.

"That in respect of its export business with the British war office, the Davies Company for a considerable period of time, enjoyed the advantage of a fixed minimum selling price, a concession granted, so far as we could learn, to no other packer. It was suggested during the inquiry that this concession might have been obtained by Sir Joseph Flavelle, whose occupancy of a public position would facilitate his so doing. The evidence of Sir Joseph is that he took no part in the negotiations which resulted in the granting of this concession and the cabled correspondence indicates that it resulted from a business negotiation influenced only by business considerations.

"That the present high price of hog products in Canada is primarily due to the high prices paid by packers for live hogs in Canada.

"That, in considering the present price of bacon in Canada, it must be remembered that the packer has to dispose of the whole animal. During the period of the war it would seem that there has been a larger domestic demand for the choicer cuts such as bacon. As the demand for bacon has increased, the demand for the other parts of the animal have lessened in proportion, thus throwing upon the parts from which bacon is manufactured, an unusual proportion of the cost of the whole.

The Commissioners found the Davies Company's profits in the year ending March, 1914 were \$15521; the next year \$484,631; the next, \$1835484; and for the year ending March 31, 1917, they were \$1624161. While this latter was 89 per cent on the investment, it was less than 4 per cent in the business done.

"It is noteworthy," continues the report, "that, during the period from August 1916 to February 1917 the Davies Company enjoyed the very distinct advantage over its competitors of having a fixed minimum price, which unquestionably gave it great assurance in making its purchases of live hogs."

The Davies Company's chief com-

petitor, the Matthews-Blackwell Company was not aware of the concession granted to the Davies Company but had such confidence in the prospect for higher prices in Great Britain that it met the competition of the Davies Company for live hogs with out hesitation.

Dealing with the statements made by a former employee of the Davies Company to the effect that the company adopted a fraudulent system of keeping bacon intended for shipment to the war office known as the "post cure" the commissioners say that, after a thorough investigation into this subject, no evidence has been adduced which warrants such a suggestion.

The country will be greatly relieved to know that the Union Government has so drastically dealt with the matter of excess profits in these cases, and will have the greatest confidence that the Union administration can be trusted to see that a square deal is given in all lines of business, and that all the energies of the land are given to an honest endeavor to win the war. The hey-day of the extortioner in Canada is at an end.

THE VICTORY LOAN

Money is pouring in for the Victory Loan, showing that our people have the fullest confidence in the government and in ultimate victory. It takes money as well as men to win a war.

THOSE BOOTS WERE GOOD

The Opposition speakers who insinuate that the boots supplied the Canadian forces by Sir Herbert Ames were defective, make a great mistake. All our information, both from the reports of the commission, and from soldiers who have worn these boots—the best evidence possible—is to the effect that Ames supplied good boots. Why make such misstatements?

THEY WILL STAND BY THEIR MEN

There are many ladies who will have a vote in this election—the widows, wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of soldiers. Will they vote to leave their men at the front without any reinforcements, or will they line up solidly for the Union Government that will send 100,000 reinforcements at once.

WHAT MATTERS

Questions of tariff and the dozen of other issues that divided the two parties before the war, while of importance then, are of no consequence now. If Germany wins, she'll set our tariff for us without caring whether it suits us or not. Our business now is to so conduct the war as to obtain a just and honorable and lasting peace. If Canada should quit before the others, what a help both moral and physical to the enemy!

THE WAR

The steady successes of the Allies on the Western front have gradually developed more speed, until the welcome news came this week that the largest and most successful of all British offensives on that front is now in progress. Whatever success the enemy may win on the Roumanian and Albanian fronts the next few

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days and even in Italy, will not win the war for them. It is on the western front and on the sea that the decision must be won, and in these spheres the Allies are apparently decidedly superior. There is, however, on account of the breaking up of Russia, no sign of an early peace. The 100,000 young men whom Canada is sending over to Europe as reinforcements to them who have so far borne the brunt of the campaign will all be needed. Great Britain and Ireland and France, our glorious mother countries, need every ounce of help Canada can give. May no result of the coming election be such as to dishearten the brave boys at the front.

OTHER OPINIONS

THE MEANING OF BOURASSAISM.

The Catholic Register, Toronto, is under no illusions as to the meaning of Bourassaism. After analyzing carefully and exposing the fallacies of a recent article in Le Devoir from the pen of the Nationalist leader, The Register says: "Mr Bourassa is using all the talents which God gave him, whether he knows it or not, in the self-assumed task of isolating his native Province, and of turning minds and wills against the service and welfare of their country."

WHAT THEY THINK IN BRITAIN

(Ottawa Journal)

Formation of Union Government in Canada is being acclaimed in Britain as evidence that Canadians are determined to sustain the loyal effort with which they entered upon the war. Thus, the London Times, after a lengthy review of the circumstances which made coalition possible and a splendid tribute to the perseverance and patriotism which Sir Robert Borden displayed through out the long and trying negotiations which preceded Union, concludes:

"The whole effort of Canada will more than ever be concentrated on

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the work of the war. - The great thing is that the firm resolve of the mass of the Canadians to meet to the utmost all the stern demands of war has been unmistakably revealed."

And the Westminster Gazette, the

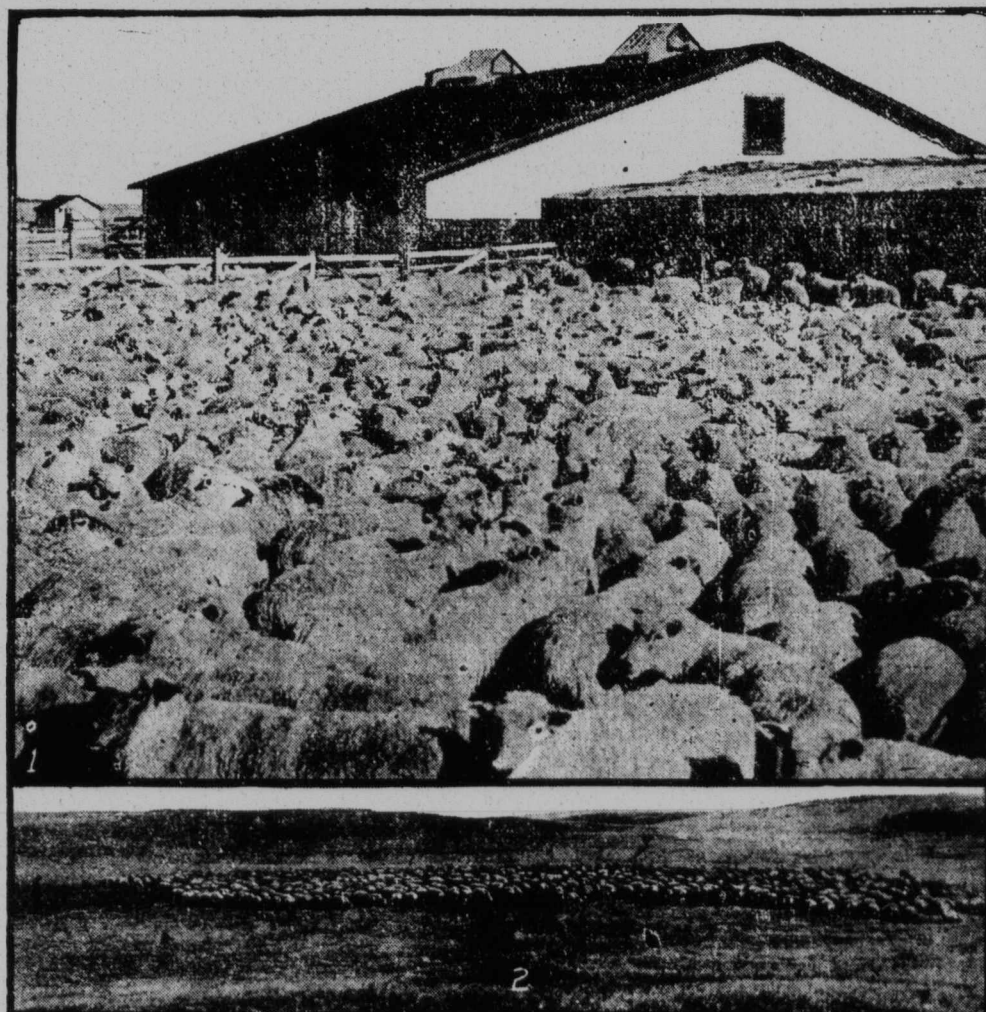
foremost organ of British Liberalism predicting that Union Government "is certain to carry a large majority of the constituencies in the general election," agrees with the Times that:

"The formation of the coalition is

at least a sign that the larger portion of the population of Canada is prepared to devote all its energy to the war and that it will stand at no sacrifice to make good to the end the part it has so gallantly played."

(Continued on page 8)

PROFITABLE SHEEP RAISING



THERE is not the least doubt that Western Canada is steadily building a reputation as a wool-producing country. The opportunities it affords for the profitable breeding and rearing of sheep are unsurpassed in any part of the world. An abundance of suitable food of all kinds is available all over the country, while climatic and other conditions are exceedingly favorable. Almost any line of sheep husbandry may be followed successfully in the Prairie Provinces of Canada. On the range sheep breeding and rearing is an extremely profitable industry, especially in those districts where conditions are not well suited to ordinary agriculture.

That the farmer is more and more realizing the value of a small flock of sheep on his farm is shown by the increasing number of participants at the co-operative wool sales each year. Throughout the west this has been noticed at practically all the sales. In some cases, notably at Calgary, Alberta, there has been a greater number of participants, and less wool offered than last year, but this is due to the fact that the larger breeders have been induced to sell their wool independently, so that practically all the wool offered for sale came from small farmers, who are obtaining as big returns in this line as in any other. At other places there has been an increase, both in the number of participants and in the quality of the wool offered.

It seems safe to say that within a few years the whole world will be looking to Western Canada, and especially to Alberta, for high class sheep. The prices now being obtained for wool by those who were foresighted enough to go in for sheep rearing, either on a large or a small scale, has opened the eyes of farmers

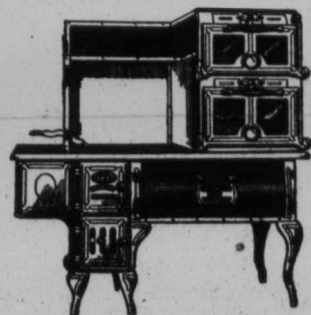
all over the west to its possibilities. Those who have small flocks are using every effort to improve the quality of their wool, and larger breeders are leaving nothing undone in their endeavors to improve their stock, and are sparing no expense to this end. One of the leading breeders after trying all over Canada and the United States, and failing also to get what he required in Australia, recently purchased 250 full blooded ewes and 10 full blooded rams of the Romney Marsh breed from England, paying \$125 each for the ewes and \$500 each for the rams. A few years ago this same breeder brought in several hundred Rambouillet ewes, and later purchased at the Panama-Pacific Exposition some prize winning Romneys. The crossing of these two breeds has produced a strain which, it is claimed, is admirably suited to Western Canada in every way. Altogether, this breeder has

(1) On an Alberta sheep ranch.
(2) A shepherd can mind hundreds of sheep.
(3) Sheep raised on irrigated land.

spent \$100,000 in full blooded stock, which is evidence of his faith in the possibilities of this industry in Western Canada. As to his returns, he had this year 500 ram lambs of the Romney-Rambouillet cross, estimated to be worth between \$40 and \$50 each, and for which there is a great demand; he has also sent 101,000 pounds of wool to the Government warehouse at Toronto.

Already there is talk about dollar wool. Whether or not this price will be attained is difficult to say at the present time, but it seems certain that the present prices will obtain for some time in the future, and when it is considered that sheep can be raised very profitably with wool at half its present price, to say nothing about the price of mutton, it is easy to understand that those who were foresighted enough to go into the business some years ago are now literally making their fortunes.

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