

dant both in Western and in Eastern Canada. In this connection inquiry should be made as to the means by which and the lines upon which the Federal Government, whether upon its own sole initiative or in co-operation with Provincial Governments can best carry out an effective scheme of colonization.



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OUR SOLDIER CITIZENS

The return to Canada, after the conclusion of the war, of the Canadian troops now gallantly fighting beyond the seas for our Empire and the probable immigration into Canada of other British soldiers and of men from the allied armies, after peace shall have been established, should also engage the attention of the proposed Commission in order that every reasonable opportunity through the assistance and co-operation of the Federal and Provincial Governments may be afforded to those who may seek employment.

The Prime Minister further observes that the question of transportation whether by land or water carriage is for reasons above indicated closely connected with the problems under consideration. With this should be considered the advantages which would undoubtedly be derived from permanent improvement of highways which are in truth an important part of our transportation system.

The approaching completion of two additional transcontinental railways is a very important element in our transportation problem. It has been represented to the Government that their construction has considerably anticipated the present capacity of the Dominion to provide traffic for trunk lines; while on the other hand important portions of newly settled territory are without the facilities which would be afforded by branch lines incident to a more carefully considered system of

railway development. The condition thus created invites the careful attention of the Commission.

As Canada has been and will be for many years a borrowing country requiring capital for extending and developing its agricultural and manufacturing industries, and as the securing of capital at reasonable rates of interest is essential for increased production and continued progress, this subject should also be taken into consideration. It is to be observed that no proposal which would deter capital from seeking investment in this country, or which would unfairly affect that already invested under established conditions, would in the final result assist Canadian producers in any branch of industry.

It seems reasonable that under the conditions which have developed during the past six months opportunities will arise for widening and extending our markets to the advantage not only of Canada but of the countries and communities with which trade may thus be created or extended. The steps

a greater Canada than its greatest friends have ever dreamt of. There never was an opportunity like the present. There never was a subject so worthy of the very best of Canadian heart and brains, and we take comfort in the feeling that there probably never was a more capable team hitched on to anything of the kind as we find in the personnel of this court of inquiry.

Senator Loughheed, leader of the Dominion Government in the Senate will be chairman of the new commission, and associated with him will be St. J. B. Rowland, of Montreal; W. Smith, M.P. for South Ontario; Dr. J. G. Rutherford, formerly Dominion veterinary-general, and now superintendent agricultural section Canadian Pacific Railway Company Resources Branch; J. C. Watters, president of the Trades and Labor congress; Wm. Farrell, of Victoria; E. N. Hopkins, of Moose Jaw, hon. president Sask. Grain Growers; J. W. Flavell, of Toronto; and Senator W. B. Ross, of Nova Scotia.

The Farmer

It isn't just sowing the right kind of seeds
That wins; for good seeds may be sown
In soil that may give up its life unto weeds
Which claim the seed bed as their own;
It isn't the skimming o'er many broad fields
That brings home the bacon and bread;
It isn't the numskull that gets the big yields—
'Tis the farmer who uses his head.

already taken by the Government for that purpose would be brought to the attention of the Commission and their consideration invited."

Here is a programme of work big enough and broad enough for any combination of genius that can be set to work upon it. It outlines a reason for investigation that more than justifies what may have to be spent upon it—always provided that the government will immediately, and with all the energy of which it is capable, give effect to the finding of these men.

What's the use of delegating a representative expert body of men to inquire into certain conditions if when they have presented their facts and their no doubt unanimous judgment on these facts they are politely thanked and told that "we will consider your finding, gentlemen, in due course."

There have been too many expensive and fruitless "commissions." Let this one be given all the string our national purse will let out, but let its fruit be seen in

W. J. Black, formerly principal of the Manitoba Agricultural College, has been appointed secretary to the commission.

It had been the intention of Sir Robert Borden to appoint the late Sir Wm. Van Horne as head of the commission, and but for the subsequent illness and death of Sir William the commission had been in full swing long before this date. The premier is to be congratulated, however, on his appointment of Senator Loughheed to fill the position—as indeed on every member who will serve under the Senator.

Of our Western men on the commission who are of some account to what is after all the asset of the country (agriculture) we rejoice to see the names of Dr. Rutherford, E. N. Hopkins and of Professor Black. The success of any scheme of the kind while it is operative lies to a great extent with the secretary. Mr. Black's lifelong experience in agriculture, his long term as principal of Manitoba Agricultural College and his gluttonous appetite for hard work eminently fits him for his part

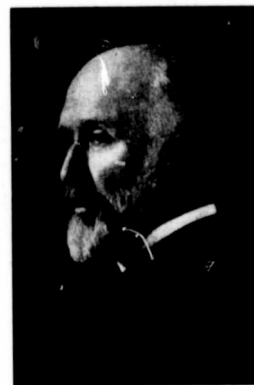
of the job which will in this case be no sinecure.

Dr. Rutherford's record is as well known as that of any of our Canadian public men. Mr. Hopkins first of all is a conspicuously successful farmer, and his identity with the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, his fine record of real work for the farmers while he was president of that association will disarm all criticism on the part of the producing interests as to the composition of this board of inquiry.

The operations of this commission will be watched with unusual interest. Its programme is bristling with interest—every item in it being a subject of the most vital import to the future of the Dominion. Some natural curiosity will hover around the thought—"are the men all big enough and round enough to do their work with a strictly impartial regard to the national interest and not as it appears to them from one side or another of a political blind wall?"

Candidly that suggests where there will be at least some gnawing doubts in the public mind. As to the personal character, ability and ripe experience of every individual of the commission there is probably not the shadow of a misgiving, but have they—all of them or any of them—so far emerged from the ingrained weakness of Canadian public men as to be able to swear to their own satisfaction: "Whatever happens, I will be true to the state?"

What a chance for these men by simple honesty of purpose to distinguish themselves and earn the undying gratitude of all who will follow them. As the old camp-meeting optimist said to his congregation: "Gemmen—look not mournfully into de past of your fo'fathers. Dey is doin'



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time right enough now fo' der own sins. De future am befoh you as clean as de whitest snow and dere is a time comin' that hab neber been yet."