

FOOD PRODUCTION NECESSARY

According to the information available in Winnipeg it is stated there will not be very many soldiers take advantage of the opportunity provided by the military authorities to assist in seeding this spring. The Manitoba immigration agent at St. Paul, Minn., also reports that there is not liable to be a very large number of men come from the South to work on the farms of Manitoba. Whether the soldiers quartered at Western points will more readily accept the offers to work on the farms for a month remains to be seen. It is quite evident, however, that there will be a shortage of help during seeding time. This situation should be considered by the military authorities. We have been given to understand, not only by Canadian statesmen, but also by the leaders in the allied countries, that sufficient food supplies are quite as necessary as ammunition in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. If this be true—and no one yet has denied it—it is certainly not advisable to cripple unnecessarily farming operations in Canada. It will be remembered that at the outbreak of the war many of the soldiers recruited and sent to the front were afterwards brought back to take their places as skilled laborers in the munition factories. Our wheat growing farms are in reality munition factories and it would be unfortunate if they should be seriously crippled and not able to perform their necessary part in the conduct of the war. No part of Canada has responded more nobly to the call to arms than the Prairie Provinces and they will undoubtedly continue to do their part to the very end, but at the same time there should be consideration given to the very important problem of food production.

THE TORONTO NEWS' LAMENT

In commenting on the organization of the Free Trade League, The Toronto News, which is the chief organ of the high protectionists, says that if the work of the Free Trade League is successful;

"Hundreds of thousands of Canadian workmen would be impoverished or driven into exile. The farmers of Canada would lose their most valuable home market and be exposed at the same time to the unobstructed competition of a world of agriculturists."

This is the sum and substance of the argument which The Toronto News has always advanced in favor of a protective tariff. But The News has never been able to give any facts or figures in support of its argument. The cream separator industry and the binder twine industry have flourished and developed in Canada for many years under absolute free trade and the wages paid in these free trade factories have been quite as high as the wages paid in protected factories. Furthermore, these factories were all compelled to pay tariff enhanced prices on all their machinery and equipment. If they had absolute free trade on everything they had to buy, the binder twine and cream separator industries would now be even more prosperous than they are. Thousands of other factories such as newspaper plants, clay working plants, stone quarries and numerous others by their very nature cannot benefit whatever from the protective tariff. Many hundreds of factories in Canada have been closed and their employees thrown out of work thru the establishment of mergers and unfair competition which could only develop under the shelter of our protective tariff. If The Toronto News were honest it would give some of these facts.

In regard to the home market which The Toronto News always enlarges upon it is ridiculous to suppose that it would be destroyed. Free Trade would not injure any of our legitimate industries, but might restrict the development of "hot-house" industries which are a burden upon the people of Canada. When we consider that the wheat crop of Canada last year was very close to 400,000,000 bushels and that the entire home consumption would not be over 60,000,000 bushels the value of the home market becomes more of a question. The chief market for Canadian farm produce is, has been and will be for the next 25 years, outside of Canada, and the

prices in Canada will be regulated by those that are paid outside showing that the home market is of very little advantage in giving a better price to Canadian producers. Canadian farmers can easily meet competition in their own line if they are allowed to buy and sell to the best advantage.

About three-years ago we received from a subscriber in Saskatchewan something to this effect:—

"If you don't stop advocating woman suffrage in your paper you can cancel my subscription. I don't believe in it. My wife gets The Guide and reads your articles to me at the supper table and it makes things very unpleasant in my house."

In reply we informed this gentleman that it would hardly be consistent for The Guide to advocate a square deal for the men and to refuse to advocate a square deal for the women, and that he could cancel his subscription if he felt so inclined. Evidently he saw the light because he is still a subscriber and the women have the vote.

We receive a tremendous number of letters, articles, etc., sent in for publication. Only a fraction of them can possibly be used. Those who wish their unused letters and MSS. returned must remember to enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope for the purpose, otherwise they will not be returned.

After the war we will have a new crop of millionaires who have been engaged in making war munitions for the defence of the Empire. In their patriotic fervor they have been satisfied with from 200 per cent to 400 per cent profit. After the war they will no doubt be given a title and a large number of them will be put in the Senate. This is one of the beautiful methods by which we build up a democracy in Canada.

It costs \$100,000. a year to publish The Guide, or about \$3.00 for each subscriber. We ask the subscriber to pay \$1.50 and the advertiser to pay \$1.50. A lot of our subscribers have failed to pay their \$1.50 this year.



"IT'S OUR OWN BOY!"