

GROWTH of CANADA'S EXPORT, DUE TO THE WAR



The Mail Bag

Farmers in Urgent Need

Editor, Guide: I should like to venture a few remarks on what I have heard as to the extremely awkward position many farmers in parts of the West will be placed owing to their entire income for the year being cut off. In speaking on this matter with a manager today he said the policy of the banks was to see their customers through during the next 15 months. On pressing him as to what that statement meant he was not prepared to name any definite sum, and when I suggested \$100 per month he considered the amount quite out of reason.

My opinion is that you cannot find a hired man today under \$50, but from what I gathered he seemed to take a depreciatory value on the ordinary securities held, viz., cattle, horses, hogs, etc., and that although he might be covered three or four times over for any advances made yet now we have no right to expect any further advances, and anything they might do would be more or less of a charitable nature. They can surely hardly expect a farmer to go begging them for an advance of a few dollars every month to buy food and clothing for his family, for as I pointed out the position of the country is perfectly sound, but for some months there will be no buyer, and if we get a normal crop 1919, then this calamity will be forgotten.

I think the banks should be warned through the press that anything approaching charity should be sternly repressed. We, as farmers, have every right to look to the banks so long as they are secured to carry us to the extent of their funds, but beyond that again, we look to the federal government to tide us over. The mere providing seed for next year is not sufficient; they, in a way, should be standing behind the banks, as you well know the government, the bank, the press and general public have all been urging on the farmer to do his utmost for the war; the price was fixed at a minimum and based on no risks, no failures, no doubling and trebling of wages, machinery, railway rates, etc., etc., and numberless farmers loaded themselves with debts to do their bit for "war bread."

Now, Sir, I certainly think that the government should help us out. What would the inhabitants of a whole city do if their means of existence was as suddenly cut off as ours is? Also, in considering the fixing of a maximum price for grain, we live in Canada, and have no reason to be bound by the U.S.A. Look at our risks in this far northern climate. Take any five years for one man and I think he will tell you that he has had at least one crop failure and one frosted in each five year term, and certainly next year this failure will have to be made up in an enhanced price.—A Farmer, Alta.

German Language Newspapers

Editor, Guide: With reference to the letter of Wm. Van Vliet, printed in a recent issue of The Guide, I ask you to print the subjoined extract from the book "My Four Years in Germany," by Mr. Gerard, the former United States Ambassador to Germany, who holds strongly the conviction that no newspaper in the United States should be allowed to be printed in the

German language. He gives as one of his reasons an incident that happened while he was in Berlin, and then sets forth the attitude of the German government and people on the subject:—

There happened to be walking on Friedrich-Strasse, in Berlin, an American Hebrew. He was accompanied by his wife and was talking in the English language to her.

A German officer heard the talk and stabbed the woman, with his bayonet, in the head. I obtained the officer's number and reported the matter to the foreign office, but nothing was ever done about it.

They permitted, after war had broken, one English newspaper in Germany. That was the Continental Times. It fulfilled its mission and that was to prisoners. The paper was freely circulated among them.

No American, let alone an Englishman, dared speak his own language after the war broke out.

Then why should we permit German newspapers here? The fact that we still permit them to publish of course reaches German ears, and they still cling to the idea, because of such things, that there is a great party strongly opposed to President Wilson.

Such things only foster the idea in the German mind that there really is over here that great army of 500,000 loyalists about which they boasted to me and others.

The American Printer, after quoting the above words of Mr. Gerard, says:—

German types have become repugnant to the average patriotic American. To him they are the types that gloried in the sinking of the Lusitania, that approved the rape of Belgium, that placed an O.K. on the whole damnable German plan to ruin and rule the world.

The points on the top of the letters are to him the spiked helmets of the brutes who crucified the Canadian soldiers, dangled Belgian children on their bayonets, sighted their guns at the Rheims Cathedral, took young French women into slavery, and are now mutilating the bodies of dead American soldiers.

Americans feel this way about it, and there is only one answer.

Have Canadians, I ask, any reason to feel different?—Canadian, Winnipeg.

Problems of Organized Farmers

Editor, Guide: One of the problems that continually arises in the Farmers' organization is the attitude that the organization should take in political controversies. It is a popular delusion on the part of farmers that in order to secure the things for which they are organized they should form a political party, the farmers' organizations on this continent have heretofore given up their existence in their efforts along these lines.

In an address delivered by the writer before the U.F.A. Convention some years ago, we dwelt upon this subject, and while this letter does not permit us to go into the matter at length, we still believe that what we said then is sound. The U.F.A. should learn from the history of farmers' organizations that have preceded it.

Historical Warning

The great Farmers' Alliance movement in the States developed into the Populist party. The platform, historically known as the "Omaha Platform," adopted at the First Annual Convention in 1890, advocated principles that were new to the politics of that day.

The major portion of these principles was afterwards enacted into the law chiefly by the Democratic party. This platform was conceived in the minds of the leaders of the farmers' organizations. Several Congressmen were elected upon it, and several States, for a short

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