

published in The Guide of March 22, when he says: "I am not a high protectionist, but I do think we require a tariff in this country. I think it is the only practical way of raising our revenue. If any government would even make the suggestion to change our system and raise revenue by direct taxation, I do not believe it would last twenty-four hours." Every right-minded citizen knows and approves of the fact, that it is necessary for him to pay his proportion of the country's revenue, and I think those who follow Mr. Harris' line of argument under rate the intelligence of the average taxpayer, when they place him on a par with the good woman who wants to purchase a dollar clock and thinks she gets it for nothing when it is "presented" to her by her grocer with 10 pounds of tea at 40 cents, when a rudimentary knowledge of the commercial law of profit and loss would soon show her the value of the tea cannot be more than 30 cents per pound. But admitting for the moment the advisability of paying in this disguised form, how is it possible to arrange a plan by which everyone pays according to his ability? If you tax coffee and similar articles which we are forced to import, the millionaire will probably consume little more than the laborer, and consequently pay no more taxes. But I imagine I hear some one suggest taxing the luxuries of the rich, precious stones, silks, etc.; but even then you must allow them the option of purchasing them or not, which is equivalent to allowing them to use their own discretion as to whether they contribute to the country's revenue or not, which appears to me anything but just, and it seems to me it is time to call a spade a spade, and tax everyone according to their possessions and ability.

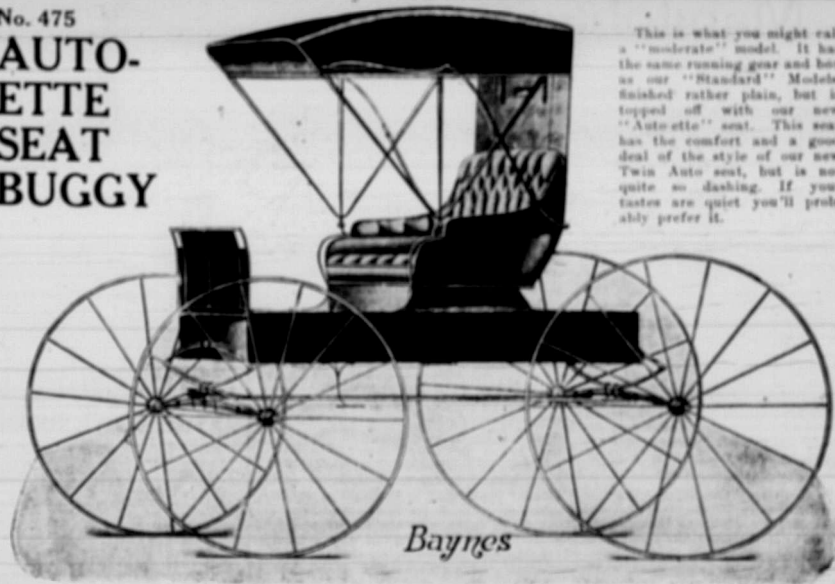
Blackfoot, Alta. F. B. SULMAN.

CANADA'S FUTURE AND CO-OPERATION

Editor, Guide.—There is a crucial period in the history of nations, as of individuals, a time when a wrong decision, a lost opportunity may divert the stream of national progress into channels too narrow and dangerous for the expansion of future years. Canada today stands on the threshold of new conditions and experiences with a past replete with achievements and a prosperous future in full view. It is my firm belief that Canada by the end of the next four decades shall have a population of fifty millions of people, or about ten millions greater than the present population of the British Isles, and before this century is out she will have one hundred millions within her borders, and be the greatest nation within the greatest empire the world has ever known. In order to substantiate this belief let me give you a few facts. The immigration into Canada today equals that of the United States twelve years ago, with its magnetic power of seventy millions of people, and the immigration into the Republic has never risen above 1½ per cent. of its population. While that of Canada for the past five years has been between four and five per cent. In 1910 three hundred and thirty-five thousand people came to Canada and at the present rate of increase by the end of ten years we should have an annual immigration of over a million souls. In view of these facts it is up to us as individuals and as a nation to get busy, make broad sound laws and see that they are enforced, form good and human customs and stand by them, so that the new comer when he arrives may find it as easy as possible to make a comfortable home, which is the birthplace of a nation. The wealth of a nation consists not in the annual output of millions and multi-millions, who as a rule spend the bulk of their money and time in foreign countries or foreign pursuits, but consists in the moral standing and purchasing powers of the consumer and producer. The majority of people have an idea, though baseless, that high prices indicate a scarcity of money, but a short study of the laws governing economic conditions will show that the reverse is true. It has also been proven that when the prices of the necessities of life are highest, labor is the last to benefit by the rise and the first to suffer by the consequences. Another erroneous belief

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general with the consumers is that the farmers are responsible for the high prices of food. To prove that this is not the case, let us examine the statements of Mr. Wilson, secretary of agriculture for the United States, where market conditions are similar to ours. In order to ascertain the cause of high prices and fix the responsibility, Mr. Wilson made a careful investigation of the retail prices in 78 of the largest cities and compared them with the prices the consumers got. In this way it was shown that the producer on an average got less than 50 per cent. of the price that the consumer paid, the rest went to the carrier, wholesaler and retailer. In Mr. Wilson's crop report of 1910 the value of agricultural products for the United States reached the enormous amount of \$18,926,000,000. If the 6,000,000 farmers of that country who have done the hard work were the recipients of this vast sum, we might envy them; but the men who get the profits are the men who control the prices and make life's necessities a source of speculation. Mr. Wilson's solution of the question is for the producer and consumer to get closer together and form co-operative buying and selling societies similar to those of Great Britain, Denmark, Switzerland and other European countries. But it seems to me that before commercial co-operation can be brought to a successful finish we must have the very best that is in each of us for the uplifting of the nation and the purification of the political life of the Dominion. The latter could be best accomplished by a system of Direct Legislation which would give the producer and consumer a chance to enact laws more favorable to commercial co-operation. Then with these advantages we could install a system of government or public owned abattoirs and cold storage facilities. And in the cities and towns throughout the country we could have large departmental stores when all articles and goods would be sold on the co-operative plan. The money saved by this system in fuel, floor space, light and freight rates, would go a long way in paying for the buildings. By the introduction of co-operative banking societies similar to those of Denmark and Switzerland we could practically eliminate the credit system.

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