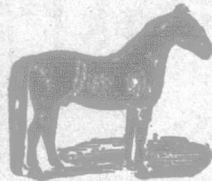


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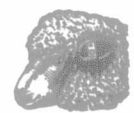
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We are emerging from the greatest war in all history, when all trade and commerce have been distributed, and when we can almost say that the world was, and is, up-side-down. Wisdom and experience are needed. It takes time to develop both. People living in the cities need to understand the farmers' problems much better than they have done heretofore, and the farmers need to know about the labor and city problems. Selfishness must be put aside. We are living in a period when all Canadians, whether on the farm or in the city, need to take broad national and international views. We must study and practice what is constructive—not destructive.

Strict party politics is a back number. The war has forced parties to get together in England, France and Italy, as well as in Canada. Union Government in most nations has taken the place of parties. In years gone by, politics has meant, in many cases, an easy job, with easy money, not applied simply to the members of parliament but to the officials, especially to the hangers-on and to government contractors. Times have changed, as some old-time politicians have discovered. The education and experience that fitted men for leadership years ago, are not sufficient to-day. Since that date, Canada has grown; Canals, terminal facilities on the Great Lakes, rivers and oceans, for our steamships, and various other needed improvements, necessary for the trade and commerce of a growing country, have been built.

NATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS.

Railroads, some wise and others very unwise, have been built, largely at the country's expense. Railroads, through wildernesses to the Pacific Ocean—not needed for another generation, and toward the Hudson Bay, that never will be needed, have been built, or partially built.

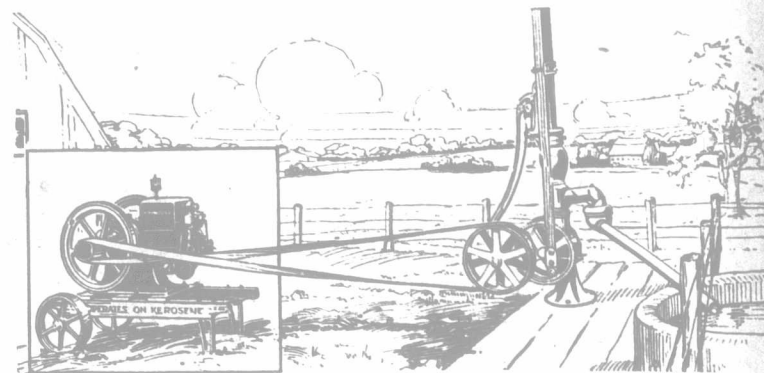
There is no use closing our eyes to these facts, nor to the fact that our Dominion Government is going to try and run a great system of railroads in Canada. All experience in Canada, United States and Great Britain, prove that Government roads are inevitably run at great loss, and the Canadian people must meet this loss. It will take time—much time—for new leaders to study and master these, and many other problems which have come and are coming upon Canada. It is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will not make any radical changes, either in the tariff or in anything else, until trade has had time to develop into a sound and settled condition, and it will not be settled until the labor and financial problems, which affect trade, have been adjusted. The old farmer's advice—"Never swap horses when you are crossing a stream" is good advice to-day.

You know all about our present large Dominion loans and debts and prospective debts, and hear the daily talk about financial affairs and taxes, and more debts and deficits, and the prospect of further taxes.—How shall Canada solve and meet these problems? We must face our difficulties; our great debts and probable losses. Meanwhile, it is the duty, the absolute duty of every citizen of Canada, to practice economy and patience, until we get out of the woods. Money in Canada is plentiful, but it is borrowed money, and, therefore, we have no business to spend it carelessly. We should act wisely, save up, and pay our debts like honest citizens. If the high cost of living makes real solid, lasting prosperity, without veneer, or camouflage, then never has all Canada been so prosperous in material things as it is to-day.

Farmers meet here with an air of real prosperity, but, beneath it, there are serious inquiries, and an honest desire to know the truth about the starving people of Europe, as well as the real value of the dollar. Millions of dollars were spent in the cities and in the country during December and Christmas, for unnecessary articles, many imported from the United States. No wonder our dollar is worth only about 90 cents in New York, and that it hardly pays for what we formerly obtained for 50 cents. There is too much paper money afloat and not enough gold behind it. What would you think of a farmer, who owns a farm worth, say, \$15,000, but with a mortgage on it of

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