

PLAN FOR READY-MADE FARMS

Outline of a Scheme Suggested by a Practical Old Timer

Mr. Henry Lye, the well-known fire insurance adjuster of Vancouver, has issued a pamphlet in regard to the coming requirements of Canada, particularly after the war. He has had conversations and discussions with survivors of the Napoleonic, the Crimean and the Boer Wars, as well as the defenders of Canada in the Riel and Fenian Raid difficulties. He has been on business matters in nearly every town and village in Ontario and Quebec, and in every city from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to Prince Rupert in British Columbia, as well as most of those from Southern Indiana to Connecticut and northwestward to Michigan. He has noted the changes, the progress, the drawbacks and the failures brought about by individual effort, associations and legislation; therefore he has some qualifications for discussing this subject.

Settlement of Land.

Here is the general outline of Mr. Lye's plan for settlement of the land:—

"Select a section of the province in which the land is good and the labor in bringing it into a state for cultivation not too great; lay out central roads wide enough for ordinary purposes for present use, and ultimately for trolley, telephone and telegraph lines. At about every five miles lay out a village centre with quarter-acre lots, one for each settler, each one being entitled to the occupancy of a conveniently situated ten-acre lot, and in the rear of these latter 40 other acres, to be held subject to utilization, all unalienable for say ten years, and then only to the extent of the improvements made by the settler.

"The village sites should be where good water and proper drainage will be available; each village should have reserve lots for schools and rest houses, as well as public halls, which can be used for religious purposes; no house should be within 100 feet of any other building, so that there be little danger of the spread of fires.

Building Up a Community.

"The settlers will not all be agriculturists, but should all have the same rights to buildings and lands; the blacksmith, the tailor and the other necessary mechanics would exchange work with the farmer, *et al.*, the idea being the general co-operation in the labor, the purchase of supplies, tools and appliances; the marketing of produce, etc.

"At, say, every third village, a doctor could locate with reasonable chance of success and availability. As the land, the buildings and the preparations generally would be by the government or under their control, all the expenditures should be made under competent superintendents with the power and duties of magistrates, who should be continued as general advisors of the settlers over a district of, say, ten miles in each direction; visiting every village at least once a month, but with stated days and hours for local duties in his own office.

Places for Soldiers.

"There should be no liquor licenses or importations. Each village should have its crippled veteran or soldier's widow as postmaster or mistress, who should have charge of the village hall, rest house for travellers and library, the libraries being interchanged annually. The doctors would be coroners, so that their fees would assist in their maintenance.

"The properties being unalienable, there would be no rush of speculators nor any non-resident proprietors; every settler would have inducement to promote the general welfare and the promotion of the social educational and religious organizations, so that the communities should be generally contented and prosperous. As to the religious organizations, so far as possible, each village settlement should be of one sect, so that the meetings may be regular and the stipends paid without outside begging.

Real Settlers Wanted.

"So far as practicable, all the officials should be selected from the returned soldiers. It has been objected that the settlers should be allowed to sell their holdings and take the proceeds to parts unknown, but this would mean speculation and realization of assets which the vendors had not

provided; it would mean non-resident proprietors, vacant allotments and general decay.

"If a settler wants to leave, the properties should revert to the organization which had provided them, who could at once introduce new settlers. It is real settlers we want. As to the preparation, most of them can be made by the aliens interned. The clearing of the village sites and the ten-acre plots can be done by an organization, with machinery at a very small percentage of the cost by isolated manual labor; the clearing being done before the settlement means the immediate planting and production of crops. It is crops we want; and if these can be secured a few years earlier by the previous preparation, the province will be all the richer. Indeed it would pay the province to do the initial clearing for agriculturists, present as well as prospective, in order to hasten 'the good time coming.'"

CANADIAN PRODUCTION GREATER

Heavier Output from Mines and Fisheries as Well as Farms Last Year

That the results of the greater production campaign in Canada exceed the most sanguine hopes is the statement made in a report issued by the commission of conservation.

The idea has generally prevailed that greater production meant an increase only in the wheat crop and other agricultural products, but its effects have been much more far-reaching. True, Canada harvested a wheat crop estimated at over 336,000,000 bushels, more than double that of the previous year, and 45 per cent. more than any previous wheat crop in her history. The dairy industry also sent from the port of Montreal butter and cheese valued at \$23,705,000, exceeding the exports of 1914 by over \$5,000,000.

But the results in other industries were as striking, to quote the report: "In mineral production Canada has made numerous advances. Copper and zinc refining plants have been established at Trail, B.C., and are treating native ores. Improvements have been made in certain steels to enable them to be used for shell purposes. Improvements have also been made in the concentration of molybdenum ores, the molybdenum being used in the manufacture of big gun-linings and high-speed lathe tools.

Metals Used in Shells.

"The recovery of benzol from by-product coke ovens has been developed. Benzol is used in the manufacture of explosives. In western Canada the discovery of phosphate of lime in Rocky Mountains Park should prove of great value to the agricultural interests."

The following figures furnish a comparison between the quantities of the different metals used in the manufacture of the 22 million shells, for which orders have been placed in Canada, with our production of such metals in 1913: "steel used, 400,000 tons. In 1913, it was estimated that the production of iron ore in Canada, 307,634 tons, did not exceed 5 per cent. of country's requirements of iron in that year.

"Zinc used, contained in brass, 11,200,000 pounds. No zinc was refined in Canada in 1913, but the exports of metallic zinc in ore shipped amounted to slightly over seven million pounds.

"Copper used, 55 million pounds. Total production in 1913 was about 77 million pounds and all of it was exported for refining.

"Lead, 101,760,000 pounds. The production in 1913 was about 37,665,000 pounds, of which over 97 per cent. was recovered as refined lead.

Fisheries Received Attention.

"Canada's fisheries have received especial attention, not only in the production, but in the marketing, both on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts advances have been made. Due to conditions brought about by the war, Canada last year placed her fish upon the British market, and it is hoped that some species may be permanently established there."

The total value of primary production (crops, forests, mines and fisheries) last year was given in the annual number of *The Monetary Times*, January 7, at \$1,123,160,535, compared with \$975,380,006 in 1914.