

industry, and, as already observed, on the labours of the countryman depend the whole strength and health, nay, the very existence of society.

#### "THERE IS SOMETHING ROTTEN"

"There is something rotten in the State of Denmark" But, whatever the wrong, it is not in agriculture. There, the children are brought up to be farmers. There, agriculture has been highly developed to a state of great perfection, and there, the Danish Government has realized that agriculture is the fundamental industry of the Nation, and Denmark's national policy is based on this important fact.

There is something rotten in the State of Canada! Can it be that the wrong lies in the fact that our governments have not realized that agriculture is the basic industry of Canada? Is Canada's one time National Policy based on an erroneous foundation? Agriculture is of more importance to the Nation than any other industry. Have our governments realized that national wealth, happiness and moral strength depend on it?

In Canada in normal times most things which the Canadian farmer buys are purchased at the world's dearest retail prices and most of the things he sells are disposed of for less than the world's cheapest wholesale prices.

The channel from the grower to the consumer has, either through indifference or design, been made needlessly costly and complicated. Brokers, warehousemen, wholesalers and retailers are linked together by common interest in letting nothing interfere with the toll they levy on the farmer. Those farm products which have to go through various steps to reach the consumer have in recent years been largely controlled by combinations which have erected dams in the current flowing from the country to the cities. These dams give the power to manipulate prices that are becoming more and more a source of anxiety to the nation and of political unrest on the part of the farmers of this country. To distribute milk costs as much as the farmer obtains for producing it. Nothing gives the farmer more anxiety than the power to control prices possessed by the milling and meat-packing combines.

The average cost of distributing and selling farm products is greater than the sum paid the farmer for growing them, and this is due largely to inefficient chaotic methods and equipment which are half a century behind the times and one of the greatest menaces to rural progress.

Agriculture will never be in a satisfactory condition if the farmer is relegated to the position of a manual worker on his land; if he is denied the right of a manufacturer to buy the raw materials of his industry on trade terms: if other people are to deal with his raw materials, his milk, cream, fruit, vegetables, live stock, grain, and other produce; and if these capitalist middle agencies are to manufacture the farmers' raw material into butter, bacon, or whatever else, are to do all the marketing and export, paying farmers what they please on the one hand, and charging the public as much as they can on the other hand. The existence of these middle agencies is responsible for a large proportion of the increased cost of living, which is the most acute domestic problem of modern industrial communities. They have too much power over the farmer and are too expensive a luxury for the consumer. We must bear in mind what is too often forgotten, that farmers are manufacturers, and as such are entitled to buy the raw materials for their industry at wholesale prices.

The right of an individual to subsistence should not be subject to the good will of any other individual. Yet in Canada to-day our fundamental and national industry has been limited and dwarfed by a policy which benefits the few to the detriment of the many. It is rational statesmanship to co-ordinate the wheels of industry. No country as an agricultural country can be complete in itself. There are two main currents of economic energy—the agricultural and the urban. These must be made to flow so that their action will not defeat each other. If agriculture is neglected in any country the rural population pours into the towns. Rural labour has no traditions of trade unionism, and takes any work at any price. There are fewer people engaged in producing food and its cost rises."

#### NEW POLICY NEEDED

"In the life of the child there are transitions. At first it is fed at its mother's breast. In time it is strong enough to feed itself. So with the building of a nation. Development must be slow yet sure. For forty years or more the manufacturing industries of Canada have been developed to the detriment of agricultural Canada. And although no Canadian would suggest that the day of Protection is over, it is time that the East go to the West and the West come to the East to formulate a new National Policy which will be for the farmer as well as for the manufacturer.

The old National Policy has created industries, many of them hardly indigenous to Canada. It has created an aristocracy of money instead of that aristocracy of character and intellect which we hope will finally lead us. It is responsible for much poverty as well as for the creation of much wealth. May we trust that it's day is past and gone! We want neither rich nor poor. We want happy and contented Canadians.