

THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown

G. H. GREENE
Editor and Publisher
Member C. W. N. A.

Canada's Prosperity

Through Us Or In Spite of Us?

When the war was on and this country was putting forth every effort, at home and overseas, to aid the allied cause, a great spirit of confidence and faith, of willingness to work, economize and sacrifice, filled every class of the community from the highest to the lowest.

As a result, Canada's honorable war record has set her high among the nations, with a place at the Imperial Council table and a voice in international affairs.

Canada must and will come, with equal honour, through the troublous times of post-war adjustment. The only question is, will all of us help, or some of us hinder, by pessimism, apathy, or class jealousy?

To the Canadian farmer this question comes with a peculiar force. Agriculture must be the economic balance wheel of this or any nation. It is an occupation where nature herself demands energy, courage, economy, and efficiency. These sturdy qualities radiate from our farms to industries in other walks of life, where so many leaders were country born and bred.

The farm home and farm life as the source of what has been and is the strongest and truest in our national character is interwoven with the history of Canada from its infancy. The settlers on the shores of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, toiling to clear a patch of forest and sowing their grain among the stumps; Herbert and the pioneers of New France fighting Indians, enduring privations, wresting merely a rude living from their small clearings, but full of faith in the future, if not for them, then for generations yet to come; the men who rescued Upper Canada from the wilderness; the Red River colonists, who, after two years of complete destruction of their crops, sent a party to the Mississippi for seed grain for the next year and won! These men made possible the Canada of today.

The farmers of Canada, then, have a rich history and a noble tradition to live up to. Upon them Canada's progress has always, in the main, depended; upon them it will always, in the main, depend.

What, then, is necessary for the farmers of today? Simply the application of those qualities we have referred to—energy, courage, economy and efficiency, and under present-day conditions the return is sure and speedy. A very high percentage of farms owned by farmers in this country have been acquired and paid for in the farmer's own lifetime. For the present and future generations there is exactly the same opportunity. True, with each generation, and perhaps oftener, we may have to change our type of crops to meet changing market requirements, but surely that is a trifling task compared with that of those who had to establish themselves in a new country, create their farm, their community, their markets, and their civilization.

During the war years, the farmer, like most others, became unreasonably optimistic. As in other industries, he over-capitalized, tied up too much money in extravagant buildings and expensive machinery, bought tractors to get the crops in more quickly and easily, without considering whether the actual earning power of these warranted the

investment. With the depression, which has followed, this over-expansion has been a serious burden and has shaken the faith of some in ultimate success.

We must get back the indomitable courage and untiring effort of Canada's early days. The farmer must remember that in the last analysis he is infinitely better off than the wage-earner of the city. True, his cash income may sometimes be small, but he can, at the very worst, gain his living from the soil, while in the city the larger wage soon melts away in paying for things which on the farm involves no cash outlay. The farm products are necessities of life and must always command a market. The products of city industries must often create their market and their sale is subject to wide fluctuations. Sure of a market, then, the farmers' main problem is simply the lowering of cost of production to permit of a fair margin of profit even at present prices. This can be done and is being done.

We may call attention to the advertisement placed in this issue of the Review by the Federal Department of Agriculture. It is more than an advertisement, it is a call to united and cheerful effort, a summons to the Canadian spirit of the "will to win" which has burned so brightly throughout Canada's history—a spirit which is so well shown in a message received in Ottawa only a few days ago from one of the foremost farmers of the Province of Alberta. He says: "It started to rain the last part of the week, and this coming after the recent heavy rains has put the soil in a condition that it has not been in at this time of the year since 1916; the farmers are consequently very jubilant and if optimism could pay debts the farmers of Southern Alberta could by next fall cancel our National Debt."

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Canada Confident of the Future



CANADA is endeavoring to regain her after-the-war stride in the midst of many difficulties, — debt, deflation and depression being some of them.

Quack remedies and academic theories beset her path on every side. Some suggest that our debt worries can best be eased by going further into debt. Others preach blue ruin, decry their own country and indulge in mischievous propaganda generally, while still others look for a new social order or some miraculous sign to indicate a better coming day—all this in apparent forgetfulness of the fact that just as there was no royal road to win the war, there is now no royal road to pay for it or regain our former buoyancy, vigor and confidence.

Some are leaving Canada hoping to escape taxation, only to find there is no escape anywhere. In seeking for easy remedies too many of us overlook the fact that the greatest remedy is honest, hard work faithfully and intelligently performed, accompanied by old-fashioned thrift.

It takes time, it takes patience, it takes grit. But every Canadian knows in his heart that Canada is coming through all right.

Our Experience Proves It

Look back over the path Canada has trod. The French Colonists, cut off from civilization by 3,000 miles of sea, faced a continent—a wilderness—without the aid of

even a blazed trail. They had to fight savages, frosts, scurvy, loneliness and starvation.

The United Empire Loyalists subdued an unbroken forest in one generation, growing their first wheat amid the stumps and snags of the new clearing.

The Selkirk settlers came to Manitoba when the prairie was a buffalo pasture, and grew wheat where none had grown before and where those who knew the country best at that time said wheat would never grow. Today the Canadian prairies grow the finest wheat in the world.

In proportion to population Canada stands to-day among the wealthiest nations in the world, with average savings on deposit per family of \$800. Canada's foreign trade per head of population stands amongst the highest of the commercial nations, being \$192 per capita in 1922-23, as compared with \$135 in 1913-14, the "peak" year before the war.

New Opportunities for Canada

In Canada, although prices in the world markets fell below war level, our farmers reaped last autumn the largest grain crop in Canadian history, and Canada became the world's largest exporter of wheat, thus in large measure making up for lower prices.

Last year, Great Britain, after an agitation extending over thirty years, removed the embargo on Canadian cattle, and a profitable and practically unlimited trade is opening up for Canadian stockers and feeders.

"The 20th Century belongs to Canada"—if Canadians keep faith.

The next article will suggest practical opportunities for profit making on our Canadian farms.

Have Faith in Canada

Authorized for publication by the
Dominion Department of Agriculture
W. R. MOTHERWELL, Minister. Dr. J. H. GRISDALE, Deputy Minister.

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