

of the protective system and his public address was a clear exposition of the protective tariff system and its iniquities together with the advantages of free trade. It is well known that the city people are the strongest supporters of the protectionist system. Most of the factories of Canada are in the cities and the protectionists have always preached that free trade would mean the closing of these factories or great decreases in wages. It is said that if any statement is made often enough people will believe it. The farmers of Western Canada are well informed as to the burden which the protective system places upon them and in order to save themselves from further burdens it will be necessary for them to assist very generously in financing the Free Trade League. Dr. Clark's addresses will be published in The Guide.

A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT

It is announced in the press that a movement is afoot between the Dominion and Manitoba governments for the release of the interned German and Austrian prisoners at the Brandon detention camp in order that they may work on the farms during seed time. These men were all taken into custody because they were considered enemies of the country and dangerous to be at large. If they were dangerous and troublesome before they were arrested they are liable to be more so after having been imprisoned. There is undoubtedly a shortage of farm help but very few farmers will care to run the risk of having these men in their homes so long as the war is in progress. If these prisoners were all sufficiently dangerous to be arrested it is only common sense to consider that they are still sufficiently dangerous to be kept under arrest or under guard until the war is over.

The protectionist journals of Canada are very much elated because of the restrictions which the British government is placing upon a considerable range of imports. These restrictions have altogether been made to release more ocean tonnage for other purposes or to cripple German trade. There has been nothing done by the British government in the nature of a protective tariff, whatever may be done in the future. Great Britain is fighting the battle not only in the trenches but also in the commercial world and British statesmen realize that by killing absolutely the foreign trade of Germany they will more quickly bring the German military powers to terms. It is absurd to apply these conditions to Canada which is already suffering and has for many years suffered in its national development by the trade restrictions and tariffs which have been imposed for the benefit of a very small proportion of the population.

The newspapers announce that the promoters of the Canadian Northern Railway are preparing to make their annual raid on the public treasury at Ottawa. They always come like the robins in the spring and apparently are quite as welcome in political circles at Ottawa. We have no doubt that they will get away with the money they want. There will, of course, be a vigorous criticism and a tremendous amount of explanation, and a little real honest opposition; but finally the government will lick its followers into line like little men and the taxpayers will foot the bill.

Present indications are that the number of soldiers who will assist in putting in the seed this spring will be comparatively few. Those who have farms of their own will no doubt take advantage of the opportunity to put in

the seed but a great majority of the soldiers do not seem inclined to go out to the farms for a month to help the farmers. The situation is serious and farm help is badly needed this spring. Everything possible should be done to encourage the soldiers to render this help. Many of them probably do not realize that they will be getting double pay during the time they are working on the farm. This should be an inducement and local commanding officers might also encourage them to take hold of the farm work this spring.

There is no reason why any grain grower should be without a copy of the Canada Grain Act. This act is really the grain growers' Bill of Rights and every farmer should know every paragraph in it; in fact, if he could repeat it all from memory he would be the better for it. Another very valuable document which every farmer should have is a pamphlet entitled "Grain Inspection in Canada," written by Dr. Magill, chairman of the Grain Commission. It describes the whole system of grain inspection. Any farmer may have either one or both of these by simply sending a post card to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, and asking for them. Any local secretary may send a complete list of his members with the post office address of each and the department will mail copies of each pamphlet to the members individually.

Farmers as a rule are too sensitive about their financial obligations. If they were to exchange experiences on financial matters as they do on shipping grain it would be easier to bring about a solution. Farmers should talk with each other more about their mortgages and their lien notes and their bank loans. Such exchanges would be extraordinarily helpful.



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