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TO find out what Canada can do and make her do it is the task which has been assigned a commission recently appointed by the Dominion Government. This is a tall job under any circumstances, but it is by no means an insuperable one where heart and brain is wedded to the business.

The parliamentary annals of Canada have been wonderfully prolific in commissions. It might be said for the sake of argument that all of them have done good work, but it cannot be alleged that the net result to the country in every case has justified the cost in time and money that these courts of inquiry have incurred.

It is the fate of much of the kind in every country that its fruits begin to decay, if not to perish entirely on the day on which the commission is disbanded. Information of the first importance has been dug up. It has been given a brief lifetime by the daily press, but its value to the state is entombed with the written or printed transcripts of proceedings pigeon-holed in the vaults of the record office.

That was before the war, however, and such a war as we are now supporting, was unthinkable, except in the minds of those elect scoundrels to whom war is a necessity. This new "Economic Commission," it may be inferred has been inspired by the war, or rather the conditions which the war has imposed on Canada and which are likely to exist over a longer period than the most reckless of optimists would dare to prescribe.

This commission is the outcome of a report of the committee of the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on 28th June, 1915, and from which we quote:

The Prime Minister observes that the need is everywhere recognized of stimulating greater production in Canada, and especially agricultural production, the immense importance of which has been emphasized by reasons of conditions arising out of the war.

## A COMMISSION OF EXPLORATION

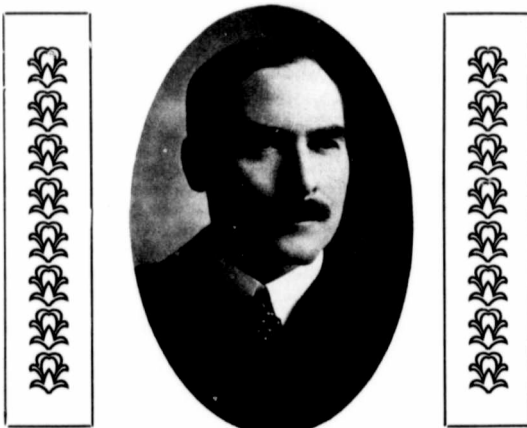
That in connection with opportunities for increased agricultural production it is necessary to bear in mind the importance of

- (a) Improved methods of production with a view to a better return to the producer;
- (b) Assisting this purpose by proper instruction and demonstration;
- (c) Increasing the acreage under production;

of which only a small percentage is at present tilled.

The conditions of soil, climate and situation are so varied as to emphasize the necessity of pursuing methods of cultivation and purposes of production which are especially suited to any particular locality under consideration.

The great area of territory embraced within the Dominion creates unusual problems which affect:



Senator Lougheed, K.C., Chairman of Commission

- (d) Attracting immigration of a type which would aid in ensuring a large and permanent agricultural population;
  - (e) Stimulating and encouraging co-operation among the producers; and,
  - (f) Providing cold storage and abattoir facilities.
- The Prime Minister further observes that the agricultural production of Canada is of a highly diversified character and is spread over a great territory comprising an enormous area of fertile land
- (a) Distribution of products in our home markets and the trade thus created between the several provinces and their various communities;
  - (b) The transport of products to our national ports from which they shall eventually reach their destination abroad; and,
  - (c) Their transport to the market of destination abroad.

The Prime Minister states that so far as is compatible with con-

ditions herein mentioned it is manifestly in the public interest that before export the product should be converted through manufacture in Canada into the form in which it is proposed to be consumed or used; thus encouraging and stimulating those industries subsidiary to agriculture, which can be carried on successfully in the Dominion.

Important questions as to the marketing of our food products, including consideration of the time at which and the methods by which this is accomplished, should receive careful attention. The value of co-operative efforts among the producers, and the importance of reducing the present great discrepancy between the price received by the producer and that paid by the consumer, should not be overlooked.

It has been represented to the Government that large numbers of persons who before emigrating to Canada had been engaged in agricultural pursuits, have not settled upon the land in Canada, but have been attracted by the opportunities for obtaining high wages in cities and towns and in the construction of railways and other works. The opportunities for thus obtaining work have recently become considerably restricted, and this result has brought about a greater degree of unemployment than usually prevails. It further appears that very large areas of land for which homesteaders have secured patents are not under cultivation, and it is considered that the causes which have led to these results are a proper subject for thorough inquiry.

In connection with the subjects above alluded to, consideration should be given to the conditions which will arise upon the conclusion of the present war and to the resulting opportunities for a vigorous and effective policy of immigration which should have as its object the purpose of attracting to our shores immigration of a suitable type, and of inducing the settlement of an agricultural population upon the fertile uncultivated lands which are abun-