

SOME DAY the war will end. While it continues we must bend every energy to the task of winning it; but when it ends great problems will confront us. For those of us who stay at home this is in some respects a period of reflection. The need for industry, for production, is great; but it is an industry of a sort that differs from the development of the past few years. For some time we have been providing a national equipment, laying down a plant with which the future production of the nation was to be effected. To-day the war has halted the work of increasing our population to get the full use of it, so that we are occupied in getting the utmost value from the wheatfields and the factories of to-day, not in breaking the farms of to-morrow. When the war ends we must seek to grow up to our equipment; but the meantime is a season of pause. Can we not use this arrest of exploitation to prepare for the future? Can we not think over the problems of to-morrow and prepare to meet them?

Canada needs people and production more than she ever did before. She is a country with immense unsettled areas, with a small population, and with means of communication, machinery of administration, public works, sufficient for twice her present numbers. To procure that national equipment she has of late years made capital expenditures and has borrowed great sums. These capital expenditures have been made for a population much greater than that which she now possesses. To-day, at the very moment when the laying down of the national plant had about come to an end, the expenditure due to the war is causing her to add still more heavily to her financial burden. To bring the tax load down to normal she needs more people and greater production.

The Need for Agricultural Production.

Especially is agricultural production needed. During the past decade or so Canada has shared in a movement which is very widespread in the world at present: the country has lost heavily to the city, so that to-day our cities are disproportionately large. It is not good business to watch all urban growth with jealousy. A country needs industrial development as well as agricultural production, and the two must be kept in due proportions. Upper Canada learned that lesson thoroughly in the mid-years of the nineteenth century. Farming then was the one occupation of the province, and the towns were but the distributing points where the farmers sold their produce and bought their imported goods. In 1857 events occurring outside of British North America cut the price of wheat in half and the province was hit so hard that it took years to recuperate; the lesson of the need for diversity of interests was driven home, and for nearly half a century Canada has been busy with a line of development which has been thoroughly necessary, which has greatly benefited agriculture, and which like everything else has its limitations. While cities and industries are a sheer necessity to us, yet they must be kept in due relation to the rest of the community, and it is important to remember that, viewed in the bulk, the grand economic opportunity of Canada at present and for years to come is and must remain an agricultural one. For a long time the distinctive part of Canada in the