

"Fertile Belt" of Western Canada has given this company enormous assets. Fortunately they are not free from taxation like those of the C.P.R., and some of the taxes now being imposed if upheld by the privy council will force more of their land on the market. The land held out of use by this company comes in the class of ordinary speculative land and ought to be taxed still more heavily.

IRRIGATION AND LAND TAXES

The great Assouan dam across the Nile River in Egypt cost \$53,000,000. It is the largest structure of its kind in the world and was built to help make productive the wonderfully rich valley of the Nile by irrigation. The building of this dam has increased the land values of the Nile Valley in middle and lower Egypt over \$1,000,000,000 and some estimate over twice this amount. The total rent of this land has risen from \$82,000,000 to \$190,000,000, an increase of \$108,000,000 or over twice the original cost of the dam. Who should have got the returns from these increased land values, the government, i.e., the whole people whose labor will pay for the dam or the land owners? The land owners are collecting \$180,000,000 annually while the whole people's labor is made to pay off this debt over a long term of years.

FOREIGN GRUMBLERS

The direct tax laws of Western legislatures are making foreign land holding interests squirm and protest. Combinations of American capital holding unproductive large tracts of the best land on our prairies are complaining to the Department of the Interior at Ottawa that the numerous taxes like municipal tax, hail tax, gopher tax, surtax and wild land tax are more than they want to pay and that some means should be found to relieve them

of these burdens. Their whole protest of course is based on the assumption that capital will thereby be retarded from coming into this country. These people want the Dominion Government to insist that the comparatively few settlers scattered over these prairies shall toil ceaselessly to enhance the value of the land held by outsiders who have absolutely no interest in the country but the dollars and cents they can take out of it. They propose this in spite of the fact that thousands of the settlers already here have sons in Europe fighting and dying at the present time in defence of this very land. These speculators desire to be relieved of paying their share of such defence even financially and leave it to old men, women and children, whose labor if this war lasts much longer must become the main factor in production. Already in many parts the holding of large areas out of settlement by asking exorbitant prices in the past has made it almost impossible to build and support schools, and the settler stranded in such places must either move out or let his family grow up in ignorance. This vacant land is a breeding ground for gophers that the federal and provincial governments and everyone else are continually spending money to exterminate. The people who are holding this land are doing nothing beneficial for the country and they are a real hindrance to both agricultural and industrial growth. These foreign speculators are performing no useful service to this country and their land should be taxed so that there will be absolutely no profit in holding it. Let them become Canadian citizens and contribute towards our national development if they want to get the benefit of holding our land.

The evident necessity for the strictest economy in the use of the ocean tonnage available for the supply of foodstuffs, as evidenced by the British government's decision to appoint

a food controller, has given rise to the hope that the production of intoxicating liquors, so much of the raw material for which not only has to be imported, but might instead be used for nourishing food, will be prohibited. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished."

GET GOOD SEED EARLY

The demand for good seed grain is beginning earlier this year than is customary. Probably 50,000 farmers in the Prairie Provinces will need more or less additional seed, and they will have to pay a good price for it. Present prices are not likely to go down very much judging by war conditions. The wise farmer therefore will look after his seed requirements at once. Those who want to make money should begin growing Registered Seed under the rules and regulations of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. They will be able to grow far better seed and get a very much higher price for it than for ordinary seed. The Grain Growers' Guide is providing an opportunity for 1,000 farmers to get started growing a small quantity of registered seed without one cent of cost to themselves. It is one of the best propositions ever placed before the farmers of this country and those who realize what good seed means will take advantage of it. Full details of the scheme are given on Page ... in this issue.

It is the duty of all true citizens in Saskatchewan, men and women, to see that the remaining twenty liquor dispensaries are banished from the province. The vote will be taken on Monday, December 11. United action will win. Do your part.

Wheat straw makes much better bedding for pigs than oat straw. Oat straw irritates a pig's skin, and furthermore oat straw packs badly and does not last so well.



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