

The Grain Growers' Guide

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THE UNITED STATES DRAWS SWORD

The entry of the United States into the war removes the last lingering doubt of a drawn fight or the possibility of victory for the Kaiser and his allies. It brings into the struggle a highly organized nation of 100,000,000 population with natural and financial resources the greatest in the world. With this great ally fighting side by side with Britain, France, Russia and the smaller nations, Prussianism is doomed to everlasting defeat. For two and a half years President Wilson has tried by every honorable means to keep the American nation at peace. But at last he has been forced to the conclusion that Germany is an outlaw among nations, determined upon the slaughter of innocent and helpless people and absolutely devoid of national honor. Last week he called upon Congress to declare war upon Germany in defence of the principles of humanity and democracy. His address to Congress was a terrific arraignment of Prussian militarism and a glorious vindication of the principles of democracy. It will stand in history as one of the greatest democratic documents of all time. Never since the days of Abraham Lincoln has any one man in a responsible position been called upon to make such a momentous decision. As the world's foremost ruling pacifist he has tried to save his people from the waste and slaughter of war, but has been forced to decide that national honor and the peace and liberty of the world demand action on the part of the United States. He pointed out clearly that in entering the war the United States could receive no material gain. They want no new territory and they seek no indemnity. They will fight solely for humanity and for freedom. No people could fight for a nobler cause.

Since Russia has thrown off the tyrannical yoke of Romanoff dynasty, the action of the United States now brings the great democratic nations of the earth into one inseparable league for the overthrow of autocracy and militarism. All the world is now at war in the greatest struggle ever known. It is clearly and unmistakably democracy against autocracy, freedom against tyranny, the rule of the people against the rule of the dictator. We have cause to thank Heaven that the issue is so clearly joined and that this war on the part of Britain and her allies possesses so few of the objectionable features of many previous wars. Another great cause for thankfulness is that all the Anglo-Saxon peoples are fighting together and none of them are seeking self-aggrandisement. Great Britain, Canada and the United States as a result of this war will be drawn closer together, will have stronger bonds of union and greater mutual sympathy than ever before. Such a condition must favorably affect their economic relations in the future.

President Wilson in his speech as well as on previous occasions has urged as an outcome of the war, a league of democratic and honorable nations who will place national honor upon the same basis as individual honor. When peace comes and the nations in council decide upon the terms of peace, President Wilson or his representative at that council will be a voice for democracy and for justice in the settlement. He will be supported by other democratic statesmen and the possibility of a great powerful league of nations for peace, justice and democracy seems not only a possibility, but a positive assurance.

Another important feature of President Wilson's war message was the demand that the cost of the war should be borne as far as possible without borrowing, but by equitable taxation upon the people of the nation. The fulfilment of this policy will save future American people from carrying the burden

of the war and will bring closer home to the taxpayer what war really means. If every nation were to finance its wars out of current taxes there would be less war. What definite action the United States will take in assisting the Allies remains to be seen, but the conclusion of the President's address indicates that it will be no half-hearted effort. The last words of that magnificent speech were as follows:—

"It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful country into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the rights of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at least free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."

Inspired by such a purpose and backed by such resources the United States will be a mighty factor in determining the outcome of this war.

SUCCESSFUL WAR LOAN

The third Canadian war loan to which subscriptions have just closed has been unusually successful. Indeed, it was heavily over-subscribed, \$250,000,000 being offered, whereas only \$150,000,000 was asked. Only the requested amount, however, will be accepted, which means that bank and many large subscriptions will be scaled down. This makes the total accepted subscriptions on domestic loans in Canada \$350,000,000 since the war began. Such a response to the third loan is very gratifying, and indicates a desirable financial situation within this country, and such a domestic situation must also increase foreign respect for our resources. The strong demand for this loan should make it comparatively easy to float another and such action seems likely before long. It should also help to maintain, or even put a premium on the issue price of this and other loans. While the number of small subscribers was no doubt considerable, the average subscription, which approximates \$6,000, indicates that most of the loan has been taken up thru large subscriptions. Indeed, much of the surplus and excess profits of many companies have been put into these various loans, to some extent no doubt from patriotic motives, but also to a large extent because the interest rate is good and the bonds are exempt from taxation. As a means of floating war loans this latter inducement is no doubt of very great assistance, but it is very much to be doubted whether such a provision is in the interest of equality or justice. Neither companies nor individuals should be assisted in putting away huge sums of money where they cannot be taxed, particularly since, in many cases, much of this money is actual war profits.

ORGANIZATION IN ONTARIO

It is not enough that the organized farmers of the West exercise a salutary influence on legislation in the Western Provinces. Wholesome and beneficial as that influence has been, it has gone but a short distance towards settling the farmer's problems. The reason for this is that the central scene of the great fight between the farmers and the privileged interests is not in the provincial legislatures, but in the House of Commons at

Ottawa. No matter how powerful the united farmers may become, so long as their chief source of strength is localized in Western Canada, they will be looked upon as representing only a section of the nation and the importance of their claims will be minimized in the face of the organized efforts of special privilege to influence legislation in its own interest. Not until the united farmers are organized thruout Canada can they hope to exert at Ottawa the influence that the importance of their interests demands. The united effort of a string of correlated provincial organizations of farmers stretching across the Dominion, working harmoniously thru the Canadian Council of Agriculture and bringing a nation-wide force to bear on Dominion legislation is necessary before the farmers will receive full justice at the hands of the legislators at Ottawa.

In view of this fact, the rapid development of United Farmers of Ontario is especially gratifying. As the work of the organized farmers proceeds, it becomes more and more evident that its ultimate success depends largely on the progress of the movement in that province. Ontario's rural population is greater than the rural population of the three Western Provinces combined. In the past her farmers have been influenced probably more than the farmers of any other province by the specious pleas of the protectionists which emanated, ready made, from the industrial centres within her borders. In Ontario, as elsewhere, one of the first effects of organization has been to get the farmers thinking for themselves, instead of taking their ideas "cut-to-fit" from other classes. The result is, that fiscal questions are rapidly coming to be looked upon by Ontario farmers from the farmers' standpoint, rather than thru the eyes of the manufacturer. At the farmers' convention, held in Toronto some weeks ago, men of both political parties got together and adopted the planks of the Farmers' National Platform. Even the question of reciprocity was thoroughly and openly discussed and a request made that it be submitted to a referendum in order that it might be treated on its merits and freed from the racial and sectarian catch cries with which politicians bedeviled it in 1911. Ontario farmers are beginning to realize, as never before, that their interests are common with the interests of the farmers of the Western Provinces. This conviction is being strengthened amongst them by leaders of the movement from the West, who have addressed meetings of farmers in Ontario. The Westerners have never hesitated to say that it is Ontario which must hold the central and important position amongst the Provinces in the advance of the organized farmers of the Dominion in securing legislative justice from Ottawa.

Meanwhile organization proceeds apace thruout the province. The United Farmers now show a membership of 8,000, almost rivalling the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association in numbers. The keenness of the interest in the movement was recently illustrated in a striking manner. While in Ontario, attending the Toronto convention, President Wood of the United Farmers of Alberta addressed several meetings thruout the Province. Everywhere he was met by large gatherings. In a rural school house on one of the back concessions there assembled, on less than twenty-four hours' notice, what Mr. Wood declared to be the largest local meeting of farmers he had ever addressed. New life stirs in old Ontario. There is bright hope that in the near future, her agricultural forces will be well mobilized and lined up with those of the Western Provinces in the fight for the farmers' rights.