POOR DOCUMENT

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Canada s Immigration Problem

THE PREDOMINANT POSITION OF AGRICULTURE — NATIONAL STOCKTAKING—URBAN AND RURAL INTERESTS ARTICLE IV

By C. W. Peterson T is useful to arrive at a clear appreciation of the general economic effect of producing on one-half, or even on onean enlarged agriculture. The average person readily gives intellectual third, of the arable lands instead of assent to the time-worn phrase that a griculture is the "backbone of the only one-sixth, granting a fair occupanation," but usually without positive conviction of any adequate conception

of the fundamental facts of the case. of the fundamental facts of the case.

It is generally a mere figure of tion, but exports on such a scale that situation about. We have the undespeech. It is, therefore, well to consi credits are available to balance our veloped natural resources, the markets der briefly to what extent agriculture international obligations and create a are there, we only need the manhas been responsible for Lanada's mat erial progress. Forty-one per cent. of our net production in the last census year was agricultural; thirty-three per favorable trade balance.

Look for this sign

ated on the farm and another third on the possible performance of Canada starvation in years of extended crop failure. Of course, such a calamity development, were we in the happy possible performance of Canada starvation in years of extended crop failure. Of course, such a calamity will be averted. The present world-bear and the transportation to and from farm not alone feeds the national from now on occupy an increasingly stronger price level cannot for a more than a mere fringe of our agricultural area was in a producing basis. If, for instance, we were

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tional balance, our present economic problems would vanish over night. power and the capital to complete the circle. And that is purely a matter

our net production in the last census year was agricultural in thirty-three per cent, manufacturing. Our forests, mines, fisheries, construction, etc., account for the remaining twenty-six per cent.

Our 8 billions of agricultural capital represents 36 per cent. of Canadás to tal available wealth. Urban real estate accounts for 26 per cent.; our railways plants, 10 per cent.; or railways plants, 10 per cent.; or railways agriculture comanuments, 21-2 per cent.; or railways agriculture looms up as the largest single factor in her economic life, with the farmers as the largest group of the fearm and the transportation to and the transportation to and the transportation to and first of agricultural raw material. The Canadian fram not alone feeds the as from a contract with contract of an and the transportation to an for of agricultural raw material. The Canadian fram not alone feeds the as from a contract with contract of an anther the performance of Canada for in the last contract of an anther the performance of Canada for in the last contract of an anther the performance of Canada for in the last contract of the contract of an anther the performance of Canada for in the last contract of the contr

scarcity. An acre of wheat still produces, at a minimum cost in terms of

fertile plains region is economically sound as a bell. The day will never come when Europe can function without our staple agricultural exports. HISTORY AND PRICES

This prediction is not visionary, but

stronger price level cannot for a moment be doubted.

Canada's position as a producer and exporter of the primary necessities of life is becoming increasingly stronger. In the long run we need entertain no fear whatever from the competition of intensive agricultural development policies in the older civilizations. Intensive farming is not the answer to food scarcity. An acre of wheat still produces, at a minimum where the moment of the country-way only lies in the path leading to a permanent argriculture. At present rural life is two generations behind the urban community in living conditions and the spectacular drift to the efforts of the various agencies devoting time and money to furthering overseas emigration. It is also a trite saying, but in strict accordance with the truth, that the successful settler is our most effective colonization.

The sarcastic ranting about the country-side to live the fuller life. That way only lies in the path leading to a permanent argriculture. At present rural life is two generations behind the urban community in living conditions and the spectacular drift to the cittes constitutes a demonstration against present inferior conditions of farm life compared with urban existence.

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The sarcastic ranting about the fuller life. That way only lies in the path leading to a permanent argriculture. At present rural life is two generations depend on the land is the greatest obstacle to the cittes constitutes a demonstration against present inferior conditions of farm life to live the fuller life. Common sense upholds both of these assertions. It naturally follows that

the production of high-priced crops, yielding more money value, though, generally, less food value per acre. The extensive agricultural system of our colonization problem is communication of high-priced crops, yielding more money value, though, generally, less food value per acre. The extensive agricultural system of our colonization problem is communication of high-priced crops, yielding more money value, though, generally, less food value per acre. The extensive agricultural system of our colonization problem is communication of high-priced crops, yielding more money value, though, generally, less food value per acre. The extensive agricultural system of our colonization problem is communication of high-priced crops, yielding more money value, though, generally, less food value per acre. The extensive agricultural system of our colonization problem is communication. Our colonization problem is, com- ther expatriation of our splendid,

paratively speaking, elementary. Money and intelligent organization would solve not inconsiderable burdens of the it. The more difficult phase of our dual problem is holding our population. But with greater agricultural CANAL Agriculture the world over has developed through the crude, ruthless directive agency of the law of supply and demand. The farmers have, in obedience to this law, for several decades suffered through demoralized prices due to an over supply of food products. But the reaction is now upon us—the pendulum is swinging the other way, and we have definitely entered an era when food products of all kinds will command a premium in the world's markets. Aside from this, it would be absurd to argue that, in the face of constantly rising commodity prices, which will be maintained through the organization of industrial labor, prices of the basic necessities of life should remain stationary or decrease.

This prediction is not visionary, but

hardly imagine a more hopeless machine for such a purpose. Democratic politics is primarily concerned with party welfare. Its appeal is to the great body—the least intelligent—of voters. It is swayed this way and that way by popular prejudice. Politics is concerned with herd psychology and mass hysteria. Political leaders frequently — perhaps generally — know what should be done in the best interest of the country, but uninformed, mass opinion dictates policy in the end. As to the public service—our bureau-cracy—it has in its multitude of wat-ertight compartments all the intelligent conclusions on economic questions and it contains within its ranks many brilliant and resourceful technical men, but co-operation and team work—the ference spirit—is totally lacking.

LIGHT THAT FAILED.

We did, however, once upon a time actually make a gesture designed to get below the surface and to attempt to make an intelligent survey of Can-ada's economic situation from which, presumably, public policies might have been formulated and placed before the country, backed by the very considerable prestige naturally attached to a program worked out by a non-political program worked out by a non-political body of able men, many of them of national reputation, giving their services gratuitously and solely from motives of public spirit. I refer to the late, lamented "Economic Commission," which, after gathering a vast amount of vital information, for some reason that has never been explained to the public, failed to complete its labor and make a report. I am credibly informmake a report. I am credibly informed that its preliminary findings were 'uncomfortable" to the government of the day resulting in even these being sternly suppressed. It is understood that a mass of useful information was gathered by this body and drastic ndations made on many subjects, amongst others, in respect to im

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Normally the price of wheat should be twice as high today as it was some centuries ago in view of the lower general price index of those days. The opening up of vast areas of virgin

buggy" should cease. We should, on the contrary, rejoice over every assertions. It naturally follows that farm auto and be thankful for very ame acre devoted to almost any other top. History teaches that highly increase farming is the consequence of entry farming is the consequence of and with the added assurance that in the farming is the consequence of the field with a vigorous effort to large-ly augment her producing population and with the added assurance that in same acre devoted to almost any other same through the adoption of modern same through the adoption of modern same through the adoption of this nature has its moral effect upon the countryside and does its part in encountry side and does its pa

> CANADA'S URBANIZATION Aside from this, the present de-

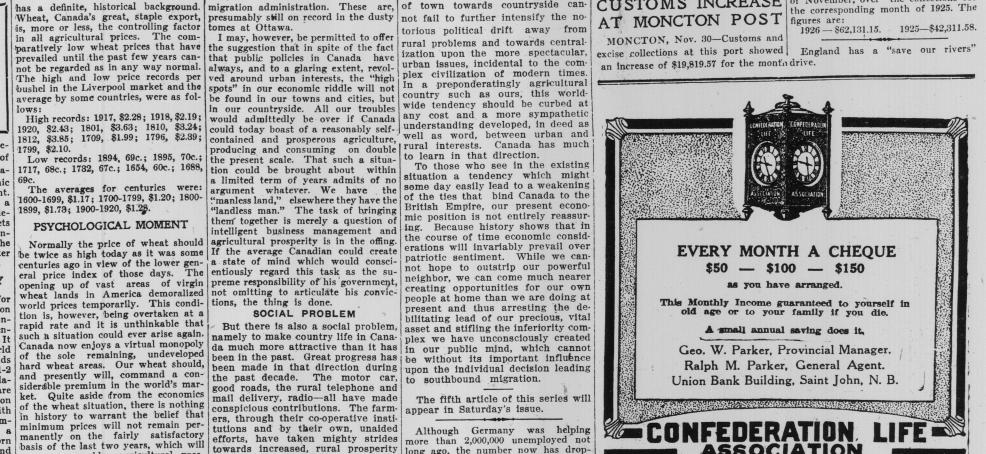
has a definite, historical background. Migration administration. These are, wheat, Canada's great, staple export, presumably still on record in the dusty tomes at Ottawa.

Of November, over the collections for the corresponding month of 1925. The figures are:

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