

position in the minds of other countries, that Canada cannot do too much for them in return. We maintain that soldiers returning to the land should receive every possible financial assistance, and capital thus expended would be far more profitable, than if used for unproductive public works, undertaken to provide employment.

Before farming will become the popular occupation, the economic conditions of our country must be re-adjusted. There is a general dissatisfaction throughout the country, and real discontent with the business of farming. Most of our farmers know how to produce much better than they are producing. This feeling has, of course, been developed during war times, because of the labor situation, and many have been forced, in their effort to maintain production, to make farming an existence rather than a life. Circumstances have occurred during the past year which have enlightened farmers as to the regard in which they are held by politicians, and they are now realizing that their occupation has been made the political foot-ball in times past. We agree that farm life can be made the ideal life, but not under present conditions. Were it not for the inherent love of the land, many more would have left the farm long ago. As Mr. E. C. Drury said at the recent convention in Toronto: "I farm for less because I would rather do it, than do anything else for more. I am a one-man farmer, and have all the problems of the ordinary farmer, struggling along with these problems to solve. I am happy in the work, but I know that I am not getting sufficient returns for the time and labor and thought which I put into my farm."

The abnormal cost of farm machinery and building materials has been

an important factor, not only in increasing the cost of production, but in retarding the equipping and maintaining of a modern home. As a question of agricultural economics, we might consider one of the chief causes of this high cost of machinery. Official figures show us that for the fiscal year 1916-17, farmers contributed the sum of \$2,120,000 to the Federal treasury as custom taxes on agricultural implements and farm machinery. It is also stated that, due to the tariff, three times this sum passes into the hands of the home manufacturers. The two combined make a total of eight and one-half millions, which sum was extracted from the farmers' pockets, on farm implements in one year. We maintain that this is an unjust state of affairs, and suggest as a partial remedy, apart from the tariff, that manufacturers of farm machinery should standardize their models, sell direct to farmers' clubs in wholesale quantities, and establish a common repair service.

The farm survey has shown us that the returns from the average farm are inadequate, and we suggest that our whole economic system be investigated, and established on a basis not of class preference, but that will give "Equal opportunities to all, and special privileges to none," and we maintain, that the tariff should be adjusted, so that agriculture will be enabled to pay the same interest on capital invested, pay the same wages for the same quality of work, and give equal satisfaction for the energy expended, as obtained in other industries. This is the measure of the Golden Rule.

With labor and economic conditions righted, we may expect an extensive trek to the land, and production on a large scale as a result. The form of production will depend largely on lo-