

Those of us who must live upon wages or salaries are most seriously affected by the higher cost of living, but for my part I hope that wheat will never again be sold as low as \$1 a bushel and that the prices of other farm products will never fall to the old levels. I have no patience with those who denounce farmers as "profiteers" or who profess to believe that farming is an easy or highly profitable occupation. It is still true as the old rhyme said:—  
 Plow deep while sluggards sleep,  
 And you shall have corn to sell and to keep.

He that with the plow would thrive,  
 Himself must either hold or drive.

## FARMERS AND PUBLIC LIFE

One should rejoice in all legitimate movements among farmers for co-operation to improve marketing and secure the best return for all they produce. One cannot doubt that the chief co-operative enterprises of the Grain Growers have been of great advantage to Western Canada even if one questions the wisdom and practicability of some of their political teaching. All that makes rural life more attractive and farming more profitable is of direct social and national advantage, for, when all is said, it is only by greater returns from agriculture and by fuller recognition of the social dignity of the calling that the population upon the land will be materially increased. There have been too few farmers in the Legislatures, in the House of Commons, in the Senate, in honorable places upon public commissions. I cannot think that a successful banker, or railway builder, or manufacturer, or educationist holds a more honorable position in the community than a successful farmer or stock breeder. From generation to generation the supply of educationists, bankers, capitalists, and even the social leaders of the cities, is renewed and maintained by recruits from the country. It is idle

to talk of classes in Canada where the hired hand of to-day is the great employer of to-morrow, and when in a single generation the obscure youth from a back township becomes the possessor of millions or the chief adviser of the crown in the national councils. The farms are the nurseries of scholars and statesmen, of the leaders in Finance and Industry, and where that happens the system of education is not a failure and democracy is not an imposture.

Which is stranger?

Brick or stone or calico?

There was One born in a manger  
 Nineteen hundred years ago.

But let us so fashion industrial and national policy that all we have of character and intellect and constructive genius will be available for the better organization, the greater enrichment, and the wider extension of the influence and prestige of this Canadian Commonwealth.

## INDUSTRY AND EFFICIENCY

There are only two sureties of individual success or collective prosperity. These are industry and efficiency. In all the world there is nothing more contemptible than laziness. Who takes the wages and grudges the service is a poor creature. To have money and leisure and do nothing for the community is social and national treason. Even the gods are busy with the destinies of mankind. The man who creates a great industry, turns raw material into finished products and employs labor at good wages is a public benefactor even though he amasses wealth in the process. In these days the labor leader who organizes workmen to demand higher wages but neglects to emphasize the need of efficiency and greater production, puts a class interest before the general interest. So does the farmer who reduces production in order to increase prices, or the manufacturer who uses a tariff to secure an unreasonable margin of profit.