

BRIEF DEALING WITH BANK CHARTERS

ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION RECOMMEND THAT RENEWALS BE ON A YEAR TO YEAR BASIS ONLY.

Next to the problem of winning the war the greatest problem that is looming up is how can we prepare for the reconstruction period to follow.

The members of the Alberta Farmers' Union have proved by their actions that they regard the first problem of paramount importance because they are working themselves to the limit to perform their particular job, which is raising farm produce in order to supply our forces with food.

However, we must keep a proper perspective in this matter. The determination and spirit needed to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion is best aided by having a system in actual operation in Canada to ensure that the fruits of victory shall be available in the manner and to the extent that will keep up the hope of those bearing the brunt of the war that they will be able to enjoy the Peace.

Those who are at present doing this are the same personnel who remember that conditions before the war were the very opposite to that desired by most people.

Further, we recognize that it will be essential to make it possible so that people of every occupation shall have a proper standard of living, adequate leisure and individual liberty and that these fundamentals must not only be enjoyed by favoured sections of the community. In other words right living citizens of every occupation are entitled to the security and comfort that the country is able to ensure at present and to continue until developed to the highest state of efficiency resulting from the development of everything that science and invention applied to natural resources can produce.

During the period 1930 to 1939 and especially during the first five years of this time the farmers of Western Canada were subjected to prices so low that although they produced plenty of grain and livestock their income depreciated to the point where one-third of the people of Canada only received one-twentieth of the National Income (in 1932).

These are recorded facts and we only recount them to prove that a plentiful supply of food stuffs does not automatically bring prosperity either to the people who produce it; nor to the people who are dependent on it to LIVE.

During that same period of time there was terrific unemployment in Canada, over one million people looking for a remunerative occupation in vain.

Although the price of wheat was the lowest it had been in four hundred years yet a large number of our people were not able to buy bread; and relief lines and soup kitchens together with work camps where men received 20 cents per day and board, were characteristic of a country which was so overburdened with real wealth that it did not know what to do with it all.

Further, we were so afraid of greater potential production that we set men to work with primitive tools, like picks and shovels, lest they should accomplish too much; instead of making use of the power machinery which we had together with the means to drive it so as to accomplish something worth while.

There was only one thing the people lacked and that was purchasing power and purchasing power is money. The people cannot produce money but they produce the goods that it takes money to buy. The bankers produce the money and they have this power given to them by the Government of Canada. Therefore, the Government and the Banks of Canada cannot escape the responsibility of being to blame for preventing the people of Canada obtaining access to the goods of which there are plenty to satisfy all.

To sum up, during that period of years the people of Canada underwent an enforced poverty that was imposed on them in spite of the fact that goods and