

# The Mail Bag

## AN OPEN FORUM

This page is maintained to allow a free discussion of all questions vital to western farmers. Up to the limit of space letters will be published giving both sides of all such questions. It is not possible to publish all letters received, but an effort will be made to select those most fairly representing different views. Short letters will be given preference. All letters must be accompanied by name and address of writer, tho not necessarily for publication. Unused letters will be returned if accompanied by postage.

### LETTER TO WAR VETERANS

I write you at this time on behalf of my three young brothers in France, two on the firing line and the other one in hospital, shot through both thighs. I do not consider I would be doing my duty toward them nor merit the approval of their mother (were she on earth) if I did not do all in my power to protect their interests and their future at this time when they are where they cannot realize the significance of the issues in the forthcoming Dominion election. Your association I understand has taken the stand that you will not officially appear in politics. This policy certainly suits the vested interests.

The agitation for conscription of wealth is reasonable, but is not and will not be enforced. To begin with, you will remember that Sir Herbert Ames was the head of the Patriotic Fund (also partner in Ames-Holmes boot and shoe company, which made boots for soldiers at the beginning of the war). The connection between the fund and the Manufacturers' Association is quite apparent. I have held, and the conviction remains, that the organization of the Patriotic Fund was

done unto others as they would do for you, for the love of Mike, Pat, Joe, Jack, Dick and Tommy, write to them today, telling them just why you are supporting the non-partizan candidate in your electoral district. Just mention in passing, Borden, boots, bandages, binoculars, and don't forget bacon, with Flavell relish.

J. C. KNIGHT.

Drumheller, Alta.

### CONSCRIPT THE VACANT LAND

Editor, Guide:—In support of the suggestion of W. A. Douglass in your issue of November 14, I would quote the following specific occurrence which, while the action of one individual, may be taken to represent the attitude of his class, as he was aided and abetted by others who aspire to occupy a seat on the same platform.

A certain non-resident land-owner, who holds two or more sections of land within ten miles of Winnipeg, in an interview with the writer last summer, told him that under no consideration would he allow one acre of his holdings to be used for productive purposes, and, further-



### THE EYES OF THE ARMY

It is seriously advised that the United States send over the Great Fleet of Airships they are building, under their own power.

only a move by the manufacturers to side-step an income tax. An increase of separation allowance eliminates the necessity of such a fund which never should have been promoted.

Now we are to have what the manufacturers and banking interests wish to call a win-the-war government. I ask you in all seriousness could any government, I mean any set or collection of men, be elected to Ottawa who would not do their utmost to reinforce the boys at the front—my own brothers, if you will? It's absolutely all rot to hold up any dozen men (all capitalists) in Canada as the only outfit who can win the war. It would be ridiculous, laughable and humorous were it not so significant.

Soldier boys, when you left England you thought you were through fighting for liberty. You have only just begun. Everyone of the proposed cabinet is connected up with the financial interests of Eastern Canada, interlocking between banks, railways, milling companies, insurance and trust companies. And they insist on being in control when the war ends. Why? To fight the veterans and their friends who will demand that although wealth was not conscripted, wealth must pay the cost of the war, for if wealth does not, who will? The veterans will also demand equal pensions. If an income tax is not levied, who is to pay your pensions? Tom Tweedie in his address here last spring predicted gloomily that the day of direct taxation was approaching. Glory be, and why not? The financial interests have been opposing evolution in that direction for years and if the Unionist-win-the-war set of profiteers is elected, they will have held that momentous occasion off another five years.

If you are going to sit in apathy, letting well-enough alone, while doing so just think, "It's for five long years,"—and at the end of that time the interests expect you to forget. Another wave-the-flag stunt will be served for your approval, then, as was pulled five years ago, "No truck or trade with the Yankees."

If you have any good feeling for your chums in the trenches, if you wish to

more, because the writer had, in the early days before any roads were built or lines straightened out, encroached upon—and cultivated a few acres belonging to this gentleman, he, the land-owner, instituted an action-at-law claiming damages and rent to the tune of \$45 per acre. This amount the writer paid to avoid the worry and expense of a law suit. The crop of wheat on this supposed damaged area this year graded No. 1 Northern. This is a concrete example of the benefit that the owner of vacant lands is to the community and also of his attitude towards the settler whose industry created increased values which he expects to enjoy.

ROBERT FORBES.

La Salle P.O., Man.

### SHEEP BREEDERS, GET TOGETHER

Editor, Guide:—In the face of the fact that it is the purpose of the Canadian wool commission in the near future to request the Ottawa government to place an embargo on our Canadian wool, it is time all sheep owners got together in some way to prevent such a step being taken.

The federal government for sometime past has been advising the farmer to get into sheep, and our provincial government has taken splendid steps in assisting the farmers to increase the size of their flocks, but all these efforts on the government's part as well as those of the farmers will have been in vain if this embargo is granted to the eastern wool kings.

Our Union government has started on a well laid track by breaking up the patronage list, etc., and we trust they will not leave the metals by giving way to these wool grabbers, for if they do the sheep owners will certainly not go to the necessary expense of protecting their flocks against coyotes by fencing, etc., to sell wool for 20 cents a pound. The flocks will rapidly decrease instead of increase. If any sheep breeder reads this, I am sure it will appeal to him that some steps must be taken, and taken quickly. Sheep breeders, get busy and let us all do our best to put the crimp on the matter at once.

Continued on Page 37



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