

and for this reason houses were built with short sides, and the crops were grown on benches raised from the surface of the soil to about four or five feet in height. This idea has been dissipated of late, for in the absence of benches in a greenhouse of considerable range the greater part of the soil may be prepared for planting by team work. It is quite obvious while plants can be handled quicker and with less labor on ground beds, and such operations as tying of supports, staking or even transplanting can be carried on much more satisfactorily with large solid beds. Growers find that they can grow any crop just as successfully on solid beds as on the raised benches used by growers for many years.

Hot water and steam are the two sources of heating for greenhouses at the present time. The hot water may either work on the gravity or pressure system. In a house containing up to 30,000 square feet of glass the gravity system is efficient, but anything above this requires the pressure. In long and large houses where the heat has a long way to travel it can be carried to better advantage and with less cost of fuel by the use of steam.

FARM BULLETIN.

The average city man transferring from city to the farm forgets that board is worth anything. Such meals as he gets at the average farm table would cost him six or seven dollars per week in the city, and he would be lucky then, yet on the farm he wants wages almost equal to what he got in the city and board thrown in. The farmer's wife has just as good a right to recognition as the city cook. A full stomach is worth as much on the farm as in the city. Those planning to winter on the farm should remember this.

Hon. W. H. Hearst, the new premier of Ontario, in his inaugural address, makes the following reference to farming and food production: "Agriculture, the great basic industry of the province, will always receive the best consideration of the Government. An active campaign has been inaugurated, and will be pressed on with increased vigor, to stimulate a greater production of foodstuffs so urgently required now by the Empire as well as for home consumption. Additional efforts will be made to secure for the consumer the products of the farm without any unnecessary advancement in price over that obtained by the producer."

The Situation.

By Peter McArthur.

How to increase the food production of Canada and secure a greater and more efficient rural population is now the most urgent question pressing for solution. Without reflecting in any way on the industry and capacity of the men who now occupy the land, it must be admitted that our output of food products compared with the area of fertile soil available for the purpose is absurdly small, and that in few localities are the possibilities of the land realized. Ontario alone, if farmed to its full capacity, could almost feed the Empire. But many farms are lying idle, others are only partially worked, and the farming population of Ontario, for some years past, has been decreasing. The causes of these conditions are well understood—the trend of population to the cities and emigration to the new provinces in the West—but how is the evil to be remedied? That it must be remedied is the conviction of all thinking men. Canada's immediate future is bound up with the question of food production, and the inefficiency in this respect is not confined to Ontario. It exists in different forms in all the provinces. The world crisis precipitated by the war has forced us to realize the situation, but as yet nothing has been suggested that will overcome the difficulty. Those who are on the land are straining every nerve to meet the demand that is being made on them and will doubtless profit accordingly, but that is not enough. More land must be worked and more men engaged in production, but to bring this about there must be far-reaching adjustments that are bound to disturb existing conditions and that will almost certainly provoke determined opposition. More land must be placed at the disposal of those who are willing to work it, and many people to whom farm work is repugnant must bend their backs to the labor. And these changes will be brought about not by government interference, but by the irresistible compulsion of events.

In venturing to discuss this question I must confess that I am working with but little light or leading. At the present moment I have few opinions or convictions that date back of August 4th, when war was declared. Any opinions I may express in this review of the situation are subject to revision whenever we are able to get a better grasp of facts. It is quite true that on

the farms the war has caused little change beyond increasing prices for certain products, but the condition of the business world is bound to react on the farming community before many months have passed. What that condition is it is impossible to determine, owing to the steps that have been taken to meet the crisis. Stock exchanges have been closed, gold payment suspended, bank notes made legal tender, credit restricted, and the whole machinery of trade is being re-adjusted in the hope that the trouble will pass, and that business can be resumed on the old basis. Not until these restrictions have been removed and an attempt made to resume trading along the old lines will it be possible for us to get any idea of the true state of the business world. In the meantime the burden of unemployment is increasing in the cities, and the farming community is being implored to give employment to men who are unfitted for farm work and for whom they have little real work to do. With things shaping as they are, and with no precedents to guide us, we cannot foresee the future. All we can hope to do is to see things clearly when they happen. And every day the cry is becoming more insistent for more food products.

The country cannot be repopulated and the production of food increased if farming methods are to continue along present lines. Even if a city man or new settler could rent a farm at a reasonable rate, he would need several thousand dollars to buy stock and implements for the work. Those who will be obliged to go back to the land when the cities discharge themselves of their excess population will not have the necessary capital to give them a proper start. Emigrants coming into the country will be in the same condition. Both will be forced to go to the West or to the newer parts of the province where land can be had for nothing. They will have to face pioneer conditions, and it will be years before they can do more than support themselves. Of course if they are able to do that it will do much to relieve the strain, but that will not be enough. The older parts of the country will still be half idle as they are now, because land is so dear. And that is what must be overcome. The basic fact of the trouble is that Canada is at present suffering from "Land-lordism" in a more acute form than it exists in England. In the Old Country a duke may hold a few square miles of land idle so that he may have a deer park, but a few thousand farmers holding hundred acre farms which they do not fully work are causing a greater waste of land than the duke. I venture to assert that there is more land held idle in Ontario than in the British Isles. This state of affairs is now a menace to the country. Can it be allowed to continue? Now, I am not advocating anything. I am merely watching. As I warned you in the beginning I am travelling light in the matter of opinions. But it looks to me as if steps must be taken to end all speculation in land—and to keep land from being held out of cultivation. I have never been an advocate of the single-tax theory—some deep-rooted sentiment has made me rebel against it. This plan would so place our taxes as to force the nationalization of lands, and events may force what the inexorable logic of Henry George could not accomplish. A condition where we would have idle land on one hand and idle men on the other would be intolerable. The question of land ownership may have to be examined, and possibly we may be compelled to admit that it is just as fundamentally wrong to allow private ownership of land as of the air or water. Farmers cannot be allowed to "build desolate places for themselves" any more than the "kings and counsellors of the earth." A multitude of small land owners holding idle land are as great a burden as a few lords and dukes holding idle land. And if the idle land of the country could be opened to the idle people the country would be repopulated and production multiplied at once. To build homes for laborers who would be employed by the present owners of the land is a suggested solution with which I shall deal in a later article.

It has been suggested that the banks might do much towards getting people back on the land, but I cannot see how. The banks are likely to have their hands full with other matters for some time to come. With such grave authorities as the London Financial Times discussing the failure of the gold basis of currency and publishing suggestions pointing towards a new currency based on a scientific appraisal of the volume of trade, it is evident that all the banking systems of the world are likely to be revised in the near future. Our banking system, now that the government is really behind it—as a safeguard adopted for war times—is probably as safe, for the time being, as that of any other country. There is no need to worry about it, but there is no need to look to it for any special measure of assistance. In common with all other banking systems, including the Bank of England, it will do well to hold its own and be ready to furnish a sound currency

and accessible capital when business begins to make progress again. At the present moment the real capitalist is the farmer, for his wealth consists of products instead of credits. Moreover, the volume of business that will be done in the country for some time to come will be measured by the power of the farmers to produce and buy. Let us hope that in their new capacity of plutocrats they will behave themselves better than did the bankers and captains of industry. Serious as the situation is I cannot check a smile at the thought that before long "the whirligig of time" may force me to rail against, "those beneficiaries of special privilege" the farmers. The ownership of land, and the right to devise it to their heirs by will is a special privilege, though it is so long established that we have learned to regard it as a fundamental right. But in the meantime I shall keep on watching the bankers and financiers as in the past for they are worth watching, and we must take care that they do not emerge from this crisis with enlarged privileges.

I quite realize that I have not got very far with the question I began to discuss, but that is not because I do not know where we are going. But what I have written may move others to write with authority on the subject, and no one is more anxious to be enlightened and set right than I am. I incline to the opinion that if the apparently inevitable war taxes were made to fall on the idle land and on land held for speculation, in both city and country, we would soon have more land under cultivation. The land thus brought into use would not only give opportunity to the unemployed, but would attract settlers from other countries. I know it would be unpopular, and for that reason I do not expect to see parliament act in the matter until forced by circumstances. Although everything in public life is now quiet, I suspect that when our political moratorium is over we shall have some of the hottest politics Canada has ever known. Being now the plutocrats of the country the farmers should follow the example of the past race of plutocrats and get control of the government. I say, "the past race of plutocrats," because more things happened on August 4th than the declaration of war. At the present time there are many great financial and business reputations walking around to save funeral expenses.

A Real Fair.

There are few fairs, perhaps, throughout the country that could not profit by adapting the good features of other shows to their own management, yet where are we to find a model to accept as a pattern? To be termed a success it should be strong agriculturally and attract the people to its exhibits and about the ringside, and the judging must be done in such an efficient way that there may be no doubt in the minds of spectators as to the prestige and reliability of the event. Caledonia Fair, held on October 8th and 9th, draws the people because they have a good and well-managed exhibit of stock. For miles and miles around the extra pennies are saved to go to Caledonia Fair because it, through a process of evolution and development, has become popular. Other fair boards are striving to make their particular fairs popular also, but there are many that might take a tip from some of our leading agricultural shows.

An analysis of conditions at Caledonia and a little study of the management reveals several characteristics that might be intensified in other similar events. In the first place the Board of Directors is a real Board, not mere names or figure heads. They perform the duties of directors by attending each to his own job at the right time. The stock is shown to its place, the exhibits are put where they belong, and when the judge arrives his man is waiting for him. The director is there, not somewhere. Hospitality and attention are not lacking in any of the officials, and they are so divided into committees (who will act), and the board is so well organized that efficient management is the consequence.

Breeders don't care to take chances with their animals, and during seasons of inclement weather a fence post is an uncomfortable place to secure the entry. To overcome this difficulty, buildings are provided to accommodate 300 sheep, 100 hogs, 100 cattle, and about 250 horses. The cattle, sheep, and swine could not wish for more comfortable quarters than they are given in their airy pens and stalls under galvanized iron roofs. In many particulars they are as good as those erected at our leading exhibitions. A small fee is collected at the time of entry for this accommodation which will more than pay the interest on the cost of construction. The stock in competition was led before such competent and well-known judges as Capt. T. E. Robson, R. S. Stevenson, Fred Richardson, J. W. Cowie, J. M. Gardhouse, Col. Robt. McEwen, John Rawlings, and H. M. Vanderlip. The exhibit of sheep was particularly strong both in short and long wools, some entries, first at Toronto, going down to