

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd

PETERBORO, ONT.

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

Ontario Wheat Prices

THE Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, Mr. Roderick Mackenzie, who has recently been addressing meetings in various parts of Ontario, has been asking the farmers of the province a question that never failed to make an impression. It is this: Why are they getting only \$1.15 to \$1.25 a bushel for their fall wheat, when Manitoba wheat is quoted at the head of the lakes at \$1.65 to \$1.70 a bushel? Mr. Mackenzie, speaking from 13 years' experience in the grain trade, affirmed that he had never known good fall wheat to be more than five cents below the price of Manitoba No. 1 Northern when quoted, as it occasionally is, on the Liverpool market. Yet, Ontario farmers, marketing their wheat several hundred miles nearer the seaboard than the terminal elevators at the head of the lakes, are receiving from 40 to 50 cents less a bushel than this grade of Manitoba wheat is now bringing at those points of shipment.

The answer, as suggested by Mr. Mackenzie, is that Ontario farmers who grow wheat are not organized like the farmers of the west, and there is, therefore, no way of preventing the dealers from making excessive profits on the handling of this grain, just as the grain operators did in the west before the farmers began to put up their own elevators. This matter stands in need of investigation.

The price of wheat is on an export basis. It is set by Liverpool quotations. Leaving out of consideration the difference in transportation charges, the small difference that exists at Liverpool should also exist here. There are indications that the influences of the export market are being manipulated, with the result that Ontario wheat is selling about 40 cents a bushel lower than it should be at this time, and that someone is profiting to this extent. An investi-

gation might reveal that a similar state of affairs exists with regard to other grain that Ontario farmers are selling.

The United Farmers' Cooperative Co. has recently announced that it is able to handle wheat, oats and rye in carload lots. One of the indirect benefits of the operations of the Grain Growers' Grain Co. of Winnipeg has been that it has forced other grain dealers to give the farmer a fair price for his product. While the Ontario Farmers' Company as yet is not as well organized or as strong financially as the Grain Growers' Grain Company, it will patronize it should in time have the same corrective influence on grain prices in the province as the western farmers' company has on the prairies.

A Call to Action

THE directors of the United Farmers of Ontario have issued a call to the farmers' clubs to take immediate action in support of the resolution recently passed protesting against the disfranchisement of agriculture in the appointment of its representatives to the National Business Conference to be held in October. As they justly point out, there is going to be a tremendous debt to pay after the war is over, and those who can will shift the burden to those who are unable to shift it in turn to others, and that agriculture, being the last link in the chain, will carry most of it. The clubs are being called upon to support the resolution and to apprise the Minister of Customs and their representatives in Parliament of the fact that an injustice has been done the farmers in not referring the appointment of representatives to their accredited organizations.

There is urgent need for immediate and decided action on the part of the organized farmers in demanding true representation at the conference. It is an important gathering. Its deliberations will have much to do in shaping the future policy of Canada in matters of industry and trade. The representatives of the business interests may be relied upon to do their utmost to shape those policies to their own benefit. Wherein their interests conflict with those of agriculture our basic industry will be sacrificed, unless it is represented by a strong delegation awake to its economic needs, and prepared to put up a stiff fight for justice. There is no time to lose. Only by showing a united front and by pressing their claims to the utmost can the organized farmers hope to have their interests safeguarded at the conference.

Progress and Poverty

THE manner in which progress and poverty go hand in hand is well exemplified by the way in which the expenditures for charitable purposes have increased in Toronto during its years of so-called prosperity. Since 1904, according to a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research of that city, the population has increased less than 100 per cent, while the annual charitable expenditures have increased over 600 per cent. In 1905, when the population was 238,642, the total amount paid out for hospitals, children's aid societies and other charitable causes was \$104,254.42, or an average of \$2.20 a family. In 1915, when the population had increased to 463,705, the total cost for these purposes was \$748,237, or \$3.95 for each family. As the bulletin points out, a name other than charity should be found for these payments. They are for the most part debts owed by society to individual victims of our present social organization.

It was this phenomenon of the growth of poverty with the increase of population that first directed Henry George's attention to the study of economic questions, and inspired his great work, "Progress and Poverty." His researches led him to the conviction that the growth of wealth and poverty side by side was because the wealthy are

enabled by our system of land tenure to monopolize the source of subsistence with which a beneficent Creator has endowed mankind as a free gift, and are thereby enabled to use what was intended as a blessing as a means of oppression. As long as land monopolists are allowed to lay tribute on the workers for the privilege of living on the earth on one another's roofs, and to increase that tribute as the number of people and therefore the demand for land increases, poverty will develop faster than population.

A Way We Have

A CANADIAN exploring party has found rich copper deposits east of the mouth of the McKenzie River. Dr. Anderson, commander of the south branch of the Steffanson expedition, reports that the copper can be made transportable to the McKenzie River by the construction of a railway. It would then be shipped upstream to some point where it would be smelted and thence distributed to copper users.

The copper beds, of course, belong to the Canadian people who financed the expedition that discovered them. If they are to be developed it will be done, judging from past experience in such matters, somewhat after this manner. In the first place a present of the deposits will be made to a foreign mining trust. Then the McKenzie River will be locked and dredged in order to make it navigable, and shipping terminals will be built, the cost being defrayed from the public treasury and totaling at least three times as much as the original estimate. This will account for the making of several millionaires who will later be knighted. The railway will then be built by public funds, taking twice as long as expected, and costing twice as much as it should. It will then be found to be the property of a small coterie of railway magnates. The mining trust, being now ready to start operations, will be given a cash bonus on all the copper mined. They will further be protected by a tariff of, say, thirty per cent, while their smelter will be given a free site and immunity from taxation by some enterprising western town. The people will then be able to get their own copper back at about twice the price paid for that commodity in any other country, and may be thankful if they are not called on to meet the annual deficits of the railway company. The country will, of course, stand the expense of keeping the river navigable and the terminals in repair, and the politicians will urge that in consideration of their enterprise in promoting this Canadian industry, they should be forthwith elected. Such is the way we have of doing things in Canada.

"Thank You."

SOMETIMES, while we are in our office thinking about Our Folks, there arrives evidence that Our Folks on their farms are thinking of us. This occurred one morning recently when the expressman delivered a ten-pound pill of honey accompanied by the compliments of Mr. W. P. Whiteide, of Mariposa township in Victoria county. We can assure Mr. Whiteide that his instructions to "see, taste and smack your lips" were speedily complied with, and we can truly say that the product of his apiary is as fine in quality as any that has ever tickled our editorial palate. The flavor of the product was strongly commended by the household editor, who is capable of offering expert opinion on such matters, and by other members of the staff. A sample of the honey was sent to the editorial room of The Beekeeper, from which word came back that the faith of that publication in the quality of the output of Canadian beekeepers was strongly confirmed.

Mr. Whiteide has our thanks for his kind remembrance. Our appreciation of his gift will last much longer than the honey.