

depended upon to assist generously towards the relief of fellow human beings in trouble.

A SQUARE DEAL FOR IMMIGRANTS

The Ottawa authorities are predicting a great increase of immigration from Great Britain and other European countries after the war. The destruction of property and disturbance of trade, it is anticipated, will make it necessary for many thousands of people to seek new homes and a fresh start in life and a large proportion of these will no doubt come to Canada. What kind of a reception will Canada give to these people who have lost their earthly possessions, and perhaps those nearest and dearest to them as well, in the struggle for liberty? Are we going to allow them to be exploited and victimized at every turn? Are we going to allow the land speculator, for instance, to hold them up for big profits before they can secure land on which to work and live? Are we going to maintain or increase the present high tariff and so make the necessities of life unnecessarily dear? Are we going to allow the banks to retain the extraordinary privileges by which practically every farmer and business man is constantly at their mercy? Are we going to allow the mortgage companies to exact exorbitant rates of interest, and machine companies to make unfair, one-sided contracts, that farmers, especially of foreign birth, often do not understand? Are we going to allow combines to continue to fix the price of food and building material and secure extravagant profits? Are we going to allow them to witness exhibitions of political corruption and the debauching of the voters by political heels? All these abuses and many others that might be enumerated have been practiced in the past not only upon immigrants, but upon our own native Canadians as well, and it is a great tribute to the thrift and dogged perseverance of our working people and to the wonderful natural advantages of Canada, that so many immigrants have, in spite of

these hardships, achieved a measure of success. Let us get ready to give the British, the French, the Belgians, yes, and the Germans and the Austrians also, who will come to this country in increased numbers on the termination of the war, a square deal all round, and then their prosperity and at the same time our own, will be assured.

THE COST OF PRODUCTION

To make farming profitable it is quite as essential to secure economical production as it is to provide economical marketing facilities and receive high prices. Very often when prices are good farmers are inclined to congratulate themselves on the success of their year's operations, while when prices are low they are inclined to complain at their returns. Undoubtedly there are many factors beyond the control of the farmers which reduce considerably the returns due to the agricultural industry, and these will be removed as the farmers become awakened to the needs of self protection. But while efforts are being made to remove these artificial restrictions the lack of successful farming must not be attributed entirely to low prices. There are many farmers in this country who, if their cost of production were reduced to the lowest possible figure, would have made a margin of profit in past years where they either broke even or sustained a loss. Under normal conditions, with prices as they have been ranging for the past few years, the success or failure of a very large number of farmers is dependent upon making the cost of production as low as possible. How many farmers are there in Western Canada today who know how much it costs them on their own farm to produce a bushel of wheat or a two year old steer? How many of them know whether every cow they are milking is earning its board and producing a profit, or whether it would pay them to buy a bunch of pigs and feed them on rough grain rather than sell the grain at a discount? These are all questions that farmers should

be able to answer with considerable profit to themselves if they devoted sufficient attention and study to their business. Every implement manufacturer can tell exactly what it costs to produce a machine, or any part of the machine, and any successful business man can determine at a glance by looking thru his books just what a certain department is costing him. A farmer is both a manufacturer and a business man and should ascertain his costs of operation and production in the same manner as is done in other lines of business. To keep the accounts necessary for this purpose would not require any elaborate preparation and would not demand any time that should be devoted to other purposes. Many a successful farmer keeps his records in his own way, but has the information before him which will tell him at the end of the season from whence came his profit and where he sustained a loss, and with that before him he is in a position to make improvements. Successful farming cannot be measured by the results of a few phenomenal seasons, when prices are out of proportion to those in ordinary times. Continuous prosperity can only be assured by intelligent planning and careful management by which the cost of production of an article for sale has been reduced to a minimum.

The Alberta legislature is in session and now is the time for the U. F. A. and all other believers in Democracy to urge and insist upon the amendment of the Direct Legislation Act so as to make the law bear out its title. The present act is so restricted that it is practically useless and the amendments proposed by the U. F. A. are absolutely necessary to give the people self government thru the control of the legislature.

A year ago everybody shouted to the farmers "You must get into mixed farming;" today these same advisers shout "You must grow more wheat."



They all turn to the Farmer in time of trouble

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