

tariff reform, federal revenue, questions of permanent fiscal policy, or the age-long issue between free trade and protection." Just so; if these important national considerations may be completely ignored, the whole question is extremely easy of solution. Be it remembered, though, that the two million dollars said to be raised yearly from duties on agricultural implements, if not so produced, would have to be shouldered by the people at large.

### Should the Burden Be Shifted?

At this particular time in our national history, when employment for returned soldiers is going to be a matter of paramount importance, and when the largest possible revenue must be obtained in all directions to carry our gigantic war debt, the question may fairly be asked: "*Is the farming industry languishing to such an extent that in order to help it out there must be destroyed, or even impaired, its fellow producer, the manufacturing industry of this country?*" In fact, the weakening of the latter from our standpoint would mean partial destruction of the former. However, perhaps some figures and statements sent out by the *Grain Growers' Guide* (the official organ of the agriculturists of the West) to prospective advertisers, would help to make clear the question as to the condition of the farming population. It is stated that, based upon the figures for 1917, there will be 60,000 motor cars purchased in 1918 in the three Prairie Provinces, having an average value of \$1,000 per car, making an investment of sixty million dollars, and that another ten million dollars' worth of accessories will be purchased. It is further stated that while in the United States the farmers bought forty per cent. of the cars sold in 1917, the proportion sold to farmers in Western Canada was twice this figure. It is further stated that "Western Canada, and especially the farmers of Western Canada, should therefore be the best prospects for your sales efforts in 1918." Another significant statement reads:

"A recent investigation, conducted by the *Grain Growers' Guide*, into nearly three hundred districts in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, confirms emphatically the oft-asserted claim that *nowhere, and with such unanimity over such a wide area, is nature so bountiful or is the return per capita from farm life so profuse as in Western Canada.*"

"The following data is taken from this investigation:

Average size of farm.....	382 acres
Number of farms owned.....	92½ per cent.
Number of farms rented.....	7½ per cent.
Average acreage under crop.....	195 acres.
Average value of farm holdings.....	\$11,010.
Average number of persons per farm home....	5