

# The Grain Growers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, November 6, 1918

## Invest in Victory Bonds

So rapid now are the developments from day to day in the war situation that it may well be that before the end of next week, when the Victory Loan drive closes, there may have occurred events which will take their place in history as not the least extraordinary and important in the whole course of this world conflict.

But no matter how extraordinary the developments may be, and how history-making the developments, nothing can happen that can lessen the urgency of the need that every Canadian at home help to the utmost of his, or her, power to make the Victory Loan the greatest possible success.

Now more than ever is it vitally necessary that the Canadian nation give proof of its unswerving resolution. We Canadians at home must keep faith with our dead who lie asleep forever in Flanders' fields, and with the Canadians of the same spirit now at grips with death on the battlefields, fighting to make freedom and justice secure in the world.

Nor must we let ourselves for an instant forget that after the last gun is fired many months must elapse before the armies can all be demobilized and all our men come home to Canada. Peace, whenever it comes, will bring with it financial problems no less formidable for a time than those of war. Canada will have to meet its obligations and pay its way.

To pass from the public to the private point of view, the investment value of Victory Bonds compels attention; nor is there anything necessarily unworthy in letting self-interest join its promptings with those of patriotic duty. Every Victory Bond stands in the front rank of the world's securities. It is valuable, moreover, to its owner as a means of thrift. It is as easily negotiable, practically, as a bank note. It cannot depreciate in value. All the resources of Canada stand behind it as security, while grass grows and water runs.

Every dollar invested in Victory Bonds will help to win the war, and then Victory Bonds will be worth more than ever. Buy Victory Bonds!

## Farmers and Wage Earners

The new era of reconstruction will bring out into plainer view than ever a fundamental truth which the Grain Growers' organizations have kept in view consistently as a guiding principle. This fundamental truth is that the wage earners of Canada and the farmers of Canada are mutually concerned in each others' welfare, have identical purposes at heart in working for economic and social justice, and can best attain the realization of these purposes by co-operation.

The considerations which all along have determined this attitude of the Grain Growers' organizations are well set forth in the article by John Kennedy, vice-president of the United Grain Growers Limited, in The Guide of last week. To quote a few sentences from that article by Mr. Kennedy:—

We are the same people, we all work for a living. One cannot live without the other. Legislation that is good for one is good for the other. Legislation that is bad for one is bad for the other; and what is much more important, if farmers remain as a class by themselves and wage earners in another class by themselves, neither caring for the other's interests, neither will be able ever to combat the power of the big interests. That is just what the "powers that be" are working for, and in the past they have been

successful. It does not take much to beat us when we are divided, but no power can beat us if we are not divided. Then let him that labors stand by his brother for justice and liberty.

In the foregoing sentences Mr. Kennedy sets forth with clearness and force the truth that the wage-earners and the farmers are mutually concerned in each others' welfare and have the same fundamental purposes at heart. The need of all the working people of Canada, of whom the returned soldiers will form so large a proportion, getting closer together to co-operate in preparation for the era of reconstruction is essential and of immediate urgency.

## A Sign of the Times

Notable among the many signs of the times is the report submitted to the recent General Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada by the committee on the relation of the Church to the war and patriotism. That report, which was adopted by the General Conference, gives voice in clear and bold and forcible words to the spirit of human equality and fraternity, of social and economic justice, which will guide and govern the political thinking of all the true democracies in the new era towards which the world is moving swiftly. For example:—

The triumph of democracy, the demand of the educated workers for human conditions of life, the deep condemnation this war has passed on the competitive struggle, the revelation of the superior efficiency of national organization and co-operation, combine with the unfulfilled, the often forgotten, but the undying ethics of Jesus, to demand nothing less than a transference of the whole economic life from a basis of competition and profits to one of co-operation and service.

National organization, national control, extraordinary approximations to national equality have been found essential to efficiency. It is not conceivable that when Germany ceases to be a menace, these dearly-bought discoveries will be forgotten.

The British Government Commission has outlined a policy which, while accepting as a present fact the separation of capital and labor, definitely denies the right of sole control to the former and insisting on the full organization of workers and employers, vests the government of every industry in a joint board of employers and workers, which board shall determine the working conditions of that industry. This policy has been officially adopted by the British Government, and

nothing less can be regarded as tolerable even now in Canada.

We recommend that our ministers and people should acquaint themselves with such important documents as the Report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, the Inter-Allied Labor Parties' Memorandum on War Aims, the British Labor Party's Program of the New Social Order, and the British Governmental Commission Reports on Industrial Relations.

The acceptance of this report, it cannot be too clearly recognized, commits this church, as far as this representative body can commit it, to nothing less than complete social reconstruction.

The General Conference is the parliament of the Methodist denomination. The membership of that body, it may be noted was 15 per cent. of the total population of Canada in 1911, when the last Dominion census was taken, the Presbyterians numbering 15½ per cent., the Roman Catholics 39 per cent., the Anglicans, 14½ per cent., and the Baptists 5½ per cent. That a declaration from which the foregoing are characteristic extracts should be adopted by the parliament of the denomination which is numerically the third strongest in Canada is noteworthy as one of the many manifestations of the quickening of the spirit of democracy. Never before since democracy first took shape as an organized movement has there been such a quickening of its true spirit as now, in the stress and long agony of this war.

## Profits and Morals

The large profits necessarily disclosed in the annual balance sheets of certain big manufacturing corporations at whose shareholders' annual meetings statements of the year's business have to be publicly made, provoke thought in regard to the profits of the close corporations about whose affairs no information is vouchsafed to the public. Some of these close corporations in Canada stand in the front rank in respect of the volume of business they do.

The war has already modified profoundly in every country the economic systems of the time before the war; and with the coming of peace all countries will enter upon an era of unprecedented revolutionary change. Among the questions which are forcing themselves upon the attention of thinking people everywhere is the question of the moral aspect of profits which, while they are within the law, as the law stands, are nevertheless undeniably excessive, and are the product of a system which works more for the enlargement of individual fortunes than for the common good, and for true democratic co-operation with the common good in view.

There are many aspects of this question. Has any man a moral right to pocket excessive profits? Surely no man has the right to the money or the service of another man, without rendering therefore the just equivalent in money or in service. It is coming more and more to be seen that this is an incontrovertible moral principle, and that any system which violates this principle is a morally wrong system. Any such system violates the true rights and interest of the community by tending to produce that insidious degradation of the standard of life or some members of the community which is the worst economic and social calamity to which any community can be subjected.

In the working out of this principle, national finance and taxation in the years to come will not be regulated, as has been the case in far too large a measure in the past, by protectionism and by many other ingenious devices of injustice, in accordance with the wishes of the possessing classes and the

## Buy Victory Bonds

Money invested in Victory Bonds is money put into the most essential investment in the world today, the winning of the war. Invest as much as you can in Victory Bonds. They are at any time convertible into cash. They are wealth in a most convenient form. So, for your country and yourself—

## Buy Victory Bonds

It is no sacrifice to lend to Canada at five-and-a-half per cent. There may be some sacrifice in saving; there is none in buying a gilt-edged security such as a Victory Bond. All the resources of Canada between the Atlantic and the Pacific, from Cape Breton to Dawson City, and the earning power of the Canadian people in the years to come, are behind your investment, ensuring the payment of interest and principal back to you.

And bear in mind that the Canadian at home who puts \$100 into Victory bonds is doing only one-fifth of his duty if he can put in \$500; and if he puts in \$500 when he is able to put in \$1,000 he is doing only half his duty.

## Summary

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