

## OUR ORGANISED GRAIN GROWERS



Articles and items under this heading are edited by officials at the Central Office of the "Sask. Grain Growers' Ass'n." "The Courier" gladly gives publicity to these articles, as this paper always has been and still is a strong believer in the cause of the organized farmers of the west.

## LAND VALUES MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO BE UNDULY RAISED BY SPECULATORS

DEMOCRATIC AND RATIONAL SETTLEMENT OF LAND PROBLEM IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IN THE INTERESTS OF WESTERN AGRICULTURISTS, AND IN ORDER TO ASSURE SOUND DEVELOPMENT.

Amongst the many questions which the great European struggle has brought prominently to the front is the never-ending land problem. It is recognized by students of economics that land plays the most prominent part in the commonwealth and like the poor "is ever with us." Many are even bold enough to say that the reason we have the poor with us always is because land monopoly is ever with us. There is reason for this contention, if the widely accepted principle of Henry George is admitted, that "land is the source of all wealth."

### The Returned Soldier.

The most generally accepted idea amongst those interested in the vexed problem of the returned soldier is to settle them on the land. But the great and insurmountable difficulty, at the present time, is the one of procuring land which is at one and the same time acceptable and available.

Canada boasts of her resources in land, mines, forests, her great lakes swarming with fish and the homes which these undeveloped resources will provide for the teeming multitudes who are expected to flock to Canada's shores, from the overpopulated continent across the seas, at the close of the war.

But along with this boosting the real facts are rarely published. During the last quarter of a century, which represents western Canada's evolution from the "great lone land" to a conspicuous place in the British empire, certain privileged interests, under the pretense of governing the nation, have been assiduous in carving out for themselves, or their political and business associates, huge portions of these undeveloped resources. These in many cases have been permitted to remain undeveloped, awaiting the influx of settlers, with the inevitable inflation of prices, thus affording the lucky possessors the opportunity of benefiting by that "unearned increment" which has become such a travesty upon that fundamental principle of a true democracy, viz: "Equality of opportunity."

### Undeveloped Lands.

This condition especially applies to the problem of land monopoly and is mainly responsible for the difficulty at the present time being experienced in the "Soldiers' Land Settlement Scheme." Available land for settlement in the prairie provinces is now so limited and remote from transportation facilities, that naturally returned soldiers are reluctant to undertake this pioneer work, such as others suffering from land hunger have, in the past, been called upon to endure.

This is not to be wondered at in view of the fact that such large tracts of the most fertile and accessible lands are being held by speculators and the big corporations. According to the recent "Survey of Education in the Province of Saskatchewan," by Dr. Harold W. Foght, of the bureau of Education, Washington, "the total land area of the province is placed at 155,764,100 acres. Of this amount 36,800,698 acres, or 23.63 per cent., is occupied as farm land out of a total of 94,000,000 acres estimated as being available for crop production."

In other words, 61.70 per cent. of the available land is being kept out of cultivation, largely and mainly as a result of corporation monopoly and private land speculation, who have secured a "lead-pipe cinch" on the most choice and accessible, awaiting that inflation of prices which will automatically occur with the advent of the settlers.

As a proof that this is no exaggerated picture, the writer, who during the early days of western settlement was a resident of the Dauphin district, recently paid a return visit to his former haunts. During that visit, as a result of an interview with the secretary of the rural municipality of Dauphin (Manitoba) it was shown that while for the last twenty years there have been no lands in that municipality open for homesteading, which were worth accepting, there are only 30 per cent. of the arable lands in that municipality under cultivation.

### Ontario Legislation.

The question which naturally arises—which is as old as land reform itself—is, how are these lands to be brought under cultivation? The answer is very simple, and can be best illustrated by what has already been accomplished, in a small way in Ontario. During the last session of the Ontario legislature legislation was enacted, giving city and town councils power to expropriate, for the period of the war, all unoccupied city and town lots for war garden purposes and without remuneration to the owners. The effect of this legislation was electrical. Thousands of lots adjacent to cities and towns in western Ontario, representing an immense acreage kept out of cultivation for speculative purposes, were eagerly taken up by workmen and turned into gardens.

What could be done on a provincial and provisional scale can be done on a national and permanent scale when we have statesmen with vision enough to realize the full significance of these potentialities. At present this scheme has found favor on private patriotic grounds, narrowing the idea down to the conditions created by the war. But on the wider interpretation of patriotism of the every day and all-the-year-round type, the adoption of a permanent and far-reaching scheme is imperative if this giant monopoly, the progenitor of all other forms of monopoly, is to be prevented from becoming as tyrannical and subversive of the commonwealth as the militarism of Germany.

### The Essential Industry.

It is becoming more and more patent to the ordinary mind that agriculture is the essential industry, and that upon its success depends the future prosperity of every other industry. With the close of the war, the return of the soldiers from the field of carnage to the field of production, and the much heralded influx of immigration, the land monopolists will again reap their golden harvest. They are already "laying pipe" for the stream of gold which will flow into their vats, unless some action is taken to stem the tide whereby the stream will flow into the right channels.

The Grain Growers' association, which stands for "equal rights for all and special privileges for none," has nothing to fear but everything to gain by legislation along this line. Increased production is infinitely less to be feared by the agriculturists than land speculation, which inevitably boosts the price of land and, therefore, increases the cost of living to all the community. Land speculators attempt to console the grain grower who owns his own land with the idea that the occupation of the land by the speculator increases the farmers' financial standing, inasmuch as his farm is worth so much more per acre. But such sophistry has never convinced even the most simple that such inflation of land values produces any more to the acre, or that this

artificial increase of values in farm lands provides the farmer with a readier market for his produce, or brings him better prices.

When farmers are prosperous everyone else is prosperous, and vice versa, and as the farmer is said to be "the first creditor of the state," it is incumbent that legislation should be forthcoming whereby land shall be available for use and not for merely increasing its cost by changing hands.

## Lots of Land But It's Held By Interests.

MEIGHEN'S STATEMENT OF SHORTAGE NOT TRUE.

Speculators Own Millions of Acres.

According to a statement published in the Montreal Herald, of a recent date, Hon. Arthur Meighen said: "There is not sufficient land available in Western Canada to meet even the present demand of the returned soldiers."

This is certainly amazing in view of the facts, as published by the Toronto Saturday Night, that "a handful of Canadian speculators, none of whom are farmers, control 2,118,230 acres of the most desirable, uncultivated land in the prairie provinces, which they only intend to sell at their own prices."

### U. S. A. Speculators.

The same paper also shows that land speculators, residing in the United States, control in the same way 1,246,200 additional acres; while more than 11,000,000 acres of land are in the possession of the Hudson Bay Co. and kindred corporations.

Within ten miles of railways now operating on the prairies there are 12,700,039 acres of alienated lands; within fifteen miles there are 15,296,464 acres; within twenty miles there are 16,893,391 acres; while over twenty miles away there are still more millions of acres.

During the last few months the Dominion government has undertaken to release lands formerly held by Indians and Doukhobors, which is being thrown open for settlement.

**Appropriating Indian Lands.**  
In view of the urgent need to provide for the needs of returned soldiers, there appears to be some justification in ignoring the constitutional right of "Poor Lo." But by so doing it has established an interesting precedent, which it will be well to bear in mind, when the land question comes to be more seriously discussed.

Meanwhile, however, the question naturally arises, why this partiality? In the first place, Mr. Meighen's statement is not entirely correct; and in the second place, if, as a result of the increasing land hunger it has been found necessary and practicable to take back the lands in possession of the Doukhobors and Indians, why have the Hudson Bay Co., the C.P.R. and other land speculators enjoyed different treatment? The Indians and Doukhobors were making better use of their lands than the speculators. The latter who were here before the Canadian Pacific Railway, as well as before the Hudson Bay Co., are making part of their living upon it by honest toil, to the best of their skill and ability and some day will make good.

### Unearned Increment.

On the other hand, the land speculators, who make no pretence at improving their holdings, instead, they depend upon that "unearned increment" which is produced as a result of improvements to adjoining lands, through the labor, frugality and enterprise of the settler.

The most lamentable part of it all is, however, these gamblers in the nation's principal resources, although they paid little or nothing for it originally, are largely exempt from taxation.

The facts and conditions are so glaringly inconsistent that only a recognition of the political causes which enter into the situation can explain Mr. Meighen's lop-sided statement; while no amount of sophistry can justify the withholding of available lands from cultivation in view of the two interrelating conditions produced by this—ever present land problem, which has created "landless men and needless land."

Co-operation means the best possible service at actual cost.

## FARMERS SUFFERING LOSS OF CROP SHOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH THEIR CREDITORS THIS FALL

Merchants Should Recognize Their Essential Partnership With The Farmer—In Some Parts There Will Be Necessity For Forbearance in Order That Livestock May Get Feed And Be Retained By Farmers.

A good many farmers who have suffered a loss this year through drought or frost seem to be afraid that they will have difficulty with their creditors. There should not be any difficulty, especially for any man who has the reputation of having been fair with his creditors when he had money with which to pay his accounts. The man who sells merchandise to a farmer is to a considerable extent a partner with the farmer in his enterprise.

As the farmer profits the business man profits, and both assume a certain joint liability in case the crops turn out poorly. Both merchants and farmers benefit by increased settlement of our lands and they likewise suffer by anything which tends to eliminate the number of farmers in their community; therefore, every effort should be made to avoid driving men off the farms. It is probable that there are creditors who fail to recognize their essential partnership with their farmer customers, but insofar as certain districts are concerned there will be undoubtedly a great necessity for the utmost forbearance on the part of everybody so that necessary seed and feed for livestock may be retained by farmers in order that their farming operations may not be hampered or hindered next year. A similar serious difficulty occurred in 1914, when the country was not in as good condition to pass through a severe crisis as it is today. At that time the majority of creditors treated their customers as well as could be desired. There is no reason to doubt that they will do so again, but any creditor who enforces his collection to the point where he insists on a farmer-customer separating himself from necessary feed, seed or livestock, should be placed under restraint until he learns to do better. On the other hand, a real obligation rests upon every farmer to meet his obligations as fully as possible and to distribute his resources as fairly as possible.

**CLOSER CO-OPERATION DESIRED BY LOCALS IN HORIZON DISTRICT.**

Mr. McKinney and Mr. Belschowsky visited Horizon on the 21st and held a very interesting meeting there with the representatives of the six locals in that district. The object of the meeting was to discuss the best plan by which these various locals could combine their co-operative trading activities. Each of these locals desires to retain its identity as a trading local and at the same time secure the advantages of the full co-operation of all locals in the district.

After a full and free discussion of the matter, Mr. McKinney promised to advise them later as to the best way of accomplishing their desired end, after consulting with the association's solicitor and the provincial director of Agricultural Co-operative Associations.

**AMELIA G.G.A. GIVE \$46.50 TO RED CROSS**

Another local "doing its bit" in support of the Red Cross fund is the Amelia Grain Growers' Association, which under date of Aug. 27th forwarded to central a cheque for \$46.50.

Chas. A. Morcy, secretary-treasurer of Amelia local, in forwarding the cheque, writes: "Please find cheque for \$46.50, which went to the Red Cross Society; the profit of a picnic held by the Amelia Grain Growers. "As the forenoon was rather cloudy and chilly not many were present. But as the afternoon turned nice and warm the crowd began to assemble and the sports were well patronized. "Mr. George Spence motored up from Notaken and gave the crowd a very interesting speech on the railway extensions in the south country. After the speaking the crowd moved to Mr. Emerson's big barn for the dance."

**Man has the right to think all things, speak all things, write all things, but not to impose his opinions.—Machiavelli.**

# Announcement

As the cold weather season is near at hand, our customers will begin to wear heavier clothes.

Have you ever thought of buying your needs for this fall and the fast approaching winter? We have one of the largest stocks of clothing for men, women and children and all our departments are preparing to meet a big rush.

With our buying facilities and close touch with the largest markets of the United States and Canada we have been able to secure large quantities of seasonable goods at fairly low prices. We have carefully studied market conditions and are of the honest opinion that all goods will see another big advance in price before long.

We have bought heavy in order to protect you, to save you money. We are willing to give you the benefit of our long experience and are offering you every article in our store at exceptionally low prices.

## UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Farmers and Threshermen now have a rare chance to get their gloves, heavy underwear, work shirts, heavy boots, socks, overalls, sheepskin coats, furs, makinaws, suits, overcoats, etc. at reduced prices. Space will not permit us to go into details but you may rest assured that we want your trade and will treat you accordingly.

You are cordially invited to visit our store and get your supplies early. "IT PAYS"

# The Fair

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## KEEPING OF HORSES WORKING UPON LAND IS VITAL QUESTION

Waldeck Farmer Endorses Appeal of Central Secretary and Seeks Home Help on Matter

The following letter has been addressed to the central secretary, viz: "In one of the provincial dailies I saw part of one of your speeches re the conditions existing in some of the rural districts on account of the drought this year, and feel that I must write and let you know my appreciation, as being one of those farmers who have been burnt out for the past two years. I have been going on around our district of Coulee, and the conditions are going to be fearfully hard for most of us; but if we were allowed to keep our horses working on the land instead of being taken from us or forced to go away from home working out, it would be much better for the country at large, and the farmer as well. Everybody around here seemed to go the limit in the matter of putting in as big an acreage as possible, not so much for personal gain as to do their bit to help to win the war. I think it would be pretty hard if the government let the farmers be distressed for the current year, or let their horses be seized or sold by forced sale, as one of my neighbors put it. If we could get nearly their values it would not be so bad, as most of us could replace them, but you are quite well aware that in a forced sale in a year like the present one, everything would go for pretty nearly nothing. So I would like to enlist your help and sympathy in this matter, as I think it is a vital one to the welfare of the province and the country, as well as the Empire. Mr. Scott, our former premier, in 1914 stopped all seizures in the drought zones, and we were enabled to go ahead and gather in that wonderful crop in 1915 that changed the conditions of everything so much for the better. I feel sir, that it must be some satisfaction to you that after reading your splendid appeal for us, I have made up my mind again to join up with the association, as I am sorry to say that I resigned from my position as director on our local through not being in accord with our local president. JAS. HENRY FULLER

It behooves all farmers to organize and build up their own business enterprises.

## NO FOUNDATION FOR REPORT THAT FINES MAY FOLLOW CUTTING OF FROZEN GRAIN BY THE FARMERS

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Characterizes The Report as Absurd—Farmers Can Follow Own Inclination in Matter And Big Market is Open For Feed.

It has been reported that farmers may be fined for cutting frozen grain, but there appears to be no foundation or justification for the existence of such rumors. F. H. Auld, deputy minister of agriculture, when asked for a statement in this regard, characterized the whole thing as absurd. "There are tens of thousands of acres of wheat and barley in Saskatchewan which is only valuable for feed for livestock and which, if cut before it loses its greenness, will make valuable feed. There is nothing to prevent farmers from cutting this for stock feed, and there is a market for a large quantity of it in districts in the south where feed is scarce. Ranchers are ready to buy this kind of feed by the trainload at around \$10 a ton, baled and loaded on cars. They do not want the dried out stuff, however, and

will only buy frozen grain if it is green and well cured, and under these circumstances any person who is responsible for starting a silly yarn about farmers being fined for making hay of their frosted crop, is assuming a serious responsibility. Farmers north of Battleford are cutting the parts of their frozen wheat fields, where, owing to the frost damage, the crop is not filling. The sheaves are set up as soon as possible in small, narrow stacks so arranged as to give the straw opportunity of curing. The damage from frost constitutes a very serious loss for many farmers in the north, but their loss is not a total one if they will make hay of their frozen grain, and feed it to their own livestock or sell it for feed in the south."

The department of agriculture is receiving information from ranchers, farmers and grain growers' associations who want to buy this class of feed and grain growers' associations or co-operative societies with feed to sell should communicate with the livestock commissioner at Regina.

Unite with the best people in your community to form organizations that will make Canada a blessing to all peoples.

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