

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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should to the work of finding out the best practices for those engaged in the fundamental industry—which is farming. The work is oftentimes handicapped for lack of money, proper equipment, or accommodation. The country's money is lavishly spent along some lines, while agriculture, the most important, must wait. Experimental and investigational work are essential in order that the best farm practices be employed on the average farm. If farmers would as insistently demand that their industry be recognized by our Governments, as do representatives of some other industries, dairy experimental work would not have to be conducted with insufficient equipment in a twelve-by-fifteen-foot building, with walls crumbling to the ground. Men conducting experimental work would not have to labor in antiquated offices; they would not have their work curtailed by lack of funds, and insufficient stock and land. It is time that there was an awakening on the part of our Governments to the fact that without agriculture there would be little need for great docks, transportation systems, etc. As the soil has and will furnish the bulk of Canada's revenue, let agriculture be dealt with squarely. Give those in charge of Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges, who generally speaking are able men, an opportunity to do their best work. If new varieties, methods or practices prove practicable and profitable, they soon come into general use. If agriculturists are prospering the country has nothing to fear, as the wheels of every industry are then kept humming, but, if agriculture becomes decadent, poverty and depression stalk through the land.

There will never come a time when experimental work is not needed; it, like the brook, will go on forever. As improvement and advancement take place on the average farm, they must also take place on our college and experimental farms. These to serve their purpose must ever be one pace ahead of the average farm in agricultural thought and practice. Thus their work is becoming more difficult as the years pass. The men conducting the work on these farms are, we believe, equal to the task before them, but the appropriations made by the country for carrying on the work must of necessity be larger than in the past. If our representatives in parliament do not see the need of promoting agriculture let farmers impress upon them strongly that

first this must be first or, in other words, that farmers and their interests be given the consideration due them. Skimping agriculture is a short-sighted policy and a very discriminating one when money is spent so lavishly in other lines. War needs come first, and then agriculture under which appropriation the colleges and experimental farms should be fairly treated.

Sandy Satisfied to "Keep on Keepin' on."

BY SANDY FRASER.

Did ye ever get talkin' with a mon that had been oot to Manitoba or Saskatchewan or Alberta a few times and had invested a wee bit o' money there in real estate or somethin' o' the kind? If ye have ye'll ken that it's dangerous to be sayin' onything about the West that's no' altogether in its favor. He's liable to jump on to ye with both feet gin ye say that a chap that's pretty weel fixed here in the East had better stay here. Wi' him there's only one country on earth for the man wi' ony getup an' enterprise in him, an' that's the Canadian West, frae the Ontario boundry to the Pacific Ocean. And if the walkin' was good ony further it isn't likely he'd stap there.

I mind talkin' to one o' these fellows once. "Sandy," says he, "if ye wad juist sell oot this ranch o' yours an' come oot west an' wark as hard as ye dae here, ye'd be a rich mon in ten years. Ye dinna ken onything about that country an' ye never will till ye hae seen it for yersel'. Ye're wastin' yer time in this backwoods, I tell ye, Sandy, and ye might as weel be deid, pretty near. The West was made for the makin' o' big men and I'd like to see ye get a chance. Come where ye'll get life pumped into ye wi' ilka breath ye tak' an' where ye canna' mair help gettin' rich than ye can help bein' poor where ye are."

I listened to all he had tae say, of coorse, not bein' able tae contradict him, but, whether for better or worse, I didna' tak' his advice. I'm no' sayin' it tae rin doon the West ony, but that same chap that wis worth at that time a guid mony thousand dollars, made in Ontario, mind ye, is noo clerkin' in a store oot there, wi' not anither cent o' income but his clerk's wages to help him pay for his board an' washin'. Ilka dollar o' his money gone through "investin'" in town-lots an' ither city property. Bad an' all as it wis doon here he could hardly hae whittled the thing to a finer point than that. I dinna ken that he's even oot o' debt. It's the auld story over again. There's compensation in all circumstances an' conditions that bring things back to an even balance. Sae far as I ken no country has a monopoly o' all the opportunities an' advantages. We may be slow enough back in these aulder parts o' the Dominion but there are plenty amang us that 'get there juist the same.' There's lots o' time to do all that's tae be done and the mon that sticks tae his job is the mon that draws his wages at the end o' the day. And if the day wisna lang enough for the size o' the job we ken there's ither days comin'. Na end o' them.

I wis talkin' to a young fellow lately, wha had juist come back frae a trip to the Western provinces. He'd gone oot on the Harvest Excursion a year ago so he'd had a chance tae look around a bit an' get an idea o' what like a country it wis. He wisna displeased wi' the place an' said that na doot some people wad be weel suited there, but that takin' everything intae consideration he had decided tae come back. He tauld me o' a friend o' his that had sold his farm in Quebec an' bought anither one in Saskatchewan. He pit in a hundred an' fifty acres o' wheat last spring for a starter, besides some oats an' barley. He didn't have one bushel o' onything this fall. The wind picked up ilka thing he had sowed or planted an' carried it awa' into the next concession. And besides that, the weather wis sae dry that he has to buy what hay he needs to winter his six horses and the auld coo he took wi' him when he went West.

And anither hard-luck story he tauld me wis aboot a man wha had been five years on a farm in the southern part o' the province there, an' hadn't had a crop yet. Frost or hail or hot winds had cleaned him oot on every occasion.

Noo I ken it's no hard to pick oot instances like this in the history o' ony country that the Lord ever created, but it's juist as weel f-r ony o' us that are thinkin' o' sellin' oot an' movin' on to some Garden o' Eden in the Western prairies, to be doin' it wi' oor eyes open. It never does us ony harm to ken exactly what we're gettin' when we mak' a trade.

Some ither things this young chap tauld me, o' his impressions an' experiences o' the past year. Says he; "There's one thing aboot that country, especially, that I dinna like, an' that is their unco' high winds. Ye canna keep a hat on her heid an' ye sometimes wonder if yer hair isna gaein' tae follow the hat. I've seen what I thought wis coal-smoke frae some locomotive and found oot later that it wis juist ground that the wind had carried intae the air frae a field that had been summer-fallowed. And lots o' the farmers there build the basket-racks they use for hauling the grain, oot o' this wire fencing, instead o' using lumber, as the wind isna sae apt to upset them. Mair than half the time," says he, "the lumber rack will be bottom side up and the horses awa' through the fields wi' the front wheels o' the wagon. And there's anither thing too. When it isn't windy there's mosquitos. They even go for the coos oot there an' that's what they hardly ever dae in this country. An' I've seen one o' my horses get doon an' roll when I had him hitched tae the disc-harrow. It wis the warst mess I got intae all the time I wis there.

I've seen times when ilka man on the place wad be wearin' a veil, just as though they were warkin' on a bee-keepin' ranch. And they hae what they call the 'ant-flies' there too. They're worse yet than the mosquitos. They come in a regular cloud an' get inside yer clothes an' every where else, till ye are nigh crazy. They say that the Government will insure a farmer against ony kind o' plague or accident oot in Saskatchewan, but I've never heard o' any one gettin' oot a Policy to protect himsel' against the flies an' mosquitos. I could hae put in a guid claim for damages gin there had been ony such thing. They insure against gophers, however. That's anither plague o' the West. There isn't much need for ony self-binder where the gophers hae made their encampment for the summer. All the same," says my young friend, "the West is a great place for those that like it."

And that's aboot the size o' it. For the man wha has stayed there lang enough to get used to it and wha has had the luck to mak' some money, it's a'right. We ken there's chances in a new country for some things besides juist the chance for hard wark. If hardship wis the only thing that there wis to object to in the startin' over again in a new country there wad be little to be said against makin' the venture. But there's always the danger, when makin' a move, that ye may gie yersel' a set-back that it will tak' ye a lang time tae recover from. They say that three moves is as bad as a fire and there's some truth in it. When you have climbed half way up the hill there's not likely tae be much gained by goin' back an' startin' at the bottom again. New experiences an' opportunities wad probably hae been mair plentiful gin ye had kept right ahead. It shouldna' be necessary for a mon tae be rin thru the same mill mair than once. For mair o' us, makin' a fresh start wad be wastin' time. As the auld wumman said tae her mon when he wis talkin' o' sellin' oot an' gaein' tae the toon, "Na, na Donald, we're well here an' we'll juist keep on keepin' on." And that's the word for ony o' us that may be thinkin' o' leavin' a guid hame an' makin' anither for ourselves in the West country. We're "well here" an' we canna dae better than tae "juist keep on keepin' on."

The Purpose of Canada's Victory Loan.

Under ordinary conditions, governments borrow money, when needed, in foreign countries. By using their credit in foreign countries they are able to leave all the money at home for development and add to it with borrowed money. The more money there is being used in a country, the more prosperous and progressive the country is. It is good business to use borrowed money to a reasonable extent.

Four years of a world war, however, changed the situation entirely. Instead of being able to borrow money in foreign countries as was the case prior to the war, we are compelled to rely upon our own resources. Foreign countries are nearly all belligerent countries now and, as such, are not lending money to other countries, but are using it at home.

Canada, then, can not borrow money in the United States, in England, nor anywhere else. As well as not being able to borrow money, Canada is not able to sell the great bulk of her exports abroad for cash. Great Britain takes by far the major part of our exports, but is unable to pay cash for them. Great Britain is the only market for the great bulk of Canadian goods, and consequently some arrangements had to be made whereby Great Britain could finance the purchase of our goods. The present arrangement works out like this: Britain has undertaken to finance the Canadian army overseas in return for which Canada must ship Britain her requirements and finance them herself. That is to say, Canada is relieved of financing her army, but she has to buy her own goods for Britain. This method of doing business is a war expedient from which there is no turning. There will be a reckoning of accounts after the war, but that is of no concern now.

The point is that Canada herself has to finance the sale of products of her forests, her mines, her farms, her fisheries and her factories, and she has to borrow money somewhere to do it. The only available source from which to get this money is within her own borders. It must be borrowed from the savings of the people of Canada.

Among other things, the 1917 Victory Loan was used to purchase Canadian pork and beef to the extent of \$100,000,000. It was used to purchase 40,000,000 pounds of Canadian cheese. These products could never have left Canada if Canadians had not provided the Government with the money by buying Victory Bonds. \$40,000,000 of the last Victory Loan was used in establishing a shipbuilding industry, an industry which will continue to exist and develop after the war. Our last Victory Loan was used almost solely to finance the sale of our own products.

This year's loan will be used, among other things, to finance this year's wheat crop. If the people of Canada do not buy Victory Bonds this fall our wheat crop can not be moved. It is then essential that we buy Victory Bonds if we are to exist ourselves.

Aside from the necessity of subscribing to the new Victory Loan for our own existence, the primary purpose of the Victory Loan is to place Canadian products at the disposal of the Allies in Europe to help win the war. Bonar Law has said: "If money fails, everything fails." The truth of the statement is beyond question. It is our duty one and all, to the utmost of our ability, to put the dollar behind the man behind the gun.