

he feeds us. True, we get fish from the sea, but "no man may live by fish alone."

During the first six months of every year we in the east keep our ear to the ground, listening for the first reports on the crop prospects in the west. If these are favorable, then hurrah! The banks loosen up, the manufacturer's machinery hums, the railroads and steamships—those arteries of commerce—begin to throb at 100 per minute. Why? Because we all know that if the farmer has a bumper crop, he can afford to buy everything that the manufacturer has to sell. Manufactured stuff is worse than useless if you can't sell it.

We bonus every manufacturer in Canada with a 30% duty. We bonus some industries—the iron for instance—direct; we permit municipalities to bonus factories by bonds and tax exemptions; and these favors are given in proportion to the number of hands to be employed.

The climate of our most productive grain-growing belts in the west is too severe to permit of fattening stock profitably in winter. Why should not our old eastern farmers grab this western grain, convert it into beef, pork, mutton, wool, butter, cheese, chickens, eggs, etc., and then forward these for foreign markets? This would give employment to a large number of hands during the winter season, when work is most needed.

Why not bonus the farmer according to the number of hands he employs? The farmer who converts grain into beef and butter is just as much of a manufacturer as the man who converts wool into cloth; if you bonus the one why not the other?

The Government, in a faint, far-off, indirect way, attempts a bonus by giving prizes at our exhibitions and fairs. But even the prize-winners don't get enough to pay expenses; so that it is no bonus. Any benefit the farmer receives is indirect.

Why should not the Government give bonuses for the best farms?

Let a competent commission be appointed and let them visit every farm in a county, or township, and give points for conditions on each farm—good buildings, good fences, cleanness of fields, water system, machinery, pure-bred stock, number of help employed, total products per acre, net profits, and fifty other conditions that might be mentioned.

Then distribute good substantial cash bonuses; but stipulate that bonus-money must be spent on farm improvements.

Inside our city to-day there are thousands of men crying