

as pleasant, of the all grain farmers' experience during the past summer has been to bring home more forcibly than in any other way possible, namely by way of the pocket, that hap-hazard cultivation does not pay in the long run and that thorough cultivation will produce a paying crop under almost any circumstances. All districts have not been affected by drought, but the feature in all those that have been so visited is that one or perhaps more farms on which the principles of moisture conservation have been properly attended to have returned yields well above the general average, while those handled in the ordinary way have, in many cases, scarcely grown enough grain to return the seed. This fact can scarcely be overlooked and no doubt much more summer-fallowing will be included in the farmers' program for next year's work, but an even more important consideration just now is the preparation of land for next year's crop. The harvest in the drought affected areas is practically over, the stacks have been collected and threshed and the stubble is bare in readiness for the plow. Remembering that moisture in the fertile prairie country is the deciding factor between comfort on the one hand and inability to meet one's liabilities on the other, every wide awake farmer will do all in his power to insure, in so far as is possible, a reasonable crop next year. To do this the ground must be put in as receptive a condition to the rain and snow as is possible. In a few districts the ground is so hard and dry in the fall that it is quite impossible to work it down into the fine condition which is necessary for proper water holding capacity, and in some districts the grain should have been cut to leave as much stubble as possible, so that a large amount of the snow which falls will be kept by it to be melted in the spring and taken up by the soil. But in the majority of the districts thruout the West fall plowing can be practiced

to decided advantage, and it is the duty of farmers to themselves, and more than ever at this time to their country, to make certain, in so far as they are physically able, that the crop next year be made as sure as possible. It will be easily recognized that land which has been turned over recently to a depth of say four to five inches will be in a more receptive condition, that is, will act more like a sponge in holding any rain or snow which falls, than will stubble land which has been baked hard on the surface by the hot summer sun. It is plain, too, that any moisture thus held will start a great many weeds growing, which plowing and subsequent harrowing have covered with soil and most of these will be winter killed. Again plowing will expose more of the soil to the action of frost, wind, snow and rain, all of which tend to put it in a finer condition and make more of the plant foods contained by the soil available to growing plants. Accordingly, wherever possible, it is the farmers' duty both to himself and to the nation to thoroughly prepare his land this fall in readiness for next year's crop.

There is practically no war news. The Austrian forces have suffered severe defeats at the hands of the Russians and the Russian armies are now in both Austria and Germany forcing their way towards the capitals. On the western side the German armies have been forced backward, but are still on French territory fighting fiercely to maintain their ground against the French and British. There have been no naval engagements, but three British cruisers have been sunk by German submarines. Tho practically no news is coming from the front it is certain that the German forces are being held in check and even pressed backward to their own territory. The allies cannot cease in safety until they have conquered and that means a long and deadly struggle against the greatest military forces

the world has ever seen. In the meantime business is resuming normal conditions and the allies have settled down to their work in sober earnest.

Never before have apples been so cheap in Western Canada as at present. There are good crops in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia and large quantities are coming from each province. These low prices will be a blessing to the consumers on the prairies, but in most cases they have already fallen below where there is a margin of profit for the producer. This situation is largely due to the war as the British market is not taking nearly so many apples and the German market is closed. Except under abnormal conditions we shall not have such cheap apples in the West again for some years.

We shall be glad to have our readers advise us of any cases where loan companies are demanding higher rates of interest for renewing mortgages that have matured. We will keep names private if requested.

The best method by which farmers can economize in the purchase of their supplies is to co-operate with their neighbors and secure the advantage of lower prices on large orders.

Those mortgage companies who are charging higher rates of interest for renewals are simply unscrupulous sharks who are taking advantage of war conditions to fill their own pockets.

To keep our own internal business in successful operation and our people employed is one of the problems that must not be neglected.



**THE FINANCE MINISTER SHOULD FISH IN THE MAIN STREAM**

NOTE.—The Customs Tariff last year, altho imposing a heavy burden upon the people in increased prices, produced a revenue of less than \$110,000,000. The unimproved land values of Canada, which have been created by the people as a whole, are now estimated at \$5,000,000,000. A tax of 2% on land values would produce \$160,000,000 a year, increasing as population and land values increased.