

run, that the heavy tax upon land was finally shifted to the consumer. Land can carry its fair share of taxation, but not the entire burden. To be sure, the conditions of the problem are changed for the farmer if the tariff and all other forms of taxation are abolished. But under present conditions a heavy tax upon land in the attempt to break up large holdings, may not bring the exact results expected.

Soldiers' Settlement

It strikes us that the only solution of the land problem, and thus of the soldiers' problem, and the problem of immigration in the West, is to be found not in the confiscation of land, or in the placing of a permanent tax upon the economic rent of land, by the State, but in the gradual purchase at a fair market value of all lands held out of use for actual settlers. Even if this land is bought at as high a price as \$30 per acre, the payment if the interest and principal according to some amortization plan will lay a much lighter burden upon the settler than is carried at present by tenant farmers in Iowa, Kansas and other States in the Union. A rental payment that would bring with it ownership, in twenty or thirty years, should prove most attractive to newcomers from both the United States and Europe.

As far as our soldiers are concerned, it would appear that, instead of giving them homesteads in the back districts far removed from railroads and markets, with a loan of \$2,500, it would be more equitable to put them in possession of land in good districts and in areas already fairly well settled. Instead of presenting them with land,

some part of the \$2,500 might be given in lieu thereof, leaving the balance to be paid on an amortization basis. The land would thus be brought into productive use; the men who have earned the right given an opportunity in life; and the national burden be eased by real wealth creation. As is well known, both Victoria and New South Wales have carried through similar projects with conspicuous success, and the problem should not be too difficult for Canadian statesmen to solve. Conditions, of course, are different in new Ontario where the question is one to be attacked by the provincial government itself.

It may be said, in conclusion, that we are convinced that half the cost of bringing the land under cultivation can be cut away under a community settlement scheme, whereby co-operation will take the place of individual effort. Here again the several Australian States have afforded proof of the wonderful results that may be achieved by united effort. Under competent supervision and management, houses, barns and outbuildings may be constructed, wells sunk and equipment secured at from 20 to 50 per cent. less than the cost to the individual undertaking this work alone. Here the provincial universities would prove of supreme value. Their engineering, animal, and field husbandry departments could render conspicuous service in securing worth-while results. It may be said that already Dean Rutherford of the University of Saskatchewan has done much in this direction, by making expert direction count in the agricultural life of the province. Under a comprehensive land settlement scheme the agricultural departments of the provincial universities would acquire new significance and value.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Monetary Times.

Sir,—It has been said, "We cannot hate the man we know," but I think this truth has a different meaning in some respects now that we have been through a great war against people we did not know, but now do know, for barbarous ruffians who have no spiritual life or thought; who regard women and sacred things as mere chattel; who look upon life in the most selfish of manners; who looked upon material success and national aggrandizement at the expense of others, as the highest ideal in personal and national life. However, the allies have taught them that the idea that "Might is Right" was all wrong, and in its place have raised all over the world the banner we have always followed and will now be followed in very increasing numbers that "Justice is Right."

Lethbridge, a remote part of Canada, that wonderful and loyal part of the Great British Commonwealth (I like that term better than Empire, because it sounds truer and represents what we really are, a "government of the people," etc., etc.), has much reason to be proud of the great part it played in the Great War. We sent over 10 per cent. of our population—our best, strongest, and manly boys—to help prove that justice is right. Now some lie for ever "where poppies grow in Flanders Fields," revered, respected and glorified in the hearts of the people of Lethbridge. Some will return, battered and worn as never men were battered and worn before, weary with, and of, war. Others will return whole and hearty after having faced the enemy with undaunted courage, held the gap that tried the souls of men and made them great.

To all of these the city, the province and the Dominion are under a full measure of obligation. What is that measure? Simply a chance to have a decent living untainted by charity. They expect this—nothing more and nothing less.

This city is prepared to do its best; its powers for direct action are very limited, but its government and citizens can do a lot towards stimulating and helping the other governments in all the schemes that can be devised, that bear the possibility of success. This they will do whole-heartedly.

From all over the country plans and schemes will be provided and perhaps pushed with vigor as a solution of the return of the soldiers to civil life. But we must lay ourselves out to discover real means and not chimerical schemes.

The best plan to accomplish this, in my judgment, is to follow faithfully the lead that is set by the men whom the government at Ottawa have charged with this responsibility, until we find they are falling down, if such is possible, in the labor they undertook. Good advice will surely always be acceptable to them, and the proper presentation of every local scheme of merit would be good and helpful advice. This city, through its board of trade and other public bodies, is giving some of this good advice which it is hoped will be grasped in its true meaning and worth. These embrace irrigation schemes, water finding schemes, transportation and grain storage. What better plan can be devised to take care of the returned soldiers and replace them in civil life than these that make the country prosperous?

However, it may not be amiss to say that too rapid demobilization might be a very wrong course that may lead to Bolshevism to an undesirable extent. The soldiers deserve proper treatment, and if they do not get it they will simply do things. The government should keep the men in the army and in uniform, not necessarily cooped up in barracks or under rigid discipline, with all his present emoluments until he can be placed in a position to earn a living. The government could soon accomplish this by spending enough money, which it can have from the over-subscribed Victory Loan, on all kinds of works that would make for prosperity in the country. Two years would see every soldier in his little nook well satisfied and happy.

Yours, etc.,

F. D. L. Hardie, Mayor.

Lethbridge, Alta.

PAYMENT OF SASKATOON COUPONS

The city of Saskatoon has arranged that its interest coupons due 1st January, 1919, will be met at the Bank of Montreal in Toronto or Montreal instead of at the Union Bank in these cities.