

sufficient to maintain his family in comfort. Western Canada, it is true, is not the Land of Promise; every forty-acre plot in it is not capable of intense and mixed farming; yet where the land is favorable if four families instead of one were grouped on every quarter-section, whether as joint purchasers or homesteaders, they each might hold sufficient land that could be used in common for pasturage, hog-runs, and the like. And such a community in farming could sell their produce in co-operation; while the small size of their holdings would bring them so much nearer one another than now that social intercourse and amusement, with schooling and religious services in common, would be much easier.

Further, besides the farming class proper, a number of townspeople might, in co-operation, acquire together a forty-acre plot of land nearby and cultivate it as an aid to house-keeping and a pleasant and healthful employment for their families in the summer, who would so be learning and practising farming, the foundation of all our industries in the West, enabling their children afterwards to pursue that national industry if they should see fit, and improving at the same time a family property that may stand them in good stead in times of difficulty or misfortune.

Such farm settlements as those advocated, scattered throughout the country, would foster the growth of local industries, to be carried on in every neighborhood by townspeople that are unapt for or do not like farming. It is of no use producing garden stuff, poultry, eggs, milk, and similar perishable foodstuffs, far from cities and towns where there is no market; but such a market of consumers would be supplied by the denser population of these local industries intermingled with the farms. A stimulus to some of our local industries may for a time be given by the extraordinary demand for war supplies, and this will be good as a temporary assistance, but more as a valuable impetus to the many small industries everywhere that want only a little of such encouragement to warm them into vigorous life. In this direction, in making for ourselves many articles of everyday use, in the development of natural resources, and in the improvement of agriculture, will lie for us a share in the prosperity to be expected on this continent after the war. Well-chosen small local industries are everywhere the best preventive against worklessness in a neighborhood.