

government with a scheme for correcting this unfavorable trade balance. They recommended that the importation of a large number of articles manufactured in Canada should be prohibited. This was merely another method of closing off competition and giving our own manufacturers a more complete monopoly of the home market. Undoubtedly some members of the government would favor such a scheme, but apparently sufficient were opposed to it to prevent its adoption.

At the very moment they were recommending this prohibition of imports, there was lumber and pulp wood all ready cut and waiting for export to the United States in different parts of Eastern Canada. The value of this was \$100,000,000 and some of it was simply awaiting cars for transportation. This is the proper way to correct the balance of trade and improve the exchange rate, but it would bring no additional protection to the manufacturers. Recently the balance of trade has been corrected by American munitions' contracts placed in Canada. Unrestricted trade between Canada and the United States would quickly correct this so-called unfavorable balance of trade. If this war trade board is to be continued, it should be made representative not only of Canada but of all the industries of Canada. The government should remember that the West is still a part of Canada and that agriculture is one of its important industries. The farmers of Canada will never consent to any trade juggling as proposed by the war trade board.

The new Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association is comprised largely of the same interests that constituted the war trade board. Their literature and entire propaganda is in favor of the protective tariff. There is not a new idea in it. They are discouraging direct taxation such as the income tax and the war profits' tax. Possibly they are hoping to maintain the customs' tariff as the chief revenue collector so they will retain the benefits of its protective features. It is quite apparent that the protected interests have no desire to help pay their own share of the war debt, which they will be forced to pay by these two systems of direct taxation. They would prefer to have the money all collected by the tariff so that their portion of the burden could be shifted on to the consumer.

There is a warning in all this for the farmers on our western prairies. The wealthy and powerful interests behind the protective tariff are organizing their strength. They will fight the income tax and the war profits' tax to the limit. They know that when large revenues are derived by direct taxation it will kill the chief arguments in support of the tariff. Direct taxation is the farmer's best friend. Under this system he knows exactly what he pays and where it goes. Under the tariff he

does not see the tax. He does not know its burden and he does not know who gets it except in a general way.

In the big membership drive now on in the three farmer's associations in the prairie provinces, all these facts should be kept in mind. Unless the farmers are organized and well organized and ready to work together, they will be out-generated and beaten in the struggle which will come immediately after the war, if not sooner. If the farmers are not organized they will be forced to pay the largest portion of the war debt and the taxes will be exceedingly heavy. If they are organized they can force the other interests to pay what they ought to pay and spread the burden evenly over the whole population. It can only be done by organization. Every farmer who goes into the association is making the organization that much stronger in its fight for justice and equity. When the matter is clearly put up to a farmer, he is a pretty stubborn individual if he cannot see that it is greatly to his own interest to join his fellow farmers in their organization.

Coal and the Price

All those in authority are urging consumers to order their coal early so that the western mines can be kept operating at full time. This is no idle suggestion but a stern reality. Our coal for this winter is to come practically altogether, from the Alberta mines where there is coal without end, but unless it is mined now there will not be a sufficient supply to go around. Those who order early will not only be sure of their supply but will be assisting the government and the fuel authorities in providing sufficient fuel to carry us through the coming winter. The price of Alberta coal is steadily climbing

and it looks as though the railways and the dealers were getting exceptionally high returns for their services and the mine owners huge profits on their operations. This matter is now under investigation and no doubt will be remedied. But no matter whether the price is high or low, householders must have the coal and the time to order is now. The amount of hard coal that will be brought in from Pennsylvania will be greatly reduced and possibly none at all will be available. Every possible order for coal should be put in at once. The situation is growing steadily more serious.

Beware of Stock Pedlars

Reports are current again that stock pedlars are travelling throughout the country selling stock to farmers in various questionable enterprises. There is no need for any farmer to be enticed into the purchase of worthless stocks. Protection has been afforded especially for those who are not well versed in stock buying. In Manitoba and Alberta there are public utilities commissions, and in Saskatchewan the local government board. No person is permitted to sell stock until they have been licensed by these boards. Any agent selling stock must show his license. Any farmer can get a report on any stock that is offered him by writing to the provincial secretary of his association, to the public utilities commission or local government board. If any agent is selling stock that is not licensed, he can be punished.

A lot of people have the idea that the best way to win the war is to pile up a lot of money for themselves at the expense of the common people.

It has been said that in the olden days the patriots bled for their country. We have some gentlemen in Canada who claim to be patriots and prove it by bleeding their country and bleeding it good and plenty.

In the United States where the profiteering is going on the same as in Canada, someone suggested that the national song "Yankee Doodle" should be changed to "Yank The Booodle."

Order your coal now. You may find it difficult to get it later on.

The profits which the millers have been enjoying have undoubtedly made them feel exceedingly comfortable. They have paid their war taxes and still have profits that read like a romance.

Entirely too many of our protectionist friends look upon the consumers of Canada as their own special preserve. They feel that Canadian consumers should be forced to buy their goods and no other. Fortunately, not all the manufacturers take this attitude. The others have still something to learn.



THE FINAL HAND-OUT

NOTE.—The arbitration board has decided that the government should pay the Mackenzie and Mann interests \$10,800,000 in full settlement of their equity in the C.N.R.

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