

# The Brain Brokers' Guide

Winnipeg, Wednesday, September 18, 1918

## Driving the Germans Back

The Allied armies on the western front, co-ordinated to the utmost effectiveness under the unified command, have been smashing their way back across the old battlefields week after week, for eight weeks. The heavy rains last week turned the lowlands of Flanders into impassable marshes, and compelled a pause in the driving back of the Germans, which General Foch undoubtedly has planned to continue during the two months, if not more, of weather favorable for such work which may be expected before the winter sets in.

There are already in evidence the plausible, roundabout preliminaries to a new German peace offensive; the difference between a peace offensive and a military offensive being that the former is an attempt to gain a tactical, political advantage, without any intention of bringing about a bona-fide peace. Among the true and clear-sighted lovers of peace who have uttered warnings against the coming German peace offensive, which is designed to give pacifists, like Lord Lansdowne, an opportunity to renew their solemn homilies against the "unnecessary" continuance of the war, is Samuel Gompers, the president of the American Federation of Labor. Here are his words:—

I would not prolong this war one minute longer than is necessary. But I would be unwilling to shorten it one hour if it meant that the German military machine was to continue and would bring the next decade into another war.

These words Mr. Gompers spoke to the British Labor Congress at Derby, the week before last.

## Needless Railway Duplication

It is related of the great Sir Isaac Newton that he had an opening made at the bottom of his study door, through which his cat could come in and go out; and that when the cat was accompanied by the one survivor of her family of kittens, he had a similar opening made beside the other, for the kitten's benefit. If Sir Isaac Newton, whose thoughts were busy working out the law of gravitation and other high problems, had had three full grown cats as familiars of his study, it is conceivable that he might absently-mindedly have had three full cat-sized openings made in the door for "their exits and their entrances."

But it was not absent-mindedness that made the politicians in power in Canada pour out millions of the public money and lay heavy burdens upon the public credit to secure the construction across Canada of three transcontinental railways, which are no more necessary to Canada than three cat-doors would have been to Sir Isaac Newton's study.

Consider for a moment the duplication west of Edmonton, where the Grain Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern tracks were laid side by side, most of the way for some 350 miles, through magnificent mountain scenery. Nature's most impressive grandeur towering above the petty schemes of man!

Side by side ran the two lines, now swinging apart, now coming together again, now sweeping (one above the other) in a long curve around a mighty mountain's shoulder, and now running together neck and neck by the side of a rushing stream. Typical of the whole thing is Rainbow, a place along the double line, where the only buildings are the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern stations, a couple of

hundred yards apart. In the Yellowhead Pass the two tracks run along a narrow ledge as close together as street cars in a city thoroughfare.

All of it the costliest construction! Many millions piled wastefully upon many millions to provide two main lines where one would have been more than amply sufficient for all the traffic. War necessities have led to the tearing up of much of the unnecessary double-trackage; but the cost of it stands—a monumental cost. Thus prodigally did politicians squander the public wealth and burden the future of Canada with huge indebtedness!

## The Need of Thrift

"To be in debt is, in a measure, to be a slave; thrift is the price of freedom." So wrote wise old Benjamin Franklin; and this is a time when there is a greater need than ever there was before, for laying to heart seriously his lesson of thrift and for looking to the future and making every provision that is possible out of what is available and at hand every day, against the coming of the rainy day of the proverb.

Present conditions are abnormal and unprecedented; and as to the conditions which are to follow, who shall undertake to foretell them confidently? Every person who gives any serious thought to the consideration of the future hears the voice of his own prudence counselling him that now, more than ever before, should thrift be practised.

True, it is that in many households injunctions to thrift are unneeded, not to say impertinent, advice. But there are very many people throughout the length and breadth of the land who have need of being so counselled. For never was there a time before when there was greater reason for saving every dollar that can be saved, never a time that called more plainly for thrift in every way in which it is possible to practise thrift.

It is for every individual to examine his own way of living and ask himself whether his daily life is in accordance with the precepts of the gospel of thrift. This he should do in the plain light of his duty, no less than of his self-interest.

## The Next Victory Loan

It is time for every Canadian to begin figuring on how much he can put into the next Victory Loan. Every consideration of patriotism, of duty, and of interest points to the necessity of us all doing our utmost to make the loan an overwhelming success. The men from Canada at the front are acquitting themselves in a manner which makes them worthy of standing shoulder to shoulder with the men from Great Britain and from France. We Canadians at home must do our part in a manner worthy of them, and in emulation of the staunch fortitude of the people at home in Great Britain and France, who give without counting the cost, and bear resolutely the ever-increasing strain of their burdens.

No true Canadian will be found wanting in his response to the appeal which the next Victory Loan will make to him. He will weigh in his conscience the question of how much he is going to subscribe to that loan, to help to victory the highest cause for which men have ever faced the supreme sacrifice. He will not fail to do hear the call of duty. He will do his part towards making the loan a success worthy of Canada,

whose resources, from ocean to ocean, are all behind it.

## Agricultural Education

In a few weeks now the agricultural schools and colleges will be beginning a new year's work of instructing and framing young men and young women working to make themselves of greater value, because capable of greater service, in the industry which is of greatest value to our country. Let us hope this coming year in all these institutions will show a large enrolment of students, and that every young man and young woman who looks forward to living and working on the land, and who can manage to attend one of these institutions, will be found in that enrolment. So they will be working to make themselves more serviceable Canadians for the years to come. It is of importance that their number shall be as large as possible. These institutions are all doing service of the highest national value. Let us repeat that it is to be hoped that they will be largely attended during the year's work which is ahead of them.

## Tariff is Class Legislation

Inasmuch, as a protective tariff gives to a certain class of individuals a privilege denied to others, and bulwarks that special privilege with all the power of the machinery of the state, it is class legislation. Protective tariff legislation gives the producers of certain commodities the privilege of selling them in a walled-in market. Other makers of the same commodity outside the tariff wall are prevented from coming in with their wares and competing with the beneficiaries of this arrangement.

But the buyers of the commodity, who need it in their everyday lives, are not so protected. There is no law preventing them from being subject to the workings of the law of supply and demand inside the wall. They have no privilege, except the privilege of paying. They are producers, too; but their products have to go out into the world into competition with all other products of the same kind. They enjoy no special class legislation.

That any class should have special privileges and advantages conferred on it by law, at the expense of the rest of the community is an abnegation of the principle of equal rights to all, which should be the foundation of just government. Democracy means equality of opportunity, justice and freedom. Is not class legislation, which creates special privilege, a denial of these things, and so a denial of the essential privileges of democracy?

## Sir John Willison's Tour

Sir John Willison, who has come West as the spokesman of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association, has spoken in Winnipeg and Regina, and is now continuing his speaking tour westward. A smooth and agreeable speaker is Sir John; and he says, and says very well, many things with which everybody must agree. But he is like a certain counsellor of Henry VII., whom Bacon writes of in his life of that King, as "one who ever chose indirectness of speech in tendering advice, and would never declare his mind openly."

His adroitness in dwelling on Canadian manufacturing, its national importance, and the need of its being put in a position to make the most of the world conditions when

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