

FOOD VALUE OF CORN

The United States Department of Agriculture is advocating a greater use of corn meal for human food, in order to reduce the cost of living. In a bulletin recently issued by the department the use of the home hand grist will be advocated, as it is claimed the old-fashioned unbolted corn meal ground in this way contains more tissue building material, and it is better for corn bread than the bolted meal made in the large mills. Dr. A. W. Smith, consulting chemist, of Baltimore, after exhaustive investigation of the comparative food value of corn meal, makes the following statement—

"The food value of one pound of corn meal, grits or hominy, costing three cents, is equal to the food value of any of the following commonly used foods—

1 pound of wheat flour, costing	\$0.06
1 pound of rice, costing	.09
1½ pounds of cheese, costing	.60
2½ pounds of round steak, costing	.80
2 dozen eggs, costing	.90
½ peck potatoes, costing	.65
6 pints of milk, costing	.30

The south knows and appreciates the value of white corn for table use; why not the north, the east and the west?"

This information should furnish a valuable suggestion for Canada. Dr. J. W. Robertson, of Ottawa, the great agricultural authority, speaking in Winnipeg recently, advocated a greater use of corn meal and oat meal, by which he stated the consumption of wheat could be reduced by one-half and the Allies assisted to that much greater extent.

BOYCOTTING FARMERS' COMPANIES

A number of farmers complain that when securing mortgage loans they are not allowed to place the insurance on their buildings through farmers' mutual fire insurance companies. This has been a source of friction and dissatisfaction for some time. In the past it was maintained that these farmers' mutual fire insurance com-

panies were not reliable, but experience has proven that the most of them at least are in a very sound position. Not all the mortgage companies refuse policies in the farmers' mutual companies, but some of them still have regulations against accepting such insurance. The remedy for this is in the hands of the farmers themselves. When borrowing money on a mortgage they can stipulate where the fire insurance is to be placed. If their business is desirable, and the farmers' mutual company in which they wish to insure is sound, very few, if any, mortgage companies will reject their business. If it is rejected it can be placed elsewhere.

The political situation at Ottawa is still in a chaotic condition. Topsy-turvy is still a good description. The chief trouble is due to the miserable, mean, picayune, partisan, political system. And our present system is due to the fact that too many men and women still regard themselves as good Grits or good Tories. When people generally cease being party politicians we will bring party politics out of the fire and get an honest business administration of public affairs.

The only consistent advocate of a constructive railway policy at the manufacturers' convention was C. B. Watts, secretary of the Dominion Millers' Association, who made a strong plea for complete nationalization. The other members seemed to be very much up in the air as to how this vexed problem should be solved. There was plenty of evidence of a sympathetic feeling between the manufacturers and their friends the railway men. The organized farmers will have to take a greater part in national affairs before some of these great questions are satisfactorily settled.

Taxation of land values would produce enormous revenues for Canada. Land values

would include all our natural resources, such as timber, mining, fishing, harbor and franchise privileges, city and urban land, and all other resources provided by nature. It would be a just and equitable tax, cheap and easy to collect, and as certain as anything can be certain. It would not bear nearly as heavily on the agricultural producer as the present tariff tax. Some day the government will come to this as public opinion is becoming better informed.

The attitude of the manufacturers in accepting almost without question the advance of 15 per cent. in freight rates is not hard to understand. They don't have to pay it. It is simply passed along to the consumer. When it reaches the Western farmer, however, the passing along stops and the paying begins. That is the reason he demands to be shown that an increase is necessary before it is introduced.

It was quite apparent at the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Methodist conference last week that the action of Wesley College Board in discharging Rev. Dr. Bland did not recommend itself to the majority of the delegates. Dr. Bland stands very high not only in his own denomination, but among the people of the West generally.

Last week two great conventions were held in Winnipeg. The leading business men of Canada attended them. But the big questions were not one whit more ably discussed than they are at a farmers' convention. There are plenty of men on the farms whose conception of present day problems are as clear as those of any man in Canada.

Wheat grown in the prairie provinces will be one of the big factors in bringing the war to a successful conclusion.



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