

# THE CANADIAN LIBERAL MONTHLY

VOL. V. No. 7.

OTTAWA, MARCH, 1918

TWO CENTS

## PRODUCTION OR PROTECTION.

Will the Liberal members in the Borden Government to promote greater production remove the duty on agricultural implements, or will they permit the High Tariff wall built by the Protectionists, and maintained and strengthened by the Conservative Party, to remain? A slight rent has been made in the tariff wall by the removal, for a limited period, of the duty on a certain class of farm tractors. This it stated, was for the purpose of encouraging food production and to assist in averting starvation in Europe. This action of the Government immediately lowers the cost of the tractors by about 22 per cent, or from \$250 to \$400 a tractor. A great advantage to any farmer.

But why stop there? If the Government's real desire is for greater production, why reduce the price of tractors by \$250 and not the plows which immediately follow the tractors, why not remove the duty on harrows, on seeders, on mowers, on rakes, on binders and on threshing machines? Anything and everything for greater production. If the Government really favours greater production immediately place all Agricultural Machinery on the free list. Give the farmers and producers every advantage by removing every disadvantage. Why pay \$118 for a twelve-inch gang plow, when with the duty removed,

it would only cost \$93? \$204 for a double disk drill which, by the removal of duty, would cost only \$161? Waggon now costing \$154, with the duty removed, would cost only \$117. A small gas engine now selling at \$63 would sell at \$47, and so on. This extra tax of \$25 on a plow and \$43 on a seeder may prevent hundreds of farmers from struggling between success and failure, and at a time when production and food means everything.

The food required cannot be provided without the use of machinery. The Government has recognized this fact by purchasing 1,000 tractors. This will result in increased acreage and more grain, consequently more food. The farmer of the East and West will do their part.

The women, children, and old men will till the soil as they never have tilled it before, anything for greater production is their motto. But is that enough? NO. The Government must assist, and one of the most important things for them to do is to place Agricultural Implements on the free list, and prove to the country that they will take the lead in all matters connected with the winning of the war. And greater production is one of the most important.

## THE FOOD SITUATION OF THE ALLIES.

The "Official Bulletin" of the United States Government of January 26th 1918, contains the following message sent by Lord Rhondda, the British Food Controller to the United States Food Controller:—

Unless you are able to send the allies at least 75,000,000 bushels of wheat over and above what you have exported up to January 1, and in addition to the total exportable surplus from Canada, I can not take the responsibility of assuring our people that there will be food enough to win the war. Imperative necessity compels me to cable you in this blunt way. No one knows better than I that the American

people, regardless of national and individual sacrifice, have so far refused nothing that is needed for the war, but it now lies with America to decide whether or not the allies in Europe shall have enough bread to hold out until the United States is able to throw its force into the field. I have not minced words because I am convinced that the American people, if they know the truth, will not hesitate to meet the emergency.

That is a straight message from a straight man, who knows what he wants and is not afraid to speak out.

What is the Canadian Government doing to assist in meeting the situation?

See Figures Page 84, Election Returns.