

There is only one cure, and that is the one which ordinary common sense, in such obvious circumstances, dictates. If rural areas are being depleted, if agricultural development is not keeping pace with industrial development in other directions, it is for us, not less in the interests of the urban populations than of the rural, to find out the cause, and so shape our national policies as to foster a wise and wide agricultural development.

Food Production the most necessary of  
all forms of Production.

People living and working on the land is Canada's greatest need to-day. Not only Canada's but the world's, faced with starvation as it has been at so many times of late. This need is all the greater when we recall, as already mentioned, that the markets of the world are increasingly one. A famished world bears the same sort of relation to Canada, with its vast agricultural areas, as do our cities and towns to their rural environments. We are differently situated than most other countries. They have not the agricultural possibilities that we have, either in extent of agricultural area, or fertility of soils; they, too, have been building up great industrial centres, that must continue to look beyond their own confines for food. The demand, therefore, for our produce from abroad is a factor of which we must not lose account in considering the supply that at any given time may be available to meet our own need.

TIME REQUIRED FOR ANY NEW POLICY TO  
BEAR FRUIT

Any policy such as the one described, which seeks a return of the people to the land, will take time to accomplish its aims. It is not going to be possible, under any conditions, to have people settle upon the land in appreciable numbers except over a period of time. Especially will this be seen to be true when we recall that, in former years we have relied upon immigration from abroad to people our unoccupied areas. We must still look, in large part, to immigration to help us to an ultimate solution. But we do well to recognize what the drain of war has meant to the nations of Europe and in particular to the British Isles in this respect. There are not the numbers of people there were from which to recruit immigrants, nor are the countries of Europe likely to be willing to part too readily with those they have. The necessity, therefore, of some immediate action to help reduce the very high cost of living is all the more apparent.