

Farm and Dairy

AND

Rural Home

"The Farm Paper for the farmer who milks cows."
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Peterboro and Toronto

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO AND TORONTO

"Read not to contradict and to consult, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

The New Minister of Agriculture

THE appointment of Mr. T. A. Crerar, of Winnipeg, the president of the United Grain Growers, Limited, as Dominion Minister of Agriculture, is an indication of the commanding position to which the organized farmers of Canada have attained. This is the first occasion in the history of Canada upon which the Dominion Government has recognized the organized farmers by selecting one of their members to fill a cabinet position. Generally, in the past, the ministers of agriculture have been men who, while anxious to render good service, and who in several cases have done so, have been men who have not been farmers, or who, while doing something about agriculture and possibly for the benefit of their own, have had larger interests elsewhere. In Mr. Crerar, the government has selected a man whom the farmers themselves have raised to the most important position in the farmers' movement in Canada, viz., the head of the greatest farmers' company in Canada, and probably in the world.

In some respects, Hon. Mr. Crerar may seem to occupy a somewhat peculiar position. For some years there has been a growing feeling among many farmers that the Dominion Government has used the Department of Agriculture as a means of blinding farmers, to some extent at least, to what was being accomplished by other lines of Government legislation. Both Liberal and Conservative governments hitherto have shown a tendency to hand out a few hundred thousand dollars through the Department of Agriculture in grants for agricultural purposes and then to call attention to their action as evidence of their interest in farmers and their desire to promote

their welfare. At the same time, however, it has happened not infrequently that the Government has increased materially the tariff on articles purchased by farmers or heavily bonussed other industries and in this way have taken millions of dollars out of the farming classes. The organized farmers of Canada have called attention to this condition on numerous occasions. Added interest is lent to the situation by the fact that the organized farmers of Canada have adopted a national platform which calls for important reforms that there is no indication that the new Union Government proposes to grant. The question has been asked, therefore, why Hon. Mr. Crerar accepted office under these conditions.

While we are not authorized to speak for Hon. Mr. Crerar, we understand that his position has been made clear to his friends and that it meets with the approval of leaders in the farmers' movement in western Canada. Believing that it is the chief duty of Canada to win the war, that it would be disastrous to the best interests of the country to hold a bitter political campaign at this time that would centre largely around racial and patriotic issues, that it is essential that profiteering of all kinds shall cease, and that partisanship shall be eliminated in governmental affairs, Hon. Mr. Crerar accepted office in the hope that he might be instrumental with others in achieving these results. He has made it clear to his friends that he has not changed his views on public matters and that as opportunity presents he intends to press them earnestly. In the meantime we understand that he would like to see elected to parliament as many farmers or other candidates as possible who will support the farmers' platform, be they Liberal or Conservative, in order that his position in the cabinet and in the house may be strengthened when he urges reforms on behalf of farmers. This point should not be overlooked by the organized farmers in the approaching general election.

As an administrator, all who know Hon. Mr. Crerar are satisfied that he will prove a success in the important position he holds. His years of experience as president and manager of the great farmers' company with which he is identified have prepared him admirably for the new duties he has assumed. He understands farmers, he is desirous of promoting the cause of agriculture, he is fearless in urging what he believes to be right and possesses qualities of leadership that equip him to wisely administer the important department of which he has been made the head. Because he is a farmer and represents the farmers, farmers appreciate the distinction involved in his appointment and desire for him the fullest possible measure of success.

Back Up Mr. Hanna

CANADA'S Food Controller occupies a most difficult position. He is under fire from two sides. On one side, farmers are beginning to look upon his activities with considerable misgivings because of the fact that one of his main duties appears to be, if the city press is to be believed, the setting of prices on the products that farmers produce, while he lacks the power to set prices on the articles farmers purchase, and which enter into their cost of production. On the other side, many women's organizations in the cities, labor unions, and other bodies of city consumers, with the support of at least an influential portion of the city press, are clamoring that Hon. Mr. Hanna shall set on farm products prices that would be disastrous to farmers and which in turn would react on the city consumers, because any prices that would not leave the farmer a reasonable profit would discourage production and thereby inevitably injure consumers.

Few people seem to have any intelligent

conception of how involved and intricate are the processes of production. Each line of industry reacts in many ways on other lines of industry. People who do not appreciate this fact think it is easy for the food controller to set a maximum price that shall be paid for a certain farm product, and thereby keep down the cost of living for them. It is by this class of people that the clamor is being raised for such action on the part of the food controller. Hon. Mr. Hanna appreciates the difficulties and probably disastrous results that would attend such action on his part. For this reason he is adverse to the setting of prices. Because of the stand he has taken he is already being condemned by a considerable section of the city press, and demands are being made for his removal from office.

On one point, Hon. Mr. Hanna apparently has firmly made up his mind. That is, that if prices have to be set they will be prices that will assure farmers, after thorough investigation, a fair return on their labor and investment. The prices so set are likely to be higher than many city consumers will approve. This means that if Hon. Mr. Hanna is to be able to maintain his stand, farmers must give him their hearty support. Some time since it was announced that the price of potatoes was to be fixed at \$1.25 per bag. Figures were submitted to the food controller which showed that farmers could not produce potatoes profitably when they were sold at such a price. For this reason the price was not set at \$1.25, and many city people have been disappointed in consequence. The stand that has been taken by Hon. Mr. Hanna is a wise one and one that it is to be hoped he will be able to maintain in every way within their power, farmers should manifest their approval of his position.

The Next War Loan

SIR THOMAS WHITE announces that the next Dominion War Loan will be issued in November. In accordance with the policy of asking Canadians to finance their part of the war, this loan will be a domestic one, and Canadians are urged to purchase as extensively as they can. The war bonds are drafted in such small amounts that even the working man may invest his small savings in them, and it will be profitable for him to do this; the rate of interest will be between five and six per cent. annually, and the bonds have the additional advantage of not being subject to taxation.

This raising of Canadian money to meet our war expenses is a commendable policy. Whether or not the domestic loan is the best method of doing so, is open to question. All money so raised will have to be repaid after the war; borrowing is always an easy method of piling up future trouble. At present Canada is meeting only 10 per cent. of its war expenditures out of current revenue. Compare this with Great Britain, which is paying 50 per cent. of its war debts by current taxation, and the United States, which also plans to pay a large part of her war expenses as she goes along. Our government has been altogether too lenient with men of wealth, and war profits have gone to swell private fortunes instead of to pay the expenses of the war. In flesh and blood we are paying our war bills as we go. Should dollars and cents be held more sacred?

The more I study the world, the more am I convinced of the inability of brute force to create anything durable.—Napoleon at St. Helena.

I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither heard a shot nor heard the shriek and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.—General Sherman.