

## Public Opinion

### ARE FARMERS GETTING A SQUARE DEAL?

(Canadian Farm.)

Consumers in cities, as a rule, blame the farmer for the increased cost of food supplies. They never stop to figure things out. Up go the prices for meat, butter, flour, etc., and the producer is the one who is held responsible. The consumer overlooks the number of middlemen who come between the producer and himself. These regulate the price the farmer gets, and also what the consumer pays. What the farmer gets and what the consumer pays rarely correspond with the increased cost of production. The farmer gets an increase for a certain product. But this increase is often more than doubled to the consumer. Instances of this kind could be multiplied over and over if need be. The farmer gets an increase in butter, of one cent per lb., and the consumer pays two cents extra; live cattle advance a few cents per cwt., and the price of meat to the consumer is advanced a cent a pound or more. There is no constant relation between the price the farmer gets and what the consumer pays.

### "CARRY ON."

(The Farmer's Advocate.)

As the news from the battle front steadily grows better and more reassuring, we are liable to forget that there are thousands of men in the trenches who still require comforts and all the help those at home can give them. There is a tendency to belittle the gradually failing strength of the Teutons. It would be well to be prepared for a longer struggle than many believe will continue. If the war collapses suddenly, no one would regret that preparation had been made to give the boys all they needed, even though the fight had gone on for months longer. A cold winter is approaching, and the need for supplies will be just as urgent as ever. As time goes on and more nations join the Entente Allies, Germany's strength wanes, but it is not broken down yet. The preparation must be kept up that the fight may be won decisively, as it should and will be. Keep the work going at home.

### TRADE PLANNING.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

Justly or unjustly, the United States today occupies no exalted place in the estimation of European nations. Those of its people who seem unable to see this would hardly be impressed by an elaboration of detail. It is a fact palpable, at all events, to the average observer. Many of the causes contributing to the mistrust of American motives and acts now so prevalent abroad are doubtless founded largely on misapprehension and suspicion, and, were the time propitious, might be satisfactorily explained away. The nations that entertain misgivings respecting the sincerity of United States democracy, to say nothing of United States friendship, are engaged in a struggle for their very existence, and will hardly stop now to listen to explain where they believe no explanations should have been necessary. The nations that entertain misgivings of United States neutrality, to say nothing of sympathy, are too much occupied with nearer and more pressing problems to ask for a reckoning. The nations at war apparently must, for the present, content themselves with silent contemplation of the attitude toward them of the one great nation of the world in the enjoyment of peace.

### WHAT AILS IRELAND.

(From the New Republic.)

Between liberal groups there is always the possibility of adjustment. This holds true of Ireland, even at the present time. There is no intrinsic reason why, under a proper constitution, a rational and generous spirit cannot exist between the two neighboring democracies, and a loyalty be aroused all through Ireland toward other members of the British communion. This condition is compatible with Irish nationality. It is in many ways desirable. But there is one barrier to it much more insuperable than that raised by rebellion in Ireland; it is the existence in England and Ireland of officials and publicists recruited from a bigoted, vindictive, and selfish upper class. Such a class has gone far in England itself to hamper so-called social policies. In Ireland its anti-democratic prejudice unites with its bitter race prejudice to perpetuate the Irish problem.

### THE INDUSTRIAL INVASION OF CANADA. TRADE PLANNING.

(Chicago Tribune.)

There can be little doubt that when the nations now at war declare peace and begin their economic rivalry, certain neutrals, ourselves among them, are going to have more to contemplate of than rifling of mail bags. It did not need the recent threat of this in the London Times to convince us that we are to "get ours." It is but natural that in the economic war to come those nations which have stood together in battle should extend a preferential tariff for each others' products.

Canada as one of these countries will be so favored and we shall be left out in the cold. In this case such United States concerns as may have plants in Canada, incorporated as Canadian companies, at the time the new tariff goes into operation, should benefit thereby. Business of this sort is already being done there on a huge scale. Several automobile companies have taken out Canadian incorporation papers and in one instance United States capital has purchased a Canadian motor concern. Some of our heaviest agricultural implement companies are working there as separate Canadian corporations. The United States Steel company has one manufacturing plant there now and is planning a second. The Standard Oil company is working Canadian territory through a subsidiary company, and more than one Chicago packing firm enjoys trade through separate incorporation.

In addition to these and similar extensions of United States industries, capital from this country is making itself felt in mines and other commercial enterprises in the dominion. There will be more Canadian branches of United States concerns before the war ends.

Neither nation need regret this. We can easily spare the capital to build up Canada's interests, as we have already done in the loans made to the dominion, its provinces and municipalities, or in the farmers we have let go across the border to break the soil of the great northwest. Canada views with complacency this industrial invasion, for she realizes that she needs the invested capital it represents as well as the opportunity for employment it offers.

### CANADA AS A PAPER COUNTRY.

(Daily News-Advertiser.)

The United States is frankly dependent on Canada for a large part of its supply of paper material. This fact has been emphasized by the shortage of pulp and paper available in the eastern markets. In these circumstances Canada need never worry over possible United States legislation against Canadian wood pulp and paper. Rather this country should take all possible measures for the conservation of our forests. Also it is desirable that the material should be exported in finished condition. It is better to export wood pulp than pulpwood, and paper than pulp. There is little export of pulpwood from this province, and the pulp industry here is mostly a paper industry. That is not the position throughout Eastern Canada. In the fiscal year 1915 Canada exported to the United States \$6,817,511 worth of pulpwood, \$4,806,822 of chemical pulp, and \$4,459,539 of mechanical pulp, a total value of more than \$16,000,000. The exports of printing paper were valued at \$14,091,662. This shows that less than half the paper material, judged by value, went out of this country as a finished product. If we had the figures for this province by themselves the proportion would be quite different. Practically the whole of the chemically prepared pulp exported went to the United States, but Great Britain took a third of the mechanical pulp, or one-sixth of the whole. Of the \$14,000,000 worth of paper exported more than \$12,000,000 went to the United States, \$750,000 to Australia, \$500,000 to New Zealand, \$370,000 to South Africa and \$180,000 to Great Britain.

### WHY, INDEED!

(The Globe.)

A disgusted housekeeper suggests to housewives as a means of breaking the high prices of foodstuffs that they bake their own bread, take as little milk as they can, leave cheese alone till prices come down, do without meat for a week, then take eggs from their table. If a disgusted housekeeper has the kind of husband who will stand that, why feed him at all?

### "WE WANT MORE MEN!"

(Saturday Review.)

Yet despite the entry of the fourteenth nation—and our tenth Ally—into the fray, what is the pressing need and demand today in this country? Hidden away in a modest paragraph or two in the papers on Wednesday is the perfectly clear answer to this. At the banquet to the departing Commonwealth deputation, Sir William Robertson—whose authority in this matter is unrivalled—said: "We want more men. We want all the men we can get. We want them not merely to win this war—we feel quite certain of that—but we want to win the peace. We want to win a peace as will compensate us for the great sacrifices we have made." Assume the triumph of the Allies and end of the war next year. We then have incomparably the greatest masses of national problems and friendly claims to disentangle and settle which have ever faced statesmanship after a campaign; and Great Britain can only hope to play the part the nations will expect and call on her to play provided she can give the world ocular demonstration, on land as well as on sea, of the fact that she is not a spent, but a mighty force. Therefore we must continue to pile up the men and to pile up the munitions against the day of settlement. Sir William Robertson's call is as true as it is nobly phrased.

### THE SHIFTING OF DOUBT.

(Boston News Bureau.)

The allies in their various activities have conspired to make this a gloomy week for the Germans in more than a purely military sense. Those activities furnish a sombre setting also in a financial and political way. They coincide ominously with the reconvening of the Reichstag and with the crest of propaganda in raising the fifth war loan.

Home evidence itself has been ample to demonstrate that German politics have been in a very touchy condition. Sundry stormy petrels of all types have been publicly essaying preliminary flights. Dissension has clearly been growing in bitterness. The various political elements have been accumulating ammunition pro and anti-Chancellor. Apparently no longer will appealing platitudes ament unity suffice to compose outwardly their differences. Trust in invincibility and infallibility of the general staff, or other powers that be, has been to well disabused. There will be sharp clashing about how now to conduct the war which that general staff began. The press is muttering against the censorship. Now into this gloomy arena fall fresh shadows from Comblès, Thiepval, the Dobrudja and Transylvania.

### MATERIALISM AND SOCIALISM.

(New York Journal of Commerce.)

Most thoughtful people of to-day know that the political and economic elements were just as strong as the religious one in the Protestant Reformation in Germany, but that fact by no means would lessen the value of the gains for intellectual and religious freedom that were won by Martin Luther. Again, had economic conditions had as much, or more, to do with the outbreak of the French Revolution as did political and philosophical unrest. Also taxation, trade and currency squabbles had more to do with causing an American Revolution than did the idealistic principles later enunciated in the Declaration of Independence. And there was a broad economic basis for the differences in crops, transportation and the organization of labor which expressed themselves in a sectionalism which finally assumed the political aspect that caused the Civil War. Yet the student who would forget the spiritual element in our life, who would overlook the fact that man is a human being and not a mere animal, will wander far astray into unreal bypaths of crass materialism.

### SACRIFICE AND ITS AIM.

(Toronto Daily Star.)

Never has there been such an outpouring of human blood, so vast and precious a sacrifice. That sacrifice must not be in vain; and vain it would be if this war were a mere clash of rivalry and hatred, or if after the war no earnest effort were made to achieve the great aims which our statesmen proclaimed, and to establish a new order which will make the world a better place for our children. We owe it to our dead to keep that standard raised. We can build no nobler monument to their memory than to labor for better international relations, to extend the bounds of freedom, and to make our civilization better worth preserving.