


Agriculture

HE most important economic interest in the world is agriculture. Agriculture it is that supplies us with the materials with which we are fed and clothed. The very existence of the race turns on the ability of the farmer to produce food. The next thing in importance is transportation. This must be so, because it is transportation that takes the produce from the field and delivers it at your door. Supply fertile fields with a means of getting quickly to market and all the powers on earth will not stand in the way of substantial prosperity. The cities do not and cannot produce food—all they can ever do is to consume it and remain in absolute dependence upon the grower. No trade has ever been or ever will be invented that equals in certainty the business of taking from mother earth the things that keep the blood circulating in the veins of humanity.

In hard times thousands of men wander through the city streets, tired and wan, looking for work. You have met these men if you have lived many years—the carpenter, the accountant, the machinist, and even the professions are not unrepresented, but have you ever met among these unfortunates the farmer? No, you have not! You'll have to go to his plot of ground to find him. Hard times may have their effect on him in reduced prices and curtailed demand, but should all else fail, he can farm for himself—grow what he needs for his own precious family. The results of strikes, lock-outs, or mergers rap unheeded on the wall of self-sufficiency that stands between the tiller of the soil and want. How strange it is that so few of us appreciate these facts!

Food a mile from human bodies has no value save as it is known that this mile can be bridged. The space between Aldergrove and the markets of Vancouver, New Westminster and Port Mann is covered by two railroads, the British Columbia Electric Railway and the Great Northern Railway. Besides offering every facility for the proper handling of the products of the orchard and garden, these two roads present another advantage enjoyed by few communities and this is competition. Two roads means rivalry for business, and where this latter is the case the shipper always gets the benefit of a better and more considerate service.

The toot of a train whistle and the whirr of the trolley were first heard within the bounds of Aldergrove during the past year.