

LISTOWEL - ONTARIO Newcastle Herd of Tamworrhs and Shorthorns-Choice lot of boars and sows, three months old. Several young sows bred to

### THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

There is altogether too much emphasis laid upon the efficiency of the business men in politics, and of the virtues of a "business administration." Again and Again and again, and particularly at election time in Canada, demands are made on the plat-form and in the press for this paragon of political virtues—a "business administra-tion." What is meant, precisely, except in a general way, by that term is hard to decide. Since the outbreak of hostilities, however, it has been made clear enough what is meant by a business administra-tion. The Northcliffe group of journals hall with delight the establishment of committees composed of big business men: and these newspapers are not with-Canada, demands are made on the platmen; and these newspapers are not without their followers in Canada. To our mind, government by committee smells over' much of tyranny. There is un-doubtedly room for better business methods and for a greater display of business efficiency in Parliament—and particularly by those who have most loudly denounced the political inefficiency and lack of business training of farmers. It is sound policy to insist that, for the future,-whether in the United Kingdom, the United States or Canada-money social rank, fashion and so forth shall weigh less in choosing representatives of the people. At the same time it is well to point out that the business men whom Premier Lloyd George called into the councils of the nation were the first to admit that they would have accomplished something less than nothing had it not been for the judgment, experience, and detailed knowledge of affairs possessed by the trained officers in the permanent civil service. It is just here that Canada can learn something worth while from the Mother Country. Up to the time that Dr. Adam Shortt took charge of the Canadian Civil Service it had been given over as the last refuge of moribund and defunct politicians. There is no reason why the farmers of this country should not take a prominent part in shaping the political life and economic future of the nation, having at their command, in an efficient civil service, the data and de-tailed information required.

It is a fallacy to suppose that the business instinct is a sine que non of political success. One hardly needs to point out that the most brilliant trio of British statesmen ever known-Chatham, Burke, Disraeli-were poor business men. That fact is notorious. And yet to the political life of England no greater contribution has ever been made than by these three great leaders of men. On the other hand, Gladstone and Peel were conspicuously' successful . as business administrators although neither one had ever had factory, office or mercantile experience. In truth, business capacity and the business instinct depend less upon experience than upon aptitude, common sense and a vigorous mentality. In these particulars the farmers of the West have produced leaders second to none. It is a produced leaders second to none. It is a sheer absurdity to imagine that only business men, big or little, have the capacity to carry forward an adequate programme bearing upon the social and economic life of the nation. For one hardly needs to point out, lawyers, and not business men, have furnished the most brilliant and capable parliamentarians in the past.

We do not agree with those who assert, and indeed insist, that matters of public policy and fiscal readjustments should be postponed to that golden era known as "after the war." 'We are persuaded that now is the accepted time to plan a programme that will not only maintain. raise, the standard of the people. It is little less than folly, it is little less than criminal, to postpone the consideration of social, economic and constitutional questions. The Hon. Walter Scott was doubly right when he insisted, a short time since, that the most intensive study and preparation should be devoted here and now to the preparation of plans for economic and industrial, and above all, agricultural reconstruction. This whole question centres about the providing of work for the whole people; and not merely the providing of work, but of profitable work. We are only too well aware of the fact that the work of the average man, and woman upon the farm is never done. It is high time that the farmers of the country should concern themselves with these vital problems; and that they secure adequate representation - proportional representation - in Parliament to make their desires and policies an actuality.--W. W. Swanson, Prof. of Economics, University of Saskatchewan.

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