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Agricultural Possibilities of Northern Interior

Large Areas of Easily Cultivable Land Are Available for Development and Raising of Live Stock With Every Promise of Success—Need for Transportation

A government party headed by Premier Brewster has recently returned from an extensive trip through the northern interior and the Peace River sections of British Columbia and all were much impressed with the agricultural progress already made and the truly large possibilities this great hinterland of the province is capable of. The government party were fortunate in having Dean L. S. Klinck of the University of British Columbia accompany them, as he is a professional agriculturist of the highest standing and an exceedingly capable observer. On his return Dean Klinck submitted some very significant comments on the territory visited, which appeared in a recent issue of the Victoria Times and in part is as follows:

Three impressions stick out most clearly in his mind. Foremost perhaps were the possibilities of the Pouce Coupe district for grain and stock. From information gleaned on the spot it was learned that so far very little more than five per cent. of the vast fertile area is under crop. Four thousand acres are sown to wheat, seven thousand to oats, and two thousand to barley. While a great deal of land has been taken up, thirteen thousand acres only, constituting five per cent. of the whole, are cultivated and producing. Of this particular section Dean Klinck formed the opinion that unless transportation facilities were considerably improved, and that at an early date, a year or two hence would see less settlers there than there are today.

In the second place the Dean was much interested in the valleys along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. These extensive tracts, he says, are just as fertile as the wide expanses in the Pouce Coupe district and are capable of producing just as wide a range of crops and of raising stocks with equal success, yet at the same time they are a great deal nearer to transportation and to larger markets. There was only one qualification to his observations with regard to the valleys and that referred to the greater expense necessary to cultivation by reason of more difficult clearing. He points out, however, that with transportation

facilities ensured the additional cost of clearing is insignificant, since there are tremendous areas of rich lands in the valleys. It was possible in many cases to judge from actual results and where not the natural growths permitted an accurate estimate of the potential.

The third feature of the trip which rivetted the attention of Dean Klinck was the immense tract of land north of the Peace River, viewed from the centre of the Dominion Peace River block to the eastward. To the mind of the

professor there is here one of the most promising cattle countries, with excellent possibilities. Of the tour in general Dean Klinck declares that any misgivings that might have been entertained as to the possibilities of agricultural development in the northern sections of British Columbia can be dispelled for all time. He was able to judge from the practical and the scientific side. His conclusions are based upon what he saw growing and by that means he was able fairly accurately to judge as to the adaptability of the soil and to advise upon the nature of crop that could be most advantageously produced.

In every district at which a halt was made from three to six of the most representative ranches were carefully inspected. At each point exhaustive data was secured and dealt with. The length of time the particular district had been opened up, the amount and distribution of rainfall, the cost of clearing, the difficulty or otherwise of securing a sufficient water supply, the live stock situation and the question of marketing were gone into. Information thus secured has

been carefully tabulated and while Dean Klinck says that to perform a minute examination a visit of several summers would be necessary, the trip just completed has provided the government party and himself with much food for reflection.

In the Bulkeley Valley Dean Klinck found that a wide range of field crops were growing most successfully, fall and spring wheat being noteworthy. In this connection he was particularly gratified since the samples of wheat he inspected were from crops promising a yield of from thirty-five to forty bushels to the acre. When it is borne in mind that the average prairie crop gives a return of from twenty to thirty bushels it was a matter of congratulation for the

NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS

It cannot be too often reiterated that the financing of industrial activity in Canada is dependent upon the extent to which the people economize. The resources of the United Kingdom are not inexhaustible, every day adds to the immense strain placed upon them, and a realization of this fact impels to greater efforts those who are seeking to organize the savings of the people. Much has been done in Canada, but as yet the Canadian people have not submitted to sacrifices, nor assumed burdens, proportionate to those borne in the United Kingdom, although there is no difference in the relative degrees of responsibility. Occasionally citizens question the need of drastic limitations of personal expenditure, but the address of Mr. R. M. Kindersley, chairman of the National War Savings Association at Southampton recently, the substance of which is given below, is a sufficient answer to such objections:

"If the Government is to carry on the war and find the necessary material and labor, it seems to me without doubt, speaking in the broadest possible way, that you and I must do without a thousand and one things that we have been used to. I cannot conceive any other way to enable the Government to do what it has to do and to win the war. That is the broad aspect of the matter; we cannot look at it from any other point of view but the broadest, the national, point of view.

"We must not forget that you and I sent other men to fight for us. We undertook that responsibility, and when we did that we took upon our shoulders a moral obligation to do everything in our power to help our fighting forces, and to see that no act of ours lessened their chances of safe return to these shores. Have we really lived up to that moral obligation since we undertook it? I say without hesitation, and not in any spirit of criticism, that the nation as a whole has not lived up to that obligation. But we have done it because we did not understand. Therefore it is the duty of everyone to explain to the people what the position really is: that every time we spend money unnecessarily we absorb material and labor—goods and services—required for the purposes of the war."

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