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Producers Should Organize

(By MR. W. M. LEA.)

Agriculturalists are the greatest producers of wealth in Canada and it is surprising that such an important body of producers are so slow to organize, and largely for this reason they are the only class of individuals who, after they have produced an article, have not the privilege of fixing a price on it. It matters not what the cost of producing these food stuffs may be, other members of society set the price he is to receive. There is no consideration in this matter of a fair profit over cost of production. That conditions are such may be partly his own fault, he has never by organized force executed his right as members of other industries have done. The justice of this may be better realized by those who do not understand the conditions of farm production if we draw a few comparisons and reverse this order of things with other callings who exchange commodities with him. During the past winter and spring hogs sold for 20 cents per pound and young ones at weaning age from \$6.00 to \$10.00 each and farmers bought expensive feed and paid wages and other charges with the expectation of receiving 20 cents for the finished hog in the autumn. In some instances it may have cost this amount or nearly so to grow them, but when the farmer had his hogs ready to market, what did he find? That the other members of society he was growing them for came forward and virtually said, we are not paying 20 cents for hogs this fall, we are only paying 14 to 15 cents, but the farmer might well say, these hogs cost me more than that to produce, they cost me 16 to 18 cents per pound surely you will allow me a little profit for the trouble of feeding them, but what answer does this bring out, it does not matter what they cost you, we are only paying this price and you may depend it is going lower when more of you have enough ready for market that we know you cannot hold. This is practically the condition under which farmers of today are working, they have no guarantee or assurance that they will receive the cost of production for any article they may grow or produce.

I wonder what a manufacturer of plows would say if he were used by the farmers in this manner. Suppose for instance a manufacturer who formerly had been receiving \$20.00 each for his plows bought his raw material in the spring of the year, paid his help and other costs of manufacturing, intending to put them on the market in the fall of the year when he had a sufficient number to supply his trade, found that instead of being able to obtain the price of production, that the farmers came forward and said we are not paying \$20.00 for plows this fall, plows are only worth \$14.00 to \$15.00. It doesn't matter to us if they did cost you \$15.00 to \$18.00 to manufacture, plows have gone down, as you might have noticed by recent quotations, and they will likely go lower. How many plows would you expect this manufacturer under these conditions to produce the next year? will see if the price of boots and cloth-

and I cannot see why producers of food should not have as much right to set prices on their farm products as other members of society and that he has not been privileged so to do, is because he has never been properly organized or represented as a body. Our Governments have largely been controlled by the big interests. These are facts that all thinking men recognize, and while the other members of a restless world are clamoring for a greater wage and shorter hours of labor in the face of a great shortage of all sorts of commodities, and an opportunity for any nation who will produce as much per capita as in pre war times to prosper as never before in their history, we find the farmers working as long hours and as industriously as ever, producing fully as much or more per man as they ever did, adding their full share to the nation's wealth, and taking any price fixed by other members of society, either by price fixing commissions or by others who are able to adjust it to their advantage, at the same time many of the laborers in our largest industrial centres in Canada are not turning out more than 65 percent of the amount of manufactured goods they were doing before the war. Everybody is in sympathy with the working man in his demand for a wage in keeping with the higher cost of living, but he should know that if he will not do a fair day's work that he will add to his own, as well as others, cost of living, and a nation that produces a smaller amount per man than its competitors cannot hope to compete successfully in the markets of the world, but the strange part of this agitation for the lowering of the high cost of living is that nearly everybody make their hardest kick against the cost of food stuffs alone.

The price of bacon should be fixed (and has been), the price of cheese should be fixed (and for a time it was); wheat must not go above a certain figure and the maximum price for a farmer must use to produce these products with may go to any price fit to set, and after purchase the extra parts needed for any of these implements to the most ridiculous prices bearing no relation to their cost of production, (but as the unfortunate victim of an owner cannot obtain them from any other source) any price they see fit to name. If there is any one thing that Governments might look into if they are anxious for a job for a brand new commission, for our farm implements and the charges exacted for their extra parts. As a fair sample of this kind of robbery I will cite the cost I had been paying for a piece of six inch rubber hose used by a certain make of cream separator of \$1.50, thinking that I might secure something that could be used as a substitute, I tried a drug store, although it is not a place we are accustomed to find bargains lying around but I was able to get the same article for 25 cents, and I have found in the few instances where any mechanic can make a part that will answer, the saving is equally as great as in this instance. If we are to have price control in any of the necessities of life, let us have it all around and we will see if the price of boots and cloth-

ing won't stand looking into. How would a fixed price on ladies' clothing on \$50.00 coats look in comparison with the price of bacon. The fact of the matter is, farm products have not risen quite half as much on an average as other necessities of life. According to an editorial on this subject in a July issue of the Montreal Witness, on a report of figures taken from those collected by the Bureau of Trade and Commerce monthly from every town of note in Canada, 40 farm products had risen an average of 35 per cent, since 1914, while 200 other commodities listed, many of which are necessities of life, had risen in the same time 170 per cent. This explains why manufacturers and others can grant 40 hour weeks of labor to their employees with Wednesday or Saturday half holidays. Before prices of necessities can become permanently lower they must be made more plentiful, and I do not look for any great reduction in value of any of these products for a long time to come if it is correct that the Industrial Workers are only turning out 65 per cent, per man of their pre war product, it will require a vast army to make up the defect, these in turn are being drawn by better wages from the farms and while those remaining are working fully long hours as ever they did their numbers are being greatly reduced to bring production up to a proper standard. It is impossible on the farms in stock raising countries to work less than 12 hours a day and most farmers exceed even this in the summer months at least, and if farmers finished produce sell for double their pre war value his butter, meat and eggs are still as good as they ever were, but when he takes the prices obtained for them to exchange for clothing for his family, he finds that not only has he to pay a greater per cent of advance on the cost than he received for his products, but he does not receive the same quality of an article that he did before the present raise in values; instead of woolen clothing, he often has passed off on him shoddy imitation, no guarantee is given him that the goods are as represented, but if his butter exceeds 16 per cent, moisture he is open to prosecution; he must not on the penalty of the law adulterate any of his products, his goods must never be shoddy. This condition will exist until the farmer becomes properly organized as other industrial workers are, and organization should be of greater benefit to him, than any other class, first in the benefits of exchange in experience in the producing end and co-operation in the manufacture and marketing end. The Departments of Agriculture, both Federal and Local, recognizing the great importance of the farming industry in the prosperity of the country, are ready at all times to lend every possible assistance to this end, and will be pleased on request to send a representative from the staff to as many of the annual meetings of the Institutes as it is possible to reach, lend every assistance to those already organized and to any other district that wishes to start or re-organize such society.

We know right away, any hour of the day when we've reason to grow and complain.

HOW FOCH REDEEMED HIS BOYHOOD VOW

(Harper's Magazine.)

In January, 1871, was signed the shameful peace that marked the triumph of Prussia. Twilight was falling upon the somber study-hall where all the hearts were sadder also. Around Metz the voice of the cannon began to thunder forth the triumph of Germany. The ground trembled, the windows shook. No one dared say a word. Then a Jesuit father, who had been a naval officer, said slowly scanning his words:

"My children, pray God for the future of France. Alsace and Lorraine are no longer ours."

"We prayed," said the marshal; "no, we did more than that. We made our vows. And now that we are at the evening of our life, our prayers are heard and our vows fulfilled."

Bavarian troops occupied the city and went out of their way to be insolent. They allowed, however, the future polytechnicians to finish their studies. But the troops, multiplying demands and stipulation, occupied a part of the college. The students had to meet continually in the corridors and on the playground and at the door the German soldiers, who bullied them and made them submit to humiliations without number. Foch was beside himself with rage. He passed his examination successfully at Nancy to the sound of the German bands that General Manteuffel, with his habitual lack of tact, ordered to play. Foch never forgot these musical notes, which rent his ear and his soul. Forty-two years later, when he was named commander of the superb Twentieth Corps of Lorraine, he ordered for the day his entry at Nancy, August 23, 1915, a great parade in which participated the bands of the Sixth Regiment of the city. It was an unforgettable night, for it marked his entry into the post that found him ready for service when the hour came to wipe out the blot of 1871.

I have dwelt on these facts because they form an important detail of which no biographer of Foch has spoken. During the occupation he studied the German soul, which he knows intimately. The depths of its baseness, he says, we must keep constantly in mind. He was in one of the great cities of France when that city was annexed to Germany. It was on that day, at the College Saint-Clement, that the thought of a life-task was engraved upon his heart. From that moment he swore to concentrate all the efforts of his life toward a single end—the just revenge. It was at the time of his first contact with the enemy that the impressionable youth, smarting under the humiliation of his country, said to himself:

"We must retake Alsace and Lorraine. France must not remain a conquered nation. I must be the liberator."

POPE DENOUNCES IMMODEST DRESS.

ROME, Nov. 5.—Pope Benedict has caused the following to be published in the Catholic press and repeated from the pulpits of the Catholic churches: "Certain exaggerations of dress which are now in fashion are a danger to society, together with those who provoke to evil. It fills us with surprise and consternation to observe that those who spread this

poison appear ignorant of their evil action, as those who set fire to a house seem to ignore the destructive force of fire. We can only suppose that ignorance alone explains the deplorable extension of such fashions so contrary to modesty, which should be the most beautiful ornament of the

Christian woman."

His Holiness proceeds to praise the Italian Women's Union for its projected campaign against immodest clothes and he expects Christian women to follow the example, and boycott all women who refuse to modify the present fashion in short skirts,

bare arms, and extremely low necks, then he says:

"Every lady, no matter how high her social position, is in duty bound to refuse to receive visits from friends whose indecent exaggeration of dress offends modesty."

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