## HOLD YOUR HATS, BOYS!

British sappers in Tunisia make the sand fly as they dash away from the disabled German tank seen in the picture above. They had planted explosives in the tank to blow it up lest the enemy recapture and repair it.

# CANADA PACKERS' HEAD VIEWS FARM PROBLEMS

**An address by Mr. J. S. McLean, President of Canada Packers Limited**

At a recent meeting of the Lions Club in Clinton, Ontario, Mr. J. S. McLean, President of Canada Packers, discussed a problem of vital importance to every farmer in Canada — farm economy: the profit and loss of farming at the present time and the conditions with which the farmer may be confronted when the war is over.

Comparing key farm prices in the years 1933 to 1942, Mr. McLean said that the gross agricultural production in Canada increased by 164 percent and the cash income of agricultural production, in the same period, increased by 193 percent.

Approximately the same number of farms were in operation in 1933 as in 1942. The number of persons employed was probably less in 1942. In spite of this fact, the income per farm was $1,000.00 more than in 1933.

In these times, Mr. McLean said, the farmer's mind is easy in one very important respect. He knows there will be a ready market for everything he can produce but a time will come when world food production will get back to normal. What will then happen to Canadian agriculture?

### Post-war Reconstruction

An enlightened Agricultural policy must keep in mind the fact that one-third of Canada's population lives on her farms. The welfare of this large part is clearly an important factor in the welfare of the whole. Phrased in purely economic language, the purchasing power of the farm groups is one of the most important elements in the total economy of the country.

How can the welfare of Canadian Agriculture be advanced? Or, otherwise, how can Agricultural depressions be avoided?

### Depressed Conditions

Depressed conditions, when they occur, derive from two main causes:—

(a) Crop failures. These are spasmodic, and local. Nevertheless, they sometimes assume major proportions. Fortunately, this is not true of our own Province. In Ontario we have never suffered from crop failures on a disastrous scale.

(b) The other cause of depression is low prices. All of us here can recall at least two prolonged periods in which the things which the farmer produced could not be exchanged for an adequate quantity of the things which he had to buy. In such periods, even those farmers with good crops are doomed to a low standard of living. And the whole economy suffers from the farmer's lack of purchasing power.

### Price Levels

The obligation of the Government towards Agriculture is, if possible, to set up conditions in which prices of farm products are maintained at an adequate level.

Policies for maintaining farm prices fall into two classes, which may be designated:—

(1) 'ad hoc' or artificial methods.

(2) Natural economic methods.

### Artificial Methods

(1) Examples of 'ad hoc' or artificial methods are as follows:—

(a) The restriction of production. The object of such expedients is to advance prices by reducing supplies. Recent examples of this method were the killing of millions of young pigs and of female cattle in the United States in the years 1932 and 1933. Also the cutting down of wheat acreage in the United States and Canada in the last few years.

We instinctively feel that to cut down production is the worst way of correcting low prices. production is the worst way of correcting low prices.

(b) Another artificial method is that of Governmental subsidies. This expedient has been widely used in Canada within the last three years. Subsidies began on wheat, and are now extended to butter, cheese, hogs and several other farm products. Total Agricultural subsidies paid by the Dominion Government in the year 1942 amounted to 60 million dollars.

### Subsidies

The drawback of subsidies is that they have to be taken from other groups of the community, and they are therefore uncertain and are likely to be cut off at the time when they are needed most.

Farmers do not refuse subsidies when they are offered. However, I think it is true to say they have an underlying feeling that this type of assistance can not permanently benefit them.

### Natural Economic Methods

(2) Other methods of maintaining prices I have referred to as 'natural economic methods.' These must be the outgrowth of the underlying conditions of Canadian Agriculture. These conditions may be summarized as follows:—

(a) Because of its wide Agricultural areas and its relatively sparse population, Canada produces, and must continue to produce, a large Agricultural surplus.

(b) A surplus can exist in a primary form (e.g. wheat), or it may be converted from a primary to a secondary form (e.g. wheat may be converted to live stock, dairy products, poultry, etc.) An enlightened Agricultural policy involves the conversion of the total surplus to the forms in which it can most readily be marketed.

(c) When a surplus exists of any one crop, the price obtainable abroad for that surplus is the chief factor in determining the price which the producer receives for the total crop.

(Example: the price of all the wheat is determined chiefly by the price received for the surplus at Liverpool; the price of all the hogs is determined chiefly by the price received for Wiltshire Bacon at London.)

(d) If a surplus of any crop exists which can not be cleared, the price of that crop is bound to be depressed. (e.g., wheat in the last twelve years.)

### Maintaining Prices

Out of the above factors, there emerges what may be called a natural economic method of maintaining Agricultural prices in Canada. It is:—

(1) To secure markets abroad, at satisfactory prices, for Canada's total Agricultural surplus.

(2) To convert that surplus into the forms in which markets can most readily be secured.

At the present time, these conditions exist, (with the modified exception of wheat). And, as a result, Agriculture in Canada is in a prosperous condition.

### Post-war Solution

How can similar conditions be maintained in the post-war period?

To begin with, the size of the problem can be reduced by increasing home consumption and thereby diminishing the surplus which must be exported.

To the extent that it can be applied, this is the simplest solution, as it lies entirely within the control of Canadian authorities. Moreover, on other grounds this policy is highly desirable in itself, for it involves improvement in our standards of nutrition and thereby the enhancement of the chief national asset,—the health and efficiency of the Canadian people.

However, even if a perfect balanced standard of nutrition should be established in Canada, a large surplus of food will still exist which will have to be exported beyond our borders.

This problem would be progressively simplified as standards of nutrition were improved in all other countries, — an end also highly desirable in itself. The peoples of the world could easily consume all the food which could be produced.

This phase of the solution involves international movement of foods on a scale much greater than ever before. Facilities for such movement would have to be provided by arrangements between Governments.

### Type of Agreements

And one of the most useful studies for the post-war period is the type of agreements between Governments which will best assist such movement in the period just following the war, and, stage by stage, later.

From the millions of people, particularly in Europe, who will have been suffering for years from varying degrees of food shortage, there will be an eager demand for all the foods, especially protective foods, which are on hand and which can be produced within the first year, perhaps within the first two years.

But Governments will have to arrange the financing of such movement. At the beginning, probably the movement will be effected by individual long-term credits granted by the exporting country to the importing country.

One idea emerges upon which the optimist likes to dwell;—viz. that the policy which best provides for human needs seems also the most practical as a solution of our economic perplexities.

If somehow we can manage to establish a universal minimum standard of nutrition, perhaps the problem of farm prices may find its own solution.

In the same way, if we can succeed in keeping everyone employed, we need not spend much time thinking out systems of relief and unemployment insurance.. They will not be needed.

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If you are troubled with itching piles or rectal soreness, do not delay treatment and run the risk of letting this condition become chronic. Any itching or soreness or painful passage of stool is nature's warning and proper treatment should be secured at once.

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## *Have You Heard?*

The Sunday School lesson was from 2 Kings, xxii, and read: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem."

On describing the lesson to his mother, John, aged five, said: "The lesson was about a good rain, and there was a little boy named Josiah, and it began to rain when he was eight and when he was thirty-one it was still drizzlin'."

**Proprietor: "You come into my restaurant, you order a glass of vater, you drink it, and you calmly valk out!"**

**Scot: "What were ye expectin' me to do, mon? Stagger oot?"**

"I get wonderful recipes," gushed the bride, who was entertaining her family for the first time. "I got one for Egyptian stew and one for a never-fail stain remover this morning."

"Which is this?" asked little Willie, tasting the stew with which he had just been served.

**"It's the little things in life that tell," said the sister as she yanked her small brother from under the chesterfield.**

Fair Enough: A genial-looking gentleman wanted a bottle and went to a chemist to buy one.

"How much?" he asked.

"If you want the empty bottle it will be a penny, but if you want anything in it you can have it for nothing."

"Well, that's fair enough; put a cork in it!"

**According to an examination paper: "A circle is a round straight line with a hole in the middle."**

Tammas was asked which he would rather have, half an orange or eight sixteenths.

"Half," said Tammas.

"Why?" continued the teacher.

"Because," replied the canny little Scot, "wi' the sixteenths you lose such a lot o' juice!"

**A British tar recently described how it felt to be torpedoed: "A bump, a swim, and a pickup."**

Police Judge: "Well, Sam, about your son stealing those chickens, I've decided to let him off this time, but why don't you show him the right way?"

Sam: "Ah done tried hard, Judge but he goes and gets hisself caught anyhow."

**"I'm handling this 'plane pretty well, instructor."**

**"Yes, just keep it up."**

Land Girls and men formerly considered unemployable have reclaimed 1,200 acres in Essex, England.

The tin used to solder parts in a medium army tank would make 10,000 tin cans.

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## As You Were!

Officer's haughty voice from within car: "Where does this road go to, my good man?"

Yokel: "It doan' go nowhere, we keeps it here."

Voice (even more haughtily): "Well, am I right for the barracks?"

Yokel, unabashed by the officer's officiousness, replied with a grin: "You must belong to that there Italian army, 'cause you're running away from the bloomin' place."


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ISSUE No. 19—43