

Discussion of the "Back to Land" Plan

Scheme Endorsed as Not Direct Relief. Also Because it Follows Idea Behind Land-Clearing Bonus Proposition.

The most important question before the people of the Dominion of Canada to-day is the matter of unemployment. With this subject of unemployment goes all sort of subsidiary questions such as the general depression, which was caused by the unemployment, and the matter of direct relief, which is a plan whereby it is hoped to help the people out of the depression. It is practically impossible to discuss any of the questions noted without bringing in the others. Indeed, nearly any live subject for discussion to-day is sure to circle round sooner or later to the depression, unemployment, direct relief, and employment as a cure for all the other ills. For this reason it is not surprising that an editorial in The Northern Tribune last week in reference to the long-advocated plan of bonusing land-clearing should touch on the depression, direct relief, employment and other matters. As a matter of fact it would have been totally inadequate had it not done so. In discussing the "back-to-the-land" plan of the Dominion Government The Northern Tribune is not as enthusiastic as some other newspapers and public men are on this matter. The Advance admits being prejudiced in favour of the back-to-the-land plan because it is getting away from the curse of direct relief and helping people to help themselves. In one way of looking at it, the plan provides all that embrace it with employment whereby they will be able to care for themselves. To this extent it is the proper method of relief and will be of benefit to the country as well as to the people affected.

As to the success of the "back-to-the-land" scheme there is surely no cause for contemplating certain failure. It may be expected that there will be a proportion of failures, but there is also reason for believing that the majority will succeed. As a matter of fact thousands of families have been returned to the land on the plan inaugurated by Hon. Mr. Gordon and despite the most inauspicious times that farmers have endured recently the plan has seemed to succeed in large measure. If any success at all can be shown in these untoward days, surely with more normal times the "back-to-the-land" scheme may be looked upon as likely to succeed in great measure.

The editorial in The Northern Tribune hits the nail on the head squarely when it suggests that the "back-to-the-land" movement proves the benefit of the proposed land-clearing bonus for farmers or settlers in this North Land. This bonus on land-clearing has been advocated for years by The Advance, as well as by The Northern Tribune and The Cochrane Northland Post. The experience of the province of Quebec with this bonus plan proves the efficiency of the measure. Recently The Cochrane Northland Post suggested that a land bonus plan be adopted this year instead of any scheme of direct relief for the settlers this winter. It is certain that a large number of settlers in this North Land this coming winter will have to have relief of some sort or else be allowed to starve to death. The curtailment of roadwork and the practical cessation of any activity in the sale of pulpwood has left a number in such position that without some form of relief they will be faced this winter by danger of actual starvation. Already it has been necessary to extend direct relief to some of them. More relief will be needed without doubt. Could not some plan be evolved whereby the relief could take the form of a bonus on land-clearing similar to that in force in Quebec. With such a plan in force the prospects would seem much more promising for the advantage of the country than any direct relief scheme. The bonus for this year, for example, could be based partly on land already cleared, and partly on land to be cleared during the winter. This would mean that the settlers would be earning the money given them, and the country would be getting something in return through the betterment from the land cleared.

The above are thoughts suggested by the reading of the editorial in The Northern Tribune. This shows that the editorial in question is a thought-provoker. All may not agree with all it says but the fact that it spurs thought certainly makes it well worth while. Accordingly The Advance reproduces it herewith in full, because it contributes much to the discussion of a group of allied questions that go back to the depression and the unemployment that caused the depression. The Northern Tribune says:—

In a questionnaire rather irregularly taken recently, local branches of the Northern Ontario Settlers' Association declared their preference for a land clearing bonus scheme over any of direct relief. Such a decision was the most natural thing in the world, and need surprise no one. The direct relief measures have been tardily adopted only after the greatest show of reluctance by the government; they are sketchy, patchwork in nature, decidedly ephemeral, solve nothing, and impose increasing humiliations upon the recipients. It must be evident to everybody that they are being adopted only because of extreme pressure upon the authorities, who even now pass on to the municipalities the highest percentage of relief costs that they can be badgered into carrying. Prudently administered towns whose financial position is comparatively good are bearing heavier shares than other towns whose

affairs have not been harmoniously or efficiently conducted. This condition is noticeable in the North. The land clearing scheme, if adopted, would be a frank admission that pioneers on the land up here need assistance in their first years, which help they will receive only by working hard for it. Past experience indicates that such a policy if adopted years ago would have reduced the failures of settlers in the clay belt to a negligible figure—would in fact have peopled these districts with thousands more self-sustaining farmers. Furthermore, it is demonstrable that the government would have done wisely in making such expenditure, just as it directly spends huge sums of money in countless other directions to promote the interests of Ontario citizens. Quebec province has successfully applied bonusing for clearing land to its newer colonization districts in the North, where conditions are exactly similar to ours, and that in itself should induce Premier Henry to copy the plan. We share the skepticism of many city and town councils in older Ontario

toward the "back-to-the-land" scheme put forward by the federal and provincial governments, by which unemployed men and their families would be implanted in the North and staked for two years. Many of these bodies have flatly refused to participate, councillors being outspoken in the opinion that there would be a large percentage of failures. The newcomers are not to be allowed to handle money themselves, out of the \$600 fund provided for each of them to last the two years. This credit of \$600, put up by the Dominion, the province and the municipality, can only be drawn upon for approved expenditures, which seems to imply heavy overheads, possibilities for disputes between the three parties, and much dissatisfaction sooner and also later by "the party of the fourth part." When our resident settlers have had a difficult time to establish themselves (and many have failed to do this) and have been unable to persuade the government to subsidize the clearing of the first few acres, how can we be sanguine about unemployed wards from strange parts getting along?

THE DOGGED DOG THAT DOGS FOOTSTEPS OF LISKEARD MAN

Under the very appropriate heading, "Bright Little Fellow," The New Liskeard Speaker tells the following very interesting story of a clever little dog at New Liskeard:— "One day as we were walking along Armstrong street on the north side we met Mr. Bush, who was being followed by a little spaniel dog. Asked if he owned the dog, Mr. Bush said he did, and that he was "a bright little fellow." "One day," said he, "I missed my pocket handkerchief. Thinking I might have dropped it I looked back and saw that the dog had picked it up and was carrying it." And as Mr. Bush was leaving he said "Watch now." After going a few paces he dropped a trinket and walked on as though he did not know he had dropped it. The dog took the trinket in its mouth and was carrying it when we last saw Mr. Bush."

Milverton Sun:—Keep that old pioneer institution the Fall Fair going; it is one worth while.

YOUNG COBALTERS CONSTRUCT THEIR OWN FERRIS WHEELS

A despatch from Cobalt last week says:—"Miniature Ferris wheels have been constructed by ingenious youths in Cobalt and Mileage 104, the structures being based on the exhibits of this nature seen at travelling shows which visited the district this summer. In both cases, spare lumber was used, the Cobalt specimen being a little the more elaborate, in that it has wooden boxes arranged as "cars." An English tourist, a woman, was so taken with the appearance of the town wheel that she stopped and "snapped it," complimenting the owners on their skill."

Orillia News Letter:—Details of the erection near Richmond Hill, north of Toronto, of the second largest telescope in the world, at an estimated cost of \$500,000, have been made public. Officials of the University of Toronto to which Mrs. Jessie Dunlop is donating the David Dunlop observatory in memory of her husband announced that construction would start at once on the two main buildings of the plant.

Tracks Washed Out on the T. & N. O. Near Thornloe

The Northern News last week says:—"Part of the T. & N. O. tracks near Thornloe was washed out, the Ferguson highway was flooded in many places, and the false work of a bridge over the Blanche river at Englehart was washed away in a terrific thunderstorm that visited the Englehart area Tuesday night. So heavy was the downpour that the Blanche rose six feet in one hour and 20 minutes and parties of workers from the Northern Development Branch, under the direction of Billy Weeks, were forced to work all night dynamiting the driftwood to protect the bridge below Englehart from being washed away in a log jam. There was three feet of water on the Ferguson highway between Heaslip and Earlon after the storm passed and many culverts in the Englehart district were washed away by the cloudbursts. The storm, accompanied by blinding lightning, began at about six o'clock in the evening and continued unabated until midnight. It was a terrific down-

pour, and came on the heels of a long spell of wet weather that may rot potato crops throughout the district, according to fears voiced by some of the settlers. Wednesday's upbound T. & N. O. train, which is scheduled to reach Swastika about 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon, was about two hours late as a result of the washout on the tracks near Thornloe.

Huntingdon Gleaner:—Orange lilies blooming alongside the tennis court of Assumption Roman Catholic Church, within 100 feet of the church edifice in Sandwich, Ontario, created some comment because of the 12th of July. Added comment came from the fact that the plants and flowers appear stronger and larger than those grown in other parts of the community. They have been growing in this location for years, but only on the "Glorious Twelfth" do they seem to attract more than passing comment. Father Gerard Todd, of Assumption Church, said with a smile that he might wear one of the blooms in his buttonhole only they were too large.

IF you can find your name in the advertisements on this page you will get 2 Guest Tickets to see

Jack Holt, Ralph Graves, Lila Lee, Victor Wong & Tetsu Komai in **'War Correspondent'** Adventurers in Shanghai courting danger and a woman Kat Cartoon—"BIRTH OF JAZZ" Musical—"PIE, PIE, BLACKBIRD" **AT THE Goldfields Theatre MONDAY EVENING Sept. 12, 7 p.m. or 9 p.m. show**

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You Never Can Tell ... Your Name May Be In These Advertisements This Week ... Read Them and See.

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PAIRS OF TICKETS WEEKLY
Each week the lucky winners will receive two tickets each.

Last Week's Ticket Winners
Mrs. S. Wheeler, 81 Pine St. S.
H. MacQuarrie, 62 Balsam St. S.
Mrs. E. Nord, 63 Birch St. South
Mrs. Bennett, 27 Middleton Ave.

Here is all there is to it

Each Thursday the names and addresses of four people residing in Timmins and District will appear in the advertisements on this page. If your name is in one of the advertisements and you locate it, all you are asked to do is to clip the advertisement in which it appeared and present it to The Advance Office, Timmins. You will then receive two guest tickets to The Goldfields Theatre. Read the advertisements over carefully. The week you miss is the very time your name may be one of those selected.

ALL TICKET WINNERS MUST CALL FOR THEIR TICKETS NOT LATER THAN NOON SATURDAY FOLLOWING PUBLICATION.

The list of winners will be published each week in The Porcupine Advance

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