

THE PROBLEM OF OUR TIME—ITS DISCOVERY AND ITS SOLUTION.

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Young men who attempt to enter upon life's arduous duties without any well set carefully marked and thoroughly thought-out plans, or aims or objects of their life are scarcely ever a pronounced success. In order to have the satisfaction, the solidity and the growth in their work that is so desirable and that will help to make them good and efficient workers in their calling it is necessary that their course should be well and definitely marked out for them or by them before hand, and then that they aim steadily, constantly and persistently towards that high and honorable purpose. In short, they must have a well devised plan in their life, and then hoard all their varied energies and efforts to the working out that plan to the very end. In order to effect this kind of brilliant success, it is further necessary that their efforts should be properly concentrated upon and in the direction of the one idea, and the one great purpose that they have set up as a mark to aim at. This quality will give them steadiness of effort and solidity of purpose and will help to produce in them that one great want of the present time, viz., "accomplished specialists."

Negatively we notice that not so much a lack of energy is the great fault of our time and people as is a shameful and deplorable wasting of energy, and that to a fearful extent. I need not attempt to particularize, for you know that there is amongst our young men especially a most lamentable amount of hap-hazard, loose, disconnected or evaporated effort that never tells anything on the pages of history or in helping on the individual resources. It is simply life that is the most precious of all bestowments frittered away and to all good purposes lost for ever. No object, no aim, no high and honorable ambition in life; nothing definite or substantial attained! What a contemplation! And yet it is most certainly true in our time of many a young man and many an older one too. Especially is this contemplation sad in view of the amount of work to be done on every side, the number of open avenues temptingly inviting us in, and the number of callings and businesses beckoning us to follow and succeed. Amongst the many great problems of life and the numerous questions that so deeply agitate man we think we have one here in the peaceful, lovely fields of horticulture, one that offers the most brilliant prospects, the sweetest and most alluring labors and the most tempting substantial rewards to satisfy the desires, the purpose and the aims of any young life that we know of in our time. To discover this problem and to effectually solve it is an object worthy of the most exalted and the most cultivated ideal.

Practically we will now first attempt the statement of the problem and, lastly, as briefly as possible, set ourselves to the solving it. It is: *To produce the greatest possible amount of the best and highest excellence of growth from the least possible surface of soil is the greatest problem of our time.* The surest way to discover this question is by hard, persistent study, aided and assisted by life's most potent forces. It is in this line of work of ours that the discovery must be made and cannot be attained by mere listless squandering of our time or abilities or the criminally wasting the precious opportunities that more or less come to us all. Its solution consists in the realization to the fullest possible extent of this grand idea in connection with our business as "Fruit-Growers" in this country. To help to do this it will be necessary to proceed to some calculations bearing upon the question built partly upon actually experienced results. To help further to do this in something like a definite form it will be necessary to take a plot of ground of not one hundred acres or of ten acres, but of only five acres, as a foundation upon which to work, and one will see what can or could be done with this fertile plot of five acres of Canadian soil. Could the much quoted author of "*Ten acres enough*" be now induced to revisit our common earth how greatly would he find this whole programme changed as he would be led to exclaim, "*Truly, this is another era.*" In laying out our plot which must be supposed to be well and properly fenced by post and wire, but not by live hedges or live trees on the inside, to draw anything from the supporting forces of the soil of the plot itself and the who'se must be in the best of "tilth" and thoroughly in order.