

ELECTRICITY AND THE SOLDIER.BY GEORGE ILES.

One staple in our markets grows steadily cheaper: electricity. And as electrical appliances of all kinds gain in public favour, they also will fall in price, when the metal market is freed from the influence of war demand.

Canada, with her vast water-powers, provides her people in many districts with electricity at so little cost that a veritable boom in electrical industry is at hand. One forward stride can easily bring down electrical costs to the lowest notch, namely, the universal introduction of electric lamps, motors, heaters, tools and processes which today are found here and there instead of everywhere. Let smoothing-irons and toasters be made by the thousand, not by the score, and their price will go down with those of tungsten lamps.

Already a goodly army of electrical canvassers occupy the Canadian field, and with conspicuous success. They are showing housekeepers how to reduce the drudgery of homes, and simplify their tasks at every point. In kitchens and laundries, as well as in the sewing-room and the library, electricity enters with gifts in both hands. So too in workshops, where electric motors unite with tools and machines to lessen toil and add to output.

On the farm equal benefits are bestowed. In grinding feed, cutting ensilage, or threshing grain, a farmer with an electric motor chooses his own time. The moment his wheels are at rest, all expense ceases. His motor in an instant can be attached to a pump, a corn sheller, a fanning mill, a forge blast, a saw, a horse groomer, or even a cow milker. A vacuum cleaner carried over from house to stable removes dust and dirt from cows as combs and brushes never did. These tasks, and many others, proceed, when needful, beneath the rays of electric lamps, fixed or portable, incomparably brighter and safer than petroleum lanterns ever were.