

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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pearance. We just throw this out as a hint to Fair Boards and Breeders' Associations.

### War a Regenerator.

BY ALLAN MCNIARMID.

As many people have the idea that the world has come to a sort of standstill in many ways since the beginning of the war, and that this condition of things must inevitably last until peace shall come to the nations once more and war be ended for all time, it may be of interest to some of them to learn what a man who has returned from an extended trip to France and England, during the past year, thinks on this point. It was my fortune to meet this man shortly after his arrival home, and one of my first questions was, "Well, when do you think this war will come to an end?" He laughed a little and said, "That's about the first question I'm asked by every person with whom I have talked in the past two weeks. I suppose it's natural enough that they should want to know this, as everybody is wishing for it, but it's the one thing above all others that I can give no definite answer to. I have my own ideas on the subject, of course, and if you want to listen to them, and to my guesses as to the ending of the war, I don't mind telling you what I think."

"In the first place," he began, "I think the people of this country, as well as of all other lands, might as well make up their minds to the fact that we are in a fight the end of which isn't anywhere in sight, and that the chances are that many years of it are ahead of us. It will be better for all of us if we can just take things as they are and settle down to the idea of an indefinite period of international warfare, giving up the habit of wishing for the end, and instead, making the most of our present opportunities, many of which the war has brought to us." I sometimes think that this discipline that so many of the so-called Christian nations are undergoing was almost a necessity in its way. As a people they seemed to have lost their hold on the old time truths of their religion, and the result was that the moral life of the nations was degenerating, and something had to be done to prevent history repeating itself and giving future generations another example of the "decline and fall" of a great world religion. Had Christianity reached its logical fulfillment the world would have been regenerated and we would now be living in the "millennium", but the moral condition of society on the earth was too much for it, and we are reaping the result in war, which was the only alternative. Moral suasion and force are the two methods used to bring humanity up from the lower to the higher life, and we are now experiencing the latter of these two ways.

Anyone can see that a good deal has already been accomplished in the way of reformation and moral improvement among the people who are vitally affected by the war, but it is just as easy to see that there is still almost infinite room for further progress, and it seems to me that until we have given pretty definite proof of having learned the lesson intended for us in the present experience, that experience, hard as it is, must continue.

This being taken for granted it is up to us to map out a plan of action for ourselves that will be adapted to present conditions and that may help in some small way to bring about, through time, a better state of society, one in which war will be unnecessary. In the first place we find that men and women are, generally speaking, earning more money than ever before in the world's history. They are spending more and saving more. This means greater opportunity for progress along all other lines of human advancement, and it is up to us to take advantage of the fact. It is no time to shorten sail or to retrench. Let us go with the wind so far as it is taking us in the right direction. Courage and initiative were never more likely to be rewarded. At the time war was declared I was talking to a young farmer who was, as a rule, something of an optimist. "Our good times are over," he said, "there's nothing surer than that". As a matter of fact they were just beginning taking it from his point of view. And so it may well be now. There never was a time of greater opportunity for the human race. A readjustment is going on, a fairer distribution of wealth is taking place, giving the man who was once poor an equal chance with others who in the past were more fortunate. Women are also coming into their own in almost every civilized land and are proving themselves the equal of men in so many trades and professions that we can say with a good deal of truth that what the war has deprived us of in the way of man-power it has made up to us in the increased efficiency of women. This will be more marked in the coming years and it gives reason to hope that the re-making of the world is just ahead. It has been said of almost every triumph or misfortune in the past that there was "a woman at the bottom of it." No doubt this will continue to prove true, and with her high moral standard we shouldn't fear the outcome.

Another thing that should stir mankind up to greater endeavor is the fact that the reward of labor has been made so much more certain than in the past. In a great many cases minimum prices have been fixed for the produce of the farm and that price is always a fair one. In the railroading world dividends have been guaranteed and shipbuilding is being put on a firmer financial basis than ever.

This idea of the nation going bankrupt hasn't very much back of it. While the people are industrious and economical it is a practical impossibility. A great part of a nation's war expense is made up of the wages paid out to her own people, and in the payment for raw material that simply amounts to a circulation of money among those who have energy enough to get into the producing class. For an indefinite time the National debt of this country will not increase as fast as our ability to pay it.

The point is this. We are able to carry on the work of the world as in normal times, in fact we are better able to do it than we ever were before, so why not give up this guessing as to when the war will end so that we can get down to business, and get down to business now? Now is the only time there is in which we have to do anything, and if we wait until conditions are exactly right we'll wait till we're dead.

Recreation and amusements should enter into our lives as always, for it has been pretty well proved that no man can do good work and be at it all the time. But the idea is that any line of human endeavor that was going on before the war should be continued and developed as far as possible, and there should be no standing still in science or art or literature or anything connected with the betterment of humanity.

The foundation for this increase of effort and enterprise is being laid at the present time in many countries by a normal development of which France is, at present, the best example, but which is a feature in the life of all the countries at war. With a sound basis to work from we have a chance to-day to create such a civilization as the world has not yet seen, and that in spite of, if not because of, the great struggle in which we are engaged. And while we are condemning the "slacker" who should be at the front, we might just as well keep an eye open for the "slacker" among those of us who have to remain at home. We're all on the job.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

A very important point which has recently been established in regard to the Sockeye Salmon is the fact that when the adult fish ascend the rivers to spawn they return to the same spawning beds from which they themselves were hatched. The immense importance of this fact can be realized when one considers that it determines the location of hatcheries and makes it absolutely imperative that no salmon streams are allowed to be obstructed even for one season. It will not do to hatch out the eggs and turn the fry loose at any convenient point and in this way expect to stock all streams entering the sea near that point. The hatchery must be located on the stream which it is desired to stock, as the fish will return to the spawning beds adjacent to this point. If a certain stream is obstructed during a certain season so that no fish can run up it to spawn it means that in the fourth succeeding year there will be no run of Sockeye in that stream, and that there will be no run in any succeeding fourth year,

unless eggs are hatched and the fry liberated at that point.

This "parent stream law", as it is called, shows how very essential it was for the Government to remove the obstructions in the Fraser River in 1913 and 1914. In the winter of 1912-13 the Canadian Northern cut out a road-bed along the left bank of the Fraser River Canyon and dumped great quantities of rock debris into the Fraser. Where the river was wide this did not make much change in the velocity or character of its flow, but where it was narrow and already ran with great velocity, as at Hell's Gate, Scuzzey Rapids, White's Creek and China Bar, it produced profound changes. At these points the dumping of this debris converted rapids which had hitherto been passable with comparative ease by the salmon into obstacles which they could not pass.

In this connection it is interesting to see just what are the capabilities of the Sockeye in ascending rapids. It has been found that this species can make a vertical jump from still water to running water above up to a height of eighteen inches with certainty and can usually manage a jump of this kind up to three feet in height. It can swim up against a current running at five miles per hour, but a current running between six and seven miles per hour is too swift for it to navigate.

As soon as it was found that the Sockeye could not pass these points the B. C. Department of Fisheries took immediate action and by blasting and the use of derricks succeeded in removing these obstructions and thus saving the Fraser from a total failure of the run of salmon during one year in every four.

The salmon which are taken for canning are caught at the mouths of the rivers, and nearly half those taken in British Columbia are caught at the mouth of the Fraser. They are caught by means of gill-nets set from row-boats or small sail-boats. The nets, of varying length, may be either "set nets," or "drift nets." The former are anchored so as to remain in a certain location by being made fast to stakes or anchors, while in drifting one end of the net is buoyed, the net is paid out and the other end is fastened to the boat which is allowed to drift for some time. Drifting is usually done at night when darkness hides the mesh from the sight of the salmon, though if the water is muddy it may be carried on during the daytime. After the nets are hauled and the salmon removed, the fishermen either take their catch to the cannery or deliver it to a boat which collects for the cannery. In American waters salmon traps are used extensively, but very few are in use in Canadian waters. These traps consist of stakes driven into the bottom with nets stretched between them in such a way as to form a lead out from the shore and several chambers and a final "pot" at the end from which the fish cannot escape.

As soon as the fish are landed at the cannery they are fed into a machine called the "Iron Chink," a very wonderful machine which has many knives and brushes and which cuts off the heads, tails and fins, removes the scales, splits the fish and removes the entrails. It thus does the work of many Chinamen who were previously employed to do this work and received its name in this way, from the usual appellation for the Chinamen on the Coast. From the "Iron Chink" the fish is conveyed on an endless belt to the cutter where it is divided into pieces to fit the cans. During these processes the fish is continually sprayed with water and thus thoroughly cleaned. The pieces are then placed in the cans, which are soldered as they pass along an endless belt which takes them to the test tanks. These are large tanks in which the cans are submerged and if bubbles rise from a can it is rejected as improperly sealed. Next the cans are placed in a retort where they are subjected to a high degree of heat, which thoroughly cooks the fish. They are then conveyed to the labelling and packing rooms and the product is ready for the market.

Some idea of the immense value of the Sockeye of the Fraser River may be obtained from the fact that in 1913, the year of the last "big run", 736,661 cases were packed, a case containing forty-eight one pound cans.

## THE HORSE.

### How I Trained One Colt.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

During the spring and early summer months I was in the employ of a farmer who gave me a team to work and care for. One of the team was a brood mare which foaled soon after I commenced to work her. The colt, a lively little black fellow of Percheron lineage, was very wild and would allow no one near him. Being fond of all animals in general and horses in particular I set about to cure him of his fright.

As the colt was but a few days old when I started, the matter was less difficult than it would have been later, although I had my hands full to manage him even then. Gradually he learned that I intended no harm and soon allowed himself to be stroked and handled without objection. He fairly loved to have his ears fondled.

When the youngster was about four weeks of age I decided that I would teach him to lead. So one noon hour I took a small halter and fitted it to him. Then I grasped the lead firmly and stepped backward, at the same time coaxing him to come. When the lead rope tightened there was a quick jerk and instead of the colt "I" went forward. My employer and his wife were both interested onlookers. They laughed and said that I could not do it. I did not agree with them but waited till they had gone before I tried again. This