

# Conservation

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## Scientific Wheat Growing at Guelph

Valuable Information Gained on Smut  
Treatment, Productivity of Seed  
and Fertilization

For nine years in succession experiments were conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph in treating winter wheat in different ways to prevent the development of stinking smut and the results have been very satisfactory. In the average for five years, untreated seed produced 4.2 per cent of smutted heads, while seed which was immersed for 20 minutes in a solution made by adding one pint of formalin to 42 gallons of water produced a crop which was practically free from smut. This treatment has been found to be simple in operation, comparatively cheap, effective in completely killing the smut, and productive of the highest yield of grain.

The results of twelve separate tests made at the College show an average increase in yield of grain per acre of 6.4 bushels from large as compared with small seed, of 7.8 bush. from plump as compared with shrunken seed, and of 35.6 bush. from sound as compared with broken seed. Thoroughly ripened seed produced more grain and produced more straw than seed which was cut at an earlier stage of maturity.

Eight separate tests demonstrated that seed on which field peas had been treated with green manure yielded 6.5 bush. of wheat per acre more than land on which buckwheat had been used as green manure. Winter wheat grown on clover sod also yielded better than that grown on timothy sod.

## Returned Soldiers Do Not Favor Farm

President Officer Says Lonely Farm Life  
Does Not Appeal to Them

We spent many an evening in France in our little mess, discussing the problem of what the men would want to do when they returned, and how they would be absorbed into the life of the community. From what we had seen, we came to the conclusion that many of the men who had been working in clerical positions in cities, now that they had had a taste of life in the open, and had become rugged, would go to the farm in preference to the city. But we have had to re-examine that conclusion. We now find that the men, even those who had come

from the land, will not go back to the farm when they come home, because, for one reason, they have become more or less gregarious; they have lived together, and men who had lived a lonely life before, have now had friendships for years. They have made strong friendships, and they have come to a different point of view on almost everything.

The returned soldier is a man who cares very little for wealth or for position; he will look you right in the eye and tell you exactly what he thinks. I have had men applying for positions who had been private soldiers, and, although I was in uniform, they would come in and talk to me in a way they would not have dared to do had they been in uniform. They have seen things and they realize a good deal of what is real in life. When we talk of the returned soldier, we must consider, first of all, his mental point of view. The returned soldiers, particularly those who have been in the field more than two years, have been and will be to a large extent spoiled for ordinary work. Many

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## New Timber Policy For New Brunswick

Timber to be Disposed of on Stumpage  
Basis Instead of Under Long Lease

New Brunswick has made a radical change in its method of disposing of timber on Crown lands. Heretofore long leases were given resulting in any increase of value going to the lumber operator. Now, timber cutting permits will be offered at auction on a straight stumpage basis of so much

per thousand feet. The Provincial Government will scale all the lumber cut. It is likely that the change will result in a substantial increase in forest revenue.

Another progressive move on the part of New Brunswick has been the recent organization of a technically-trained forest service.

## Making War Linen Industry Permanent

Ontario's Flax Fibre Production Quadrupled in Four Years. Tariff  
Protection Given

Sending flax seed to Ireland seems as anomalous as carrying coals to Newcastle, but the war has been full of surprises. Canada is actually supplying Ireland with a considerable portion of her flax seed requirements, mainly from Ontario. More than this, we are rapidly building up a flourishing linen industry of our own. Before the war, nearly all the flax grown in Canada was for seed only. Now, the greater portion produced in Ontario is grown primarily for the fibre. Saskatchewan and Alberta, also heavy flax producers, grow it exclusively for the seed, and Manitoba grows it almost entirely for that purpose.

Ontario's rapid rise in flax growing reads like a fable. Years ago, considerable flax fibre was produced in that province, but the industry slowly went down before severe European competition. In 1915, Ontario had 4,000 acres in flax; in 1916, 5,200 acres; in 1917, 7,372; and in 1918,

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## Million and a Half From Ontario Forests

Pine Forests Are Giving Out But Pulpwood Increasing in Value

The important part that the Crown timber lands of Ontario play in defraying the cost of civil government is indicated by the fact that during the year ended October 31, 1917, the forest revenue collected amounted to \$1,695,703. This is an increase of \$360,382 over the preceding year, and includes \$115,327 collected from limit holders as fire ranging dues.

Nearly 100,000,000 feet less pine timber was cut than during the preceding year. While labour shortage was undoubtedly a factor contributing to this reduction, the fact remains that the cut of pine timber has steadily declined for years, due unquestionably to the progressive depletion of the white pine forests of the province, which formerly produced so large a proportion of the provincial forest revenue.

The change which has taken place in this respect is strikingly indicated by the fact that, while the cut of white and red pine has steadily declined in Ontario, that of tie timber and pulpwood has increased greatly. For example, the number of railway ties (mostly jack pine) taken out during 1916-1917 was more than double the number cut during the previous season.

The total cut of pulpwood for the province was 445,978 cords, of which approximately equal amounts were cut from settlers' lots and Crown timber cutlands.

The pulp and paper industry is each year assuming increased importance in Ontario, as in other provinces, in comparison with other primary forest industries. Beyond question, the pulp and paper business will increase to vastly greater proportions in Canada, both east and west, than is now the case, and this development will help materially toward the payment of Canada's war debt, and the redressing of our present unfavourable trade balance, particularly with the United States.—C. L.

## A CLOVER CROSBUS

The amount of a cheque John Gilbert brought home from Simcoe (Northwest county), Ont., recently for a load of alsike clover seed was \$1,039.87. A neighbour was paid \$869.40 for a load of the same seed.

Get your assets in liquid shape for the new Victory Loan.



BOY SCOUTS PULLING FLAX

Getting labour to harvest Canada's large crop of flax has been a problem this year. The work has been done largely by women, boys, and Indians from the Reserves. In southwestern Ontario, Mexicans, who had been imported to look after the sugar beet crop, did much of the pulling.

Cut No. 176