





PROF. LEACOCK.

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FIGHTING FOOD FAMINE.

Prof. Stephen Leacock, humorist and professor of political economy at McGill University, told the Montreal Housewives' League that the world faces a food famine "such as it has never before seen." Canada, he declared, was fortunately placed because of her great cultivable area. He urged that individual support be given the efforts of the National Service Commission and the Dominion Department of Agriculture, "who are wide awake to the situation."

BETTER AND BRIGHTER.

[A paper written by Rev. Frank Baird, M. A., which was to have been read at a proposed meeting of the Teachers' Institute, Woodstock, which was, however, postponed.]

[Concluded from last month.]

I pass to my second thought, namely, Brighter. To do better is not enough. You must not only cast out the demons of ignorance; you must expel from your own lives, and the lives of your pupils, the last vestiges of pessimism, gloom, and despair. We read of Moses, that his face shone. The saints and prophets appear in art with halos of light about their heads. Now we must ever look to our teachers as the prophets and purveyors of the things of the mind and spirit. Their wares are not found in the market-place; to many of us, their treasures are hid treasures. How they communicate to us of their riches? They must come to us, with all their weight of learning, robed in

light, haloed with brightness. To knowledge they must add beauty. Like the daughters of Zion they must put on their beautiful garments. If the solidity, and the benefits of learning do not appeal to us, they must seduce us toward learning by showing us its beauty. To character, as repressented by Better, they must add, Brightness.

How often does an otherwise well-equipped teacher fail in a community, and in a school, by not knowing how to smile! Lincoln never would have got through the civil war if he had not had a fund of brief, bright, laughter-provoking anecdotes. Contrary to a generally accepted theory, childhood is melancholy, and needs constant brightening. The schoolroom is often a gray, sombre place. In spite of the work and zeal of Mr. Steeves, and the various inspectors, most of the school grounds are yet pretty ugly—except