

interest. The fascination of studies which may lead to the growth of two stalks of wheat where one grew before, of a head which has a double number of grains of the same size, or the same number of grains of double size or a strain which improves quality without impairing quantity, or is adapted to land which was formerly unprofitable or useless, can not fail to arouse national and even international interest since it concerns the food supply of the world. Such studies as those which resulted in the production of the Marquis wheat in Canada, or the work of Hayes in Minnesota wheats, or of Zavitz of Guelph on barleys, have meant millions upon millions of dollars to the new world and food for the nations. The expeditions to Asia of Hensen, of South Dakota, in the search for, and development of, alfalfa suited to cold winters and dry summers brought about an economic revolution and furnished a story as fascinating as is to be found in literature. Babcock and Russell have added millions annually to Wisconsin's assets through their contributions to the making of cheese, butter and other milk staples.

However, these are only a few of the rural problems where scientific, patient work, and wide propaganda are needed. Humanity is traveling cityward and the best of our peoples must have their faces turned again to the country, if we are not to suffer disaster. This means that rural life must be made possible. It must become a life and cease to be an existence. Toward this end every influence in our provinces and in our land must be brought to bear, but it is quite as much a social as an economic question. It includes cultural and artistic phases quite as much as scientific agriculture and the food supply. It also must not lose sight of rural hygiene.

In our land we have many problems which relate indirectly to the soil, and we

realize at once that we must develop agriculture as a profession comparable in all respects to other professions. For this work, undoubtedly, we must also develop an artisan class with industrial training just as we must take pains to foster the teaching of other trades and callings.

It is to be hoped that all our universities will bring every influence to bear to establish anew the dignity of labor. It must be confessed at the present time that Canadians, like Americans, are abandoning manual work as fast as they can to newcomers from Europe and Asia. Either the creation of a peasant class must be squarely faced at this time or the dignity and the vital need of labor must be duly impressed on Canada's native sons. We must return to the ways of our fathers. We must all work if we would be strong, and we must be strong if we would work.

FORESTRY AND FOREST ENGINEERING

The need for the study of forestry and of horticulture is becoming better recognized. Wisconsin has a forest-products laboratory built by the federal government and maintained by the state university, in which such problems as those which are now engaging the attention of the Fifth National Conservation Congress are studied. Every one interested in agriculture needs to know about shelter belts, the care of fruit trees and kindred subjects. Not only for forestry in relation to agriculture but for forest engineers there is an increasing demand. In such countries as British Columbia, the provincial government needs them for the proper conservation and intelligent use of its forest resources, and the Dominion government for its large timber holdings, whilst the transcontinental railways have in their possession vast forest tracts.

The important corporations whose opera-