

say that we are "ashamed of ourselves," and to let it end there? Were we helpless that were another thing, but heavens! how far and away are we from being helpless to help ourselves out of the rut in which we are so comfortably travelling, while the best of our manhood is giving its life-blood for all that makes a country and to save the women and children of the battle-zone from a worse experience than death.

Men and women of Canada! the things that confront us are of a character that has not yet dawned, it seems, even on the preceptions of our most recently-elected legislators. They are so appalling and so appealing that nothing short of the direct physical contact will awaken some of us to their real import.

Every Able-Bodied Man

Quite recently when a draft of young men was on the point of leaving for France, a well-known legislator in addressing them got the following off his chest:

"Go forth, ye citizen-soldier sons, and may the God of battles guard you. May He ever make you realize that the honour, the safety, the integrity, yea, the very existence of free institutions hang upon your deeds.

"In your absence we shall not forget you. We shall give to you labor for labor, sacrifice for sacrifice, and love for love. If disaster come upon you we shall not desert you. If your ranks shall be depleted we shall fill them up, though it take every able-bodied man of whatsoever age and of whatsoever calling. We shall ever steadfastly support you and we swear to you that we shall accept no peace that shall make vain your sacrifices.

"God save our nation! God guard our defenders, military and naval! God especially fortify our citizen soldiers! God strengthen and steady those who must needs remain at home! God bless our Allies, all and every one, without exception! God keep us all united until by the sword, if necessary, there shall be won for all the world a righteous peace!"

Now this is very fine. It was a good man, an American, who expressed himself in these noble sentiments. He meant literally what he said, and we believe he is ready to fling his "position" to the winds and to back up with his own stout body and soul what he says "we" promise to do.

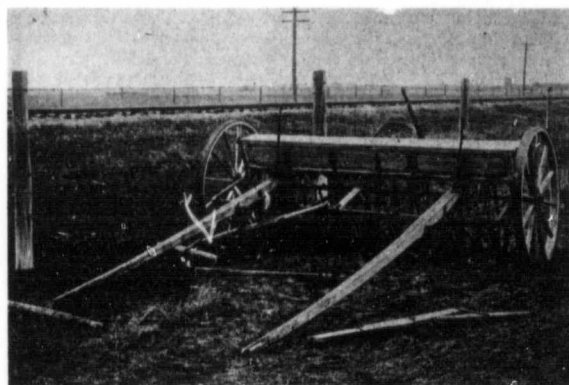
How many of our able-bodied men folk in this country to-day are prepared to do the same? How many of them realize the stern incontrovertible fact that the first thing that must be accomplished is the crushing of the military power of Germany?

Until this is done, what mat-

ters anything? Nothing else is but at the most of secondary import. If your "position" is that of a bank-president, the head of a dry-goods store employing thousands, the farmer of ten acres or ten thousand acres—you are by no means indispensable to the job you hold. Another will step into your shoes the moment the breath is out of your carcass.

It isn't needful that you or I should live, Mister Bank President or Farmer, but it is needful that the principles we are fighting for should live and be made secure for the world that is to follow us.

To this end, the great American from whom we have quoted is right when he says (not metaphorically, but literally), "If your ranks shall be depleted we shall fill them up, though it take every able-bodied man of whatsoever age and of whatsoever calling."



This valuable seeding machine while still a young thing contracted rheumatism and "trench feet" from constant exposure.

We have been told again and again: "You have done your bit—you've given your only son, etc., etc.," and the changes are being rung on this sort of twaddle till it really has become insufferably nauseating.

What is the position — you "able-bodied men of whatsoever age or calling"?

Suppose that two daughters of your neighbor have upset their canoe, and are struggling for their lives with that hungry Red River. Your son and mine have gone to save them, but are barely succeeding because of the strength and treachery of the under-tow.

You and I—both good swimmers still in spite of our years—are cultivating our potato patch on the banks in full view of the proceedings.

Would we at such a moment rest on our hoes or go on cultivating with the comfortable thought in our hearts: "We've done our bit, we have sent our only boys"? No creature but the

most heartless bum would reason otherwise than that the only thing to do was to go to the help of those brave lads in their heroic work.

To the mind of this writer, that exactly illustrates the position in which the able-bodied manhood of Canada stands to-day in relation to the men who are fighting overseas, only that the urgency in the case of the latter is accentuated a hundredfold.

Had we written the foregoing a year ago; say, before the United States entered the war, the view expressed would have been laughed at as coming from the pen of a lunatic or an ignoramus. Yet even that was a belated hour at which to put our house in order for the great offensive. Now there can be no half measures, or conferences, or deputations.

We have not the slightest doubt as to where we stand as citizens of Canada in this fateful

gloves" with any legislator or labor supply agency who cares to go into the matter.

With the views of the Imperial Parliament and the Dominion Government of Canada as to what is the right thing to do, we are in perfect accord. What these are and the reasons for holding them need not be set out, as they have been freely disclosed through the daily press.

In a way we can enter into the feelings of those men, and still more, the women, who are feeling sore in view of the late order-in-council with regard to farmers' sons and farm help generally. No one wants to see his or her only son or any family idol sent out to fight—even if it is for the very existence of his own mother and all that a mother worth the name holds dear on earth.

No one can be said to "enjoy" the prospect of any man going out to do the part men must take in this crusade, for it is a crusade. Even the chief of the labor party in America says: "With me and my associates that enterprise in which we are now all engaged and which we have been accustomed to call war, is no longer dignified by the term war, but takes on a larger view, a larger cause, a greater meaning; it is the most wonderful crusade ever entered upon by men in the whole history of the world. No nobler cause, no holier undertaking has ever commanded the intelligence and self-sacrificing natures of men."

The Labor Problem

After all, is there anything unfair or unreasonable contemplated in the new order? The very opposite is the fact. Hitherto, pleas for exemption have been adjudicated upon by local "tribunals," which have proved anything but a uniform success.

Instances of local "feeling" developing into "pressure" and "pull" brought to bear upon these yeoman judges have ended in some glaring, not to say shameful, cases we personally know of in which injustice has been done as often to the farmer applicant as to the military.

Now the assurance is given that cases of real as distinct from alleged hardship will be met in the proper spirit and in a perfectly equitable manner; but this does not mean that anything will be tolerated or "coddled" of the nature of sheer "dourness" or unreasoning obstinacy.

Space is not available at this writing to cover this subject of the labor supply as it affects the military pressure of the day. We are not writing without a very full knowledge gained from carefully collected and ascertained facts, and will gladly take up the

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