

ward side they throw the straw into the air, the wind blows the straw and chaff away and the heavy grain falls at their feet. Any chaff or husks that may be left are rubbed off in stone mortars and then the grain is ready for market. The broken straw is used as food for the cattle and for making brick.

Meanwhile, the gleaners may be seen in the fields gathering up the stray heads and straw that are sure to be left after such a crude method of harvesting. The crop of wheat will average about five bushels to the acre, the barley a little more. Remote from the cultivated land we see the flocks of sheep and of goats feeding and fattening upon the grass, not grass such as we have, but plants that show here and there the yellow or bluish blossom of alfalfa. Accompanying them is the shepherd.

Agriculture of Bible Times.

This, you say, is a rough picture of the agriculture of Bible times. Yes, it is; but it is also a rough picture of the agriculture to be seen to this day in Persia and Arabia. Farming in Mesopotamia is to-day very much as it was one thousand, two thousand, three thousand years ago. And now all this is likely to be changed, for Sir William Willcocks, who designed the great Assouan Dam on the Nile to modernize the agriculture of Egypt, has designed and is now constructing great works on the Euphrates and the other rivers which will direct the waters of that region, so that, instead of destroying floods, there shall be enriching irrigation canals of water under human control.

Perhaps some of our strict interpreters will not agree with Sir William Willcocks who has suggested that if Noah had been an irrigation engineer he might have cut a channel for the flooded Euphrates into the river bed of the Pison instead of constructing an ark, and thereby might have saved not only his own family but also the whole country. This, however, is by the way. The works under construction are intended to double the cultivable area and to increase manifold the annual production of the entire country. After the great war is over we can see in imagination the incoming of the sulky plow, the disk harrow, the seeder, the thrashing machine, the silo, the creamery, and cold storage warehouses.

Mesopotamia and the Tractor.

Perhaps Mesopotamia may yet see a Caterpillar Tractor puffing across the fields pulling its battery of half a dozen plows or half a dozen self binders, and who knows but that some of these may carry the names of our Canadian implement manufacturers. We can see the people changing in their methods of work, changing in their methods of life, and we can even imagine them out of their prosperity struggling with the problem of the increased cost of their living. They have grown for over a thousand years wheat and barley and alfalfa; we grow these crops to-day. They use the sickle, we the self binder; they winnow with the wind, we thrash with the separator; they plow with cattle, we have the gasoline tractor. What lies in between? Surely there must be something, yes, much, that we may call Romance.

When the great war is over the peoples of Central Europe will return to grain growing, for thereby they will most readily and quickly obtain food. Siberia will increase her cereals, Mesopotamia and other forgotten countries will soon become exporters and rivals for the grain trade of Europe. What is Canada to do? Shall we place our dependence on wheat and more wheat? Or shall we now begin to lay broadly and wisely the foundations of permanent prosperity on a well-balanced form of agricultural production? We shall do well if we direct our energies more and more to the increase of mixed farming over those large areas of the north and west that are so admirably suited by nature to the growing of live stock.