

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

VOL. XXIX.

MARCH, 1917.

No. 7

## Rural Education

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AT the meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union held at the O.A.C. a few weeks ago the opinion was unanimous that, notwithstanding the insistent cry for increased food production to meet the demands of war conditions, the area of tilled land in Ontario this year will be less than that of former years. One prominent farmer said, "I went to Toronto as a last resort, to try to secure hired help and I offered as high wages as the munition factories. There were plenty of able-bodied men walking the streets but they, one and all, declared they would not go to work on a farm no matter what happened. Most of them said they knew nothing about farm work or farm machinery, and I concluded that they would be of but little assistance if they did come. I wish we could get some foreign labor. It was getting worse and worse before the war, but it has reached the limit now. There seems no alternative but to cut down the work and do it all ourselves."

A situation that compels an honest and well informed citizen to arrive at such a conclusion, challenges immediate attention. No patriotic Canadian can view with complacency the prospect of landlordism, foreign labour and denationalization as our final goal. The time has come when a wiser solution of the Ontario rural problem must be found.

As a result of years of first hand,

experience of our rural conditions and an extended study and observation of reforms that are being introduced in Canada, the United States and Europe, I am convinced that the application of a few practical, fundamental principles would result in placing five times as many persons on the land as at present, and would enable them to live in a state of comfort and well-being now enjoyed by but few Canadian farmers.

The first of these principles is that any vital and enduring reconstruction of rural conditions must be made through education. Ontario possesses unrivalled natural agricultural resources. Her children are well born and well nurtured, and with the heritage of British institutions she enjoys a liberty for which our soldiers are, today, voluntarily laying down their lives. With such satisfactory materials to work upon, there is a kind of education which, if applied, would act as a powerful solvent for the rural, economic, social, moral and religious problems, which are confronting us.

In the next place, we must adopt as a working principle, the fact that "life is more than meat and the body than raiment." Meat and raiment are prime necessities, but it is not for lack of either of these that most people leave the farm. Many centuries ago, Aristotle pointed out that the chief aim of every human being is happiness and that there are many