

only with facts that are within my own knowledge and I am willing to be held accountable for every statement I shall make. I find that a strong opposition to the war and to recruiting is developing and it is not because of any alleged mismanagement in high places. The arguments in support of this opposition are in many cases so trivial that they will doubtless be scorned by those who are accustomed to viewing matters in a large way, but everyone who has studied the formation of public opinion will realize that they are the hardest arguments to answer.

It is said that in the battalions now being raised there are men who are unfit for service, who will finally be rejected, but who are drawing more wages while taking a training that is useless, than they could get in any other occupation. I have taken the trouble to secure the names of men of this description and although it will be impossible to prove that they are unfit without having them examined by a duly qualified medical examiner I must say that the accusation against them appears to be well founded. I know that two of them are many years past the military age for recruits. I have been told on what seems to me reputable authority that one of them was rejected by a medical examiner for one battalion and then offered himself to a county battalion where the examination was lax and was accepted. Cases of this kind are matters of common talk in all parts of the country and the people who will be taxed to pay for this useless training regard it as a shameful graft. It is really a small matter that may be inseparable from the work of recruiting but it must not be forgotten that the amounts involved are really large to the people who are complaining. These men are drawing better wages and having an easier time than if they were employed as hired men on farms or as unskilled workers in the towns and villages. Few people can realize what it means to have millions of dollars wasted in graft but everyone knows what it means to have a dollar and ten cents a day mis-applied. Only those who know how people talk in the country and in the small towns can realize the deadly effect of this kind of gossip. The people see what they regard as graft and jump to the conclusion that there is grafting through all the military organization. A careful medical inspection would at once clear the air on this point and it would do more to increase respect for the soldiers who are honestly offering their services and to free our army of the suspicion of graft than all they can do in Ottawa. When the people see graft that they can understand they suspect that there is much more that they are not seeing and both the soldiers and the government are viewed with a suspicion that puts a damper on all enthusiasm for recruiting.

Another matter that provokes much criticism is the amount of sickness among enlisted men while undergoing training. While I have heard of recruits from this district being down with pneumonia at various times I have not kept a list of the cases so shall confine myself to cases of which I have absolute knowledge, because of the tragic consequences. I have made a list of the boys with whom I was personally acquainted before they enlisted. As nearly as I can remember at the present time I knew twelve boys who were friends of my children or sons of my friends. Of these, two are already dead without having gone to the front. One was reported as suffering from meningitis and his relatives went to see him. They were assured that he was on a fair way to recovery and returned to their homes. A short time later they got word of his death. The other died of pneumonia and his parents received no news of his serious illness before they got a telegram notifying them of his death. I do not assert that the mortality among recruits is so high as this, but I say that this is my personal experience and I can furnish the names of the recruits I have had under observation. In this connection an illuminating letter appeared in the Toronto Star a few weeks ago. It was written by a private soldier who complained that when the boys suffering from colds mentioned the matter to the officers to whom they were obliged to report in case of sickness they received scant attention. The Star also reported that after an important review in Toronto which happened to be held during a raging storm several cases of pneumonia resulted and one soldier died. A few days later I saw in the same paper a photograph of a couple of commanding officers at a review and they were provided with doormats to stand on. Evidently they knew the danger of contracting chills while reviewing troops in a storm. Surely it is not necessary for the boys to be exposed in this way while in training. Whatever they do with our money, they must not be allowed to waste our boys.

There are other complaints of the same kind that I can offer for investigation but these are enough to indicate what the plain people are talking about. I have made my observations at the point where the military machine touches the great public from which it must draw recruits and funds to prosecute the war. These are the facts in which people are interested because they come home to them, not only as they affect their pockets but as they affect the lives of their sons. The charges of graft and inefficiency at Ottawa are only the rumble of distant thunder compared with these matters. If the people give their money they do not want to see it miss-spent before their eyes and above all they do not want to feel that their boys are exposed to unnecessary danger. Moreover, these are matters that require urgent and immediate attention. To those who are bearing the burdens of the war and to mothers whose hearts are sore these matters are infinitely more important than scandals involving men of place and title. Here is a case where justice is demanded right at

the foundation of things. Later on it may be meted out to any who are coining the blood and tears of the people at this time when Canada is fighting for her life.

As I have already put myself on record in these letters as believing in universal service in such a war as the one in which we are engaged I need not further discuss that phase of the subject. I have no hesitation in asserting that the voluntary system will not enable the government to get five hundred thousand men. Moreover, the insulting attitude assumed by some recruiting officers towards those who have not enlisted is rousing much resentment. Of course I am not blind to the fact that those who are most willing to regard themselves as insulted are in many cases those who selfishly refuse to make sacrifices of any kind. They do not realize the danger in which we stand, or even if they do they are willing to let the work of defence and the support of patriotic funds be attended to by others while they enrich themselves through the business activity caused by the unexpected demand for munitions and supplies. The great trouble is that because there is no properly organized method of recruiting those who are selfish have good arguments to offer for their opposition. No one who gives the subject thoughtful consideration can deny that recruiting should be done in such a way as not to weaken the country's power of production. Behind this outstanding fact all kinds of people are sheltering themselves. If the authorities would make it clear just who is entitled to immunity because his services are needed most at home the selfish would be divided from the unselfish and much suffering and anger would be avoided. But this has not been done.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

A track which is easily distinguished from that of any other bird is that of the Ruffed Grouse, shown in Fig. 1. As can be seen, the outer and inner toes stand out nearly at right angles, and behind each track is a little tick where the foot has touched the surface of the snow in being brought forward.

In Figs. 2 and 3 we have tracks which are much more likely to be seen as spring approaches—the tracks of the Skunk. Fig. 2 shows the tracks left by this animal

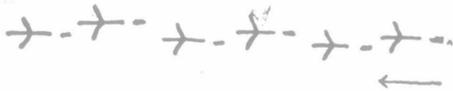


Fig. 1—Tracks of Ruffed Grouse.



Fig. 2—Tracks of Skunk, walking.



Fig. 3—Tracks of Skunk, galloping.



Fig. 4—Tracks of Raccoon, bounding.

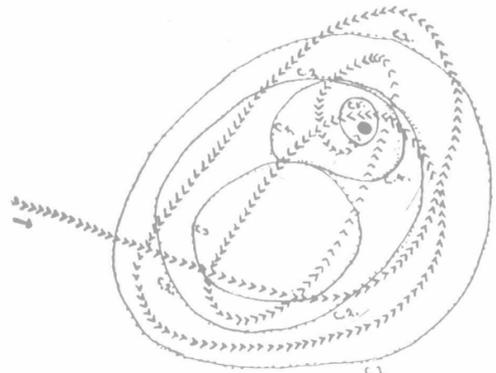


Fig. 5—Diagram showing how to locate an animal that has made a maze of tracks.



Fig. 6—The story of the Hare and the Goshawk.

in walking and Fig. 3 in galloping. In walking the tracks of the hind feet fall on those of the front feet and obliterate them, but in galloping the tracks of the front feet show between those of the hind feet.

Fig. 4 shows another track which is to be seen more often towards spring than earlier in the winter that of the Raccoon. In this illustration the tracks are those left as the animal bounds along. In walking the tracks of the hind feet fall on those of the front ones.

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing how to locate an animal which has made a maze of crossing and re-crossing tracks. To try and follow such a maze of tracks is practically impossible, particularly as our own tracks deface the trail badly. The way of operating is as follows:—Make a wide circle and count the number of times the trail crosses this circle. If it crosses the circle an odd number of times the animal is within the circle, if an even number of times it is not. In this case the trail crosses our first circle (marked C. 1.) three times therefore the animal is within the circle. Next make a second circle within the first, counting as before. In this case the trail crosses the second circle (C. 2.) seven times, and consequently the animal is within this circle. On making our third circle, (C. 3.) we find that the trail crosses it six times and we know that the animal is not within the circle. It is therefore of no use making another circle within this one, and we make another circle (C. 4.). We find this circle is crossed five times by the trail and therefore the animal is within it. Consequently we make another circle within the last. In this case our last circle (C. 5.) is crossed three times by the trail and is so close to the animal which is indicated by the black dot at the end of the trail in our diagram that we are sure to flush it.

In Fig. 6 we have a little story written in the snow. We see the tracks of a Varying Hare coming in from the left, and then suddenly ending as if the animal had vanished into thin air. And it has vanished into the air for at the point where the tracks end we see wing-marks which from their spread we know to be those of the Goshawk, and we can read that the Hare was caught in the middle of a bound by this large Hawk and carried off.

This studying of tracks and trails, this reading and interpreting of stories written in the snow is a phase of natural science which I can heartily commend to all who love out-door life, as a pursuit which is not only most fascinating but will furnish a lot of interesting information.

Study in Political Economy—III.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Consider the case of a man who seeks out a home for himself on the frontier of civilization. He will obviously select a spot which, all things considered, seems to him most suitable. Here he will establish his home and apply his labor to the raw material about him so as to gain a livelihood for himself and family. He will have no rent to pay because the land is free. Therefore, making due allowance for any capital which he may have brought with him in the shape of tools, etc., he will get the full product of his labor. There will be no problem of distribution, except in so far as his earnings are dependent in part upon capital in whose production other people had a share. And, if we suppose the man in question to have started without any capital, the problem of distribution would be non-existent.

Now, suppose that a second settler comes along. His range of choice would be limited by the fact that the most favorable land or location had been already chosen. He would, therefore, choose the next best site, having in mind the desirability of living near the first settler. It would now be mutually advantageous for these two men to co-operate, both by the combination of effort and by the division of labor. Exchange would spring into being, and difficult tasks might be undertaken by the two working together. In many ways the total product of the two men working together in this simplest of communities would exceed the sum of what each would produce if working independently. Each has evidently increased the efficiency of the other's labor. To a certain extent what has been produced, has been produced socially. Therefore, the problem of distribution arises in its simplest form. How is it to be met? Consider this question: What advantage has one man over the other that is not dependent upon personal intelligence, skill or industry? Answer that question and you will have the key to the solution. What is the answer? Obviously this. The only advantage which the one possesses over the other is that derived from the superiority of the first location. This aside, each is free to reap the full reward of his own labor, mutually increased by the possibilities of co-operative effort. Therefore, if the advantage which the first site possesses over the second is equally divided, the two workers will be placed upon an equality with respect to getting a just return for their labors.

The significance of this will be seen more clearly if we follow our imaginative experiment a little farther. Suppose that a third settler next comes along. He will have to take third choice. He will take the best land available, with due regard to the importance of being reasonably near his neighbors. The addition of a third man to the community will add still more to the efficiency of the labor of all, because it will permit a certain amount of specialization, the advantage of which will be equally shared by exchange. But, though the total product is now more than three times what the product of each would be if he worked independently of the others, the difference between the reward of labor on the first location and an equal