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Backing Them Up

1917

OUR GUARANTEE

No advertisement is allowed in our Columns until we are satisfied that the advertiser is absolutely reliable and that any subscriber can safely do business with him. If any subscriber is defrauded E. H. Heath Co., Ltd., will make good the loss resulting therefrom, if the event takes place within 30 days of date advertisement appeared, and complaint be made to us in writing with proofs, not later than ten days after its occurrence, and provided, also, the subscriber in writing to the advertiser, stated that his advertisement was seen in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer." Be careful when writing an advertiser to say that you saw the advertisement in "The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer."

"SO far, France is the only one of the belligerents that is *ready for victory*." Not only is that the view of the eminent statesman who used the words, but it is the settled conviction of every well-informed man who has the courage to face the evidence of his own eyes. We cannot check all that is taking place elsewhere, but in so far as Canada is concerned her unpreparedness for peace is deplorable. We are thinking of a state of domestic discord that has rarely if ever been known in Canada; and this under circumstances which, more than anything else in the conduct of affairs, require the most complete agreement of parties.

Nearly half a million of the best of the country's young manhood has been withdrawn from the reproductive wing of the community life. How this affects "production" is dealt with elsewhere. Here, something far more than a passing word is due to what those men of the fighting forces expect and are entitled to receive at the hands of their countrymen. The women are all right, but that creature now masquerading as a man who seeks by political side-stepping to delay for one hour the reinforcements of men, munitions and food so sorely needed by those brave lads at the front, is the base wretch who would betray his own offspring.

Let us not be misunderstood. We are at war, not only in France and Flanders but here, in Canada, right up to our own domestic hearth-stone. We believe that the boys across the line are getting ready to make good what they have undertaken to do—their best. We believe that America's contribution to the war will be stupendous; that the pooling of her moral and material forces will ultimately force a victory; that but for her dropping the cloak of neutrality some months ago, the outlook for us at this moment would not be so comfortable as it is. We believe all that, but in the name of decency and simple honor, we have no right to *presume* upon it to the extent of a man while a single slacker is gadding about the streets of our cities.

The man who, by reason of his circumstances, the law says is wanted for the fighting strength of the country, cannot escape the clear duty. The man whom the law says will be better employed in producing, *ought* to be producing food, clothing and other necessities for his brother in the trenches. We desire to back the law—not as slaves, but because in doing so we offer the surest evidence of our liberty, the chief security for our indefeatable freedom. The law is taking care of the man who ought to fight, but as to the man on the farm, there is something about him and his moral obligations that the machinery of the law cannot adequately deal with.

In discriminating between the man to go and the man to stay, we feel that not a single trained agriculturist should be taken from the farms until the last half-dozen has been reached of those thousands who are still holding down "positions" in the cities which (for the duration of the war at least) can be fairly filled by older men, by returned soldiers, or by women. Having said this, may be beg in the most earnest terms we can employ that every man who *can will* do something to increase the product of his farm—*beginning right now*. The opportunity to render really great service never knocked so loudly at any man's door.

We are not telling any man what his duty is at this crisis. He knows it all right. No citizen of Canada can close his eyes to the needs of the hour. What he can and *ought* to do requires no elucidating. That is *his* business, not ours. But we will venture the prayer on his behalf that God will have mercy on his withered soul if he neglects or seeks to belittle the duty. The production of food is the business and privilege of Canada at this moment and will be for years to come. Men and women we are placed on our honor! No "law" except the injunction of the heart and conscience can police our domiciles and mark the limit to what we may or may not do in the face of this call. Let us *do* our part as well as *sing*: "God save our splendid men!"

The Foot-path to Peace

To despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners; to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can, with body and with spirit, in God's out-of-doors—these are little guide-posts on the foot-path to peace.—Henry Van Dyke.

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