

CULTIVATION ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES.

A short time ago a remarkable demonstration took place just outside Montreal. It was a demonstration of ploughing by tractors—the remarkable part being that there was not a farmer on the job. In other words, it was the outward and visible sign of the determination of a number of building contractors to utilize their men, under the management of an engineer and the guidance of an agricultural professor, to cultivate the land for wheat growing on a large scale. The genius and organizer of the whole scheme is a Montreal contractor (Mr. J. P. Anglin), who, after trying in vain to induce the Government to adopt his ideas—that is, to utilize the vacant lands of Canada, in 10,000 acre lots for the growing of the wheat so much wanted in Europe—he formed an association of private citizens to carry out the plan on a smaller scale. And the demonstration was the first step towards the consummation.

At first sight it would seem ridiculous that such a scheme could be made to pay—city mechanics and engineers working the land—but worked on a large scale as planned by Mr. Anglin, there is absolutely no reason against its success. The plan as laid before the government, was to take so many areas of land, of 10,000 acres each, in different parts of the country, and cultivate that land on the same principles as constructing a building, a public work or a railroad, but instead of an architect or engineer being made responsible for the work an agricultural expert takes charge, the job being carried out by different contractors, who being used to the control of large bodies of men, would know how to get the best out of each man and tractor. The object of the scheme, of course, was to produce more wheat, and had the Government been wise and adopted the scheme when offered some eighteen months back, at least 3,000,000 bushels of wheat would have been added to Canada's crop of last year, which would have the effect, if nothing more, of keeping down the present excessive price of bread. But like many other good schemes, it was turned down, largely because of the opposition from the farmers, who rightly saw in it the cutting down of wheat prices. It is hoped that Mr. Anglin will persist in wearing down these selfish objections, and until the powers at Ottawa see the necessity of his plan, which is big in vision and practical in carrying out.

CITY MEN JOIN HANDS TO FARM RURAL IDLE LANDS.

The tractor and the contractor idea of farming idle land, begun in Montreal, is catching on throughout Canada.

In Chatham, Kent County, Ontario, a meeting of business men recently decided to form a syndicate to finance and operate the cultivation of one thousand or more acres of land near that city.

Many city men in Canada have farms and run them as hobbies, creating cordial relations between the city and the rural districts, but these individual enterprises are not as worth while nationally as the formation of a syndicate of ten or more business men in the city to cultivate an extensive tract of farm land.

In the former case only one man gets the benefit and even in his case the benefit is more in the saving of doctor's bills than in stimulating production and demonstrating advanced methods of cultivation.

But when ten or more city men, contributing \$250 apiece, go in for farming one thousand acres with a tractor and on a contractor and business like organization, a community of interest is created which means much for production and the inevitable application of the most approved methods of farming.

In most cities a dozen leading business men all united on a project, pretty fairly express the latent judgment of

all the citizens. This syndicate formed by the tractor and contractor idea makes tangible the best public opinion in the city. The effect of getting the business men and the city interested in the development of a rural area of idle land is impossible to calculate. They will make their farming a success for their pride will be in the effort. They have wrung success from the business world, and by the same principles they will achieve success in farming. Who can doubt it?

Thus, the problems of the farmers, and they are many, will soon be understood by the business men of the city, and a new order of brains will be applied to their solution to the advantage of the farmers and the city men turned farmers. Better understanding between residents of the country and residents of the city will be established to the lasting improvement of national life.

Chatham is the first Ontario city to evince a public spirit commensurate with the Imperial and imperative need of the Allies for greater food supplies from Canada. The working out of this syndicate of business men applying the tractor and contractor methods of farming idle lands will be watched with interest throughout Canada.

What city will be next?

THE CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW.

The seventeenth edition of Mr. J. Castell Hopkins' "Canadian Annual Review," which has just been published, is a splendid continuation of a splendid national work. As a record of Canadian achievement during the last decade and a half the "Annual Review" is unique in the sense that each public event has been placed in its proper niche in the great fane of Canadian development, and each factor in the building thereof been given its true value. For the first time we are to know that Mr. Hopkins has himself written the whole of the seventeen volumes. What this means in time, in study and in patience can best be understood when it is stated that each volume represents over 800 pages of closely packed material so interwoven as to actually give pleasure in the reading. Such a work can only be done successfully by a man so thoroughly versed in his subject as to be in love with it. And this is Castell Hopkins.

Since hostilities commenced in 1914 the Canadian Annual Review has rightly given much of its space to Canada's part in the war, and most of the new volume (1917) is naturally taken up with the one great subject—the mobilization of Canada to win the war. The history and formation of the Union Government the Military Service Act; the attitude of Quebec towards conscription; the O'Connor investigation; are all described. To better attune the mind of the reader to what is involved by the war the first part of the volume is a perspective of the world situation in 1917: Chronology of the War, and the British Empire in the War. Mr. Hopkins then delves into this country's share as a nation and by provinces. The work of the great organizations and societies are recorded. The progress of education and the position of labour are noted; in fact, everything that happened in Canada in 1917 that could possibly have had any effect in the mobilization of the country for national and especially war purposes is well handled by Mr. Hopkins—except one thing. Nothing is said of the part that municipal Canada played in the great war game during 1917. Here we must digress for a moment. Mr. Hopkins, in kindly sending the new volume for review, apologized for not giving any space to municipal affairs this year in his "Annual Review," because of the overshadowing by bigger events. Of municipal events, as such, being ignored in a national review that is given over to the war we cannot, perhaps, say much, but we would draw the attention of Mr. Hopkins to the fact that as a unit municipal Canada—outside the Federal Government—was the biggest factor in the mobilization of the country for war purposes in 1917, in insuring citizen soldiers, in subscription to the Patriotic and Red Cross Funds, and in buying Victory bonds. Beyond this criticism we have nothing but praise to give to Mr. Hopkins for his really national production which this year, if anything, is better than its predecessors.