

Give the Man a Chance

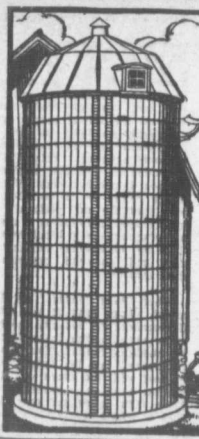
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yourself that one out of every seven of the total population of Scotland is in the army—one out of every 12 in England as compared to one out of every 20 in Canada. You know yourself that in France out of the population of 29,000,000, about 7,000,000 were conscripted for the army of which over one million have been killed and more than another million have been incapacitated for further service. You have seen pictures of French women hitched up to a plow because there were no horses, the horses having been also conscripted for the army. There is nobody left at home to do farm work in France but women, old men and crippled soldiers. But France has not quit yet, nor has England's quiet by a good bit. England produced last year, with the aid of her civilian non-combatant population, 850,000 tons more cereals than the year before and increased her potato crop by 5,000,000 tons! She increased the cultivated area of the island by one million acres.

Why talk about "inexperienced" labor at a time like this when the whole world is just shaking in the balance? You cannot stop to talk about how much experience a man has when he tackles a job. All that man has to do is to make up his mind that he is willing. All the farmer has to do is to have a little patience and consideration until he gets on to his job. Look at the munition business. When the war broke out Canada didn't know anything about making munitions. She had a rifle factory down in Quebec where she made a few rifles for target practice and militia purposes. But, behold! that was only a decade. In 1914 the Government got the manufacturers going. They didn't only learn how to make munitions; they learned how to make the steel to make the munitions with, and they have turned out hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of shells in the four years which have followed, shipped them across to the firing line, and put them to the only use for which they were intended—killing Germans; and they are just as good as the best at that.

Shells of all calibres, from the biggest to the smallest, and the finest intricate mechanical contrivances in connection with shells, like fuses and time charges, have been turned out. This is an absolutely new industry in this country, and who learned it? Were they experienced mechanics? A few of them were, but the bulk of the work was turned out by women and greenhorns. The same thing in England exactly. In 1917 they took 820,645 men from the industrial organizations and put them into the army, and they filled their places in the factories by women—804,000 women. You would think that the industry of the whole country would have been wrecked. But was it? You know perfectly well that the output of guns from the British factories increased 20%, and in the case of aeroplanes 250%. In spite of its shortage of skilled men for the shipyards, by the help of inexperienced labor, including women, they turned out 1,165,000 tons of British ships last year.

We have got to organize inexperienced help this year on Canadian farms—townsmen of all classes, women and boys. We have got to save the harvest. We are appealing to all classes of people to get out on the farm. Give them a chance. Be patient with them. Teach them, and do the best you can. Go at it in the right spirit and they will do the same, and you can bet your boots Canada will produce the goods in 1919 that they are starving for across the Atlantic.—H. B. Thomson, Chairman Canada Food Board.



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